

CORDOVA BAY GOLF COURSE NEWSLETTER

THE FORWARD PRESS

September 2023

QUICK LINKS

[BILL MATTICK'S RESTAURANT](#)

[BOOK A TEE TIME](#)

[LESSONS](#)

[TODAY @ THE BAY](#)

[ONLINE SHOP](#)

DRIVING RANGE

7:30 AM - 6:30 PM*

Last balls sold 30 minutes prior to closing time

*5:30 PM close on Sundays

RIDGE COURSE

Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

PARC SHORT GAME

Hours: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

BILL MATTICK'S RESTAURANT

Hours: 11:30 AM - 9:00 PM

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*all hours are subject to change. Check the **TODAY @ THE BAY** page of our website for daily updates



The Bay Farm & Flowers

By: Chelsea Welch and Morgan Wilkins - Horticulturists

With the leaves starting to drop and the days getting shorter, we thought we would share some of our best performers from this summer. Two perennials and one annual that we started from seed really stood out from the crowd! All three varieties were easy to start, flowered profusely over a long period, and were great cut flowers! They were also well loved by all the pollinators! We did apply meat meal on a weekly basis to keep the deer from nibbling.

The first variety is a perennial Coreopsis called 'Early Sunrise', from the special RHS line of Mr.



Fothergill's seed company. We sowed the seeds around mid-February in our greenhouse and planted them out around May long weekend. The plants grew very quickly into a mound 45cm tall by 30cm wide and produced flower buds quite early. With regular deadheading, the blooms have been coming non-stop!

The second variety is a perennial sunflower called Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) which we purchased from Johnny's Seeds. Although the instructions recommended direct sowing, we started them in our greenhouse in April. Because we started them in containers, they did become quite leggy, but pinching the top encouraged branching. These plants will get very tall, so make sure to stake them when they're young to prevent them from flopping over. Though these were slower to flower, with regular deadheading, they will continue to flower well into fall.

The third variety is a Rudbeckia called 'Cappuccino' from West Coast Seeds. Though many Rudbeckia are perennial, this variety is treated as an annual, but may self-sow! These were also started in mid-February in our greenhouse. They were slow to start, but once the bronze-coloured blooms appeared, they didn't quit! We found the royal blue of the 'Victoria Blue' Salvia complimented these flowers beautifully!

We will save seed from all three varieties, and package them for sale on our new farmstand in the Breezeway outside the Pro Shop. As usual, all proceeds will go to the Ladies Club Charities! We hope you will enjoy them as much as we have!

Winter Golf Lesson Program

By: Nate Ollis - Teaching Professional, PGA of Canada

Returning for Fall 2023/Winter 2024, our Delta Winter Coaching Program offers incredible value and the perfect opportunity to improve your game. Developed and coached by long time PGA of Canada Instructor Doug Mahovlic, this program is designed to provide a consistent lesson schedule through the off-season months. This provides the perfect opportunity to fix those pesky weaknesses in your game, and further develop your strengths. Delta also includes two on-course coaching sessions that will be scheduled strategically.

Please note coaching sessions for this program will only be offered on Sundays and Mondays, and will commence on either **Sunday October 15th or Monday October 16th.**

What's Included Exactly:

- 18 hours of personal coaching
- On-course sessions
- Bi-weekly 60 minute sessions
- Goal setting
- Equipment assessment
- Short game and putting instruction
- Full swing instruction
- Use of foresight GC Quad Launch Monitor to assess swing dynamics
- Individual: \$979.00 plus tax
- Group of 2: \$1659.00 plus tax
- **Maximum of 8 students**

For more details on this offering, please click [HERE](#)

To sign up, email Doug directly at doug.mahovlic@cordovabaygolf.com



Immovable Obstruction - Cart Path

By: Brian Hann - Teaching Professional, PGA of Canada

Since our cart paths at Cordova Bay are artificially surfaced (asphalt), they're considered "immovable obstructions" in the Rules of Golf book. Free relief from abnormal course conditions (such as immovable obstructions) are covered in the Rules of Golf under Rule 16. This rule also allows for free relief from other abnormal course conditions such as animal holes, ground under repair, or temporary water.

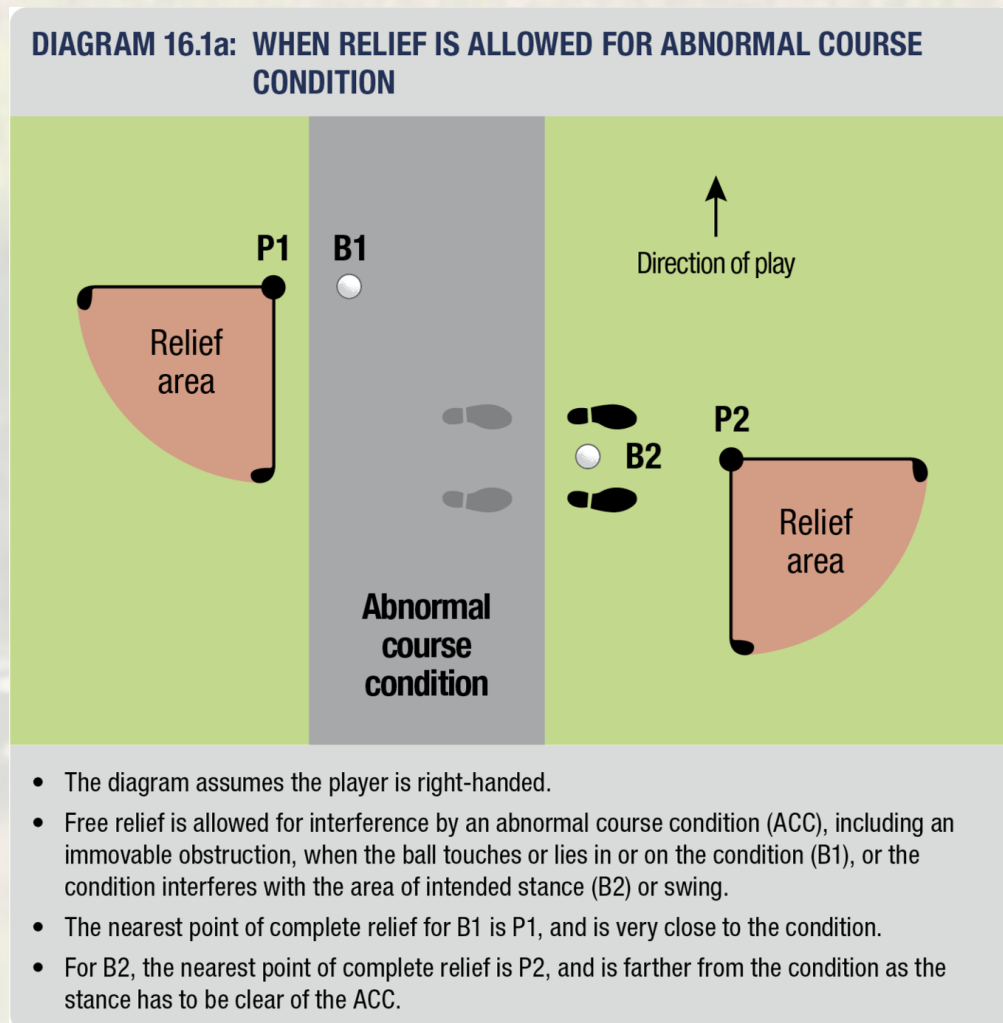
Free relief is allowed when any of these is true:

- Player's ball touches or is on the cart path
- Cart path physically interferes with player's area of intended stance or intended swing

Free relief is not afforded when:

- Cart path is close by, merely distracting but not interfering with area of intended stance or swing
- The "interference" to stance or swing exists only when the player chooses a club, type of stance or swing or direction of play that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances

When applicable, proceed with free relief as per the diagram. First, establish the nearest point of complete relief from the cart path. Drop your ball and play away if your ball comes to rest within a club length and no nearer the hole than that point.



Birdies of the Bay

By: Bob Reese and John Costello - Birders & Photographers

If you hear warbling calls coming from a thicket or similar medium to dense foliage that sound very much like a Robin, take a moment to investigate the source. If you do, you might be rewarded with a sighting of a **Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*).



To hear how similar the Black-headed Grosbeak's singing is compared to the Robin's, click the audio icon

The male Black-headed Grosbeak's black head, black wings with white accents, orange to cinnamon breast, neck and nape makes him easy to identify. As with many bird species, the female's colouration is more subdued. Her head, cheeks, back, and wings are primarily brown with white streaking. In contrast, she has a white eyebrow leading from the base of the bill over the eye and down to the back of her neck. Her throat, breast, and flanks are often a pale yellowish-orange with brown streaks under the neck and sides. Both sexes are about 19cm (7.5in) long and weigh in around 47g (1.7oz).

Setting aside colouration, perhaps a more readily recognizable feature is the prominence of their bills. Similar to other seed eaters such as Cardinals, their heavy conical shaped bills are well adapted for cracking seeds. The process of grabbing a heavily shelled seed, rolling around it around to the point of retaining the seed while expelling the cracked shell is quite the demonstration of dexterity. When seeds become scarce, they will forage along the ground in search of smaller seeds or insects. During the Spring and Fall migrations, their energy needs are considerably high. Any bird feeder topped up with sunflower seeds might prove to be the attraction a migrating group of Black-headed Grosbeaks choose for a much-needed meal and a rest.



Habitat preferences include thickets, shrubs, or similar dense foliage such as conifers or broad leaf trees near streams or wetlands.

In the Spring, after establishing a nesting territory, a male will sing not only to declare what area is his, but also to signal his desire to attract a mate. He will seek to impress an interested female with a combination of courtship songs and flight displays. Once a partnership is established, the female, after constructing a nest, will lay 3-4 pale blue eggs with brown speckling. Both parents will participate in the incubation process for the next 12-14 days, with the male assuming most of the responsibility for the day-shift. While still too young to fly, the young will leave the nest after 11-12 days. For the ensuing 2 weeks, both parents will continue to feed them and provide for their safety.

During the winter months in Mexico, Black-headed Grosbeaks are known to feed on Monarch Butterflies. It is significant to note that they are one of the very few bird species to tolerate the Monarch's natural toxins.

With populations that continue to be stable and adequately distributed, their conservation status is classified as stable. To see how projected warming scenarios might affect this species, [CLICK HERE](#)

Course Aeration - Fall Maintenance

By: Dean Piller - Superintendent

This past week, very important course maintenance occurred in order to ensure our turf is in tip top shape leading into the colder months. Aerating our greens and fairways is a big job and required us to close for an entire day. I am grateful for our team and for the long hours each individual put in.

But what exactly is aeration? It's a very common practice done on golf courses and the Golf Academy explains it well: "Aeration is usually performed in order to remove organic matter, decompress the soil, improve the drainage of the soil, and help promote root growth. Without aeration, organic matter (i.e. bacteria and other plants) build up on the surface of the turf. This increase in the concentration of plant matter can prevent water from draining into the soil and can reduce the amount of oxygen that reaches the roots, which ultimately limits growth. Aerating the soil can also relieve soil compression which not only helps grass grow better but ensures that the courses greens are firm and play fair, something that any golfer can appreciate."

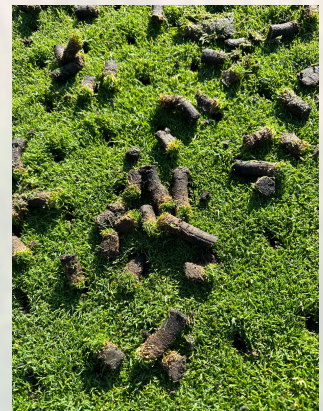
Here's a look at what happened this past week!



Early morning start



12 green top dressed prior to brush and roll



Fairway cores



All 18 fairways were aerated this week. This one is #14

A Summer Reflection

By: Dean Piller - Superintendent

With October just around the corner, I can't help but reflect on the buzz of activity throughout the golf course that I enjoyed over the past six months. This year, like every other, I really appreciated watching the circle of life everywhere throughout the golf course. Spring is always so exciting as the golf course bursts to life with new blossoms and budding leaves. The emergence of this new vegetation signals the beginning of a busy spring and summer period for the migratory birds that return one by one from their winter destinations in preparation to raise their next generation of young.

Once the fresh blossoms had scattered throughout the course, next came all sorts of pollinating insects. This signaled just the beginning of 5-6 months of insects working tirelessly throughout the summer pollinating the variety of flowering plants.



Click above to see bees pollinating linden trees behind 7 green

Next to show up in abundance were damselflies, dragonflies, and a host of other insects that emerge from the water bodies throughout the golf course. The streams, ponds, and tree lines provided important habitats for these insects. Their existence on the course is critical and is the reason for our thriving bird populations that return each summer. For months, the activity of these birds was high energy and fun to watch as their sole purpose was to have and raise another generation of their species.



Purple Martins on their birdbox around 17 pond. Click the video to see what the kerfuffle is all about

In the first half of August, I started to notice a shift in bird behaviour throughout the golf course. The activity seemed to become less purposeful as their young were now fully grown and able to fend for themselves. It was impressive to watch the young collect their own food throughout the day. The darting and diving over the ponds and fairways while feeding I'm sure was developing their bodies and flying skills for the upcoming migration ahead.

I couldn't help but notice how quickly the behaviour of the birds, animals, and insects was changing as the days became shorter and the evenings got



cooler. The Swallows and Purple Martins that filled our golf course with their energy throughout the summer have since gone and the Starlings that once grouped in masses in the cattails on 16 are now absent.



Click above to see Starlings hanging out in the cattails

With their departure and evident autumn colours now peppering the golf course, my attention returns to observing the masses of birds that diligently patrol our fairways each morning for crane fly larvae and earthworms. Although their habits of flipping over divots that have been carefully replaced by our golfers is annoying, I am aware that this very activity has given our turf the defense they need for a strong root system and is the very reason that we haven't sprayed an insecticide of any kind on our turf for over 28 years. These Crows, Ravens, Seagulls, Flickers, and a handful of other birds will show up each morning throughout the winter and continue being an important part of our ecosystem. Please protect your sandwiches, muffins and cookies after your kiosk visit so that those crafty crows can stick to the food our fairways provide.



Not uncommon to see Turtles on the course



A Heron secretly judging your tee shot on 13



An Eagle watching over the golfers on 17

Dinner Features & Wine Picks

By: Grant Soutar - Bill Mattick's Restaurant Manager & Sommelier

After a brief introduction last Spring, Fall and Winter 2023 will see the return of Theme Nights to Bill Mattick's Restaurant @ Cordova Bay Golf Course. Check below for details on our new and returning features, all beginning **Monday October 16, 2023**.

The Old Favourites:

- Sunday Night: Ever popular Prime Rib Night will continue on Sundays. Prime Rib roast & Yorkshire pudding, perfect comfort food for winter.
- Monday Pasta Night: After being such a hit last season, Pasta Night will make its return this year, just on a different night. Every Monday, beginning October 16, our chefs will offer a variety of pasta creations from which to choose.

New this Year:

Tuesday through Thursday Nights: Chef Ian introduces monthly 3-Course menus.

- Every Tuesday through Thursday evening you may choose from a variety of starters, entrees, and desserts for just \$40 (plus tax). Or try the entrée only for \$32.
- Each month through the fall and winter, Chef will present new 3-course menu items.
- For the wine lovers, Sommelier Grant Soutar will offer a selection of suggested wine pairings to accompany the three course options. Try a flight of 3-3oz glasses or a full pour of 6 or 9oz.

Join us for these and other features coming this fall and winter. Can't make it? Give the following exceptional wines a try, both under \$20.



Bodega Ernesto del Palacio, Toro Verdejo/Malvasia, Northern Spain

BCLDB: \$19.99

This blend of 95% Verdejo and 5% Malvasia is fruity and delicious. Hailing from Castilla y Leon in Northwestern Spain, this is a wine with a balance of ripe tropical fruit, fresh acidity and a creamy mouthfeel with a floral backdrop. A perfect alternative for Sauvignon Blanc or Pinot Gris.

Pair with smoked trout and other seafood, soft cheeses, Iberian ham or vegetarian pasta.



Chateau Belair-Coubet, Cotes de Bourg, Bordeaux, France

BCLDB: \$19.99

Exceptional quality for its price, this Right Bank Bordeaux from Cotes de Bourg is a blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich and full with firm tannins, dark fruits, earthiness and a hint of spice.

Drink now as a food wine with grilled lamb, rib steak or aged cheese and save a bottle or two to try again in 12 to 24 months, it will only get better.

