

# Canadian Open Hickory Championship 2024





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Once again a wonderful hickory golf week! It's hard to believe it's been 25 years! Wow, where has the time gone? And such memories - memories of road trips to the Rockies and Ron renting a bus for 40 - first stop, the liquor store in Olds! Canada/US Ryder cups with Max Hill and Johnny Bago duking it out to the last hole and Glen Jevnie driving the 9th green on Champions to two feet to win his match...the first years it seemed like John Wilson would be impossible to beat for the championship. Then the US exerted their influence with Modesto, California's Paul Biocini winning in 2003 (Paul just this year set a new Guinness world record for shooting his age - over 3500 times and counting!) and Nebraska's World Hickory Champion Randy Jensen winning in 2004. Beaumont Alberta's Ben Plaunt's juggernaut started in 2009 with 8 wins in the next 14 years. Through all this, one theme prevailed - the real winners weren't the ones with the lowest scores...the winners were the ones that had the most fun! And Ron and Edwin over time have been wonderful hosts and great examples of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

First timers to this event quickly find that the Canadian Open Hickory Championship is much much more than just a competition....It's an event where you renew old acquaintances and make new friends ... and oh, yes, play a lot of golf!

And this year was no different with the exception that the numbers have grown. This year we had 105 different players during the 5 days (players from age 7 to 95) - 8 from the US, 8 from Ontario, 5 from Saskatchewan, 2 from BC, 1 from Mexico and 1 all the way from Japan! Of the 105, 91 teed it up for the Friday Championship. In spite of some rain during the Championship 27 holes, spirits weren't dampened and scores were good....well good for some!

Our thanks to Craig Spicer and his staff for the great conditions of the golf course. Maintaining the immaculate greens and fairways helps to make the Canadian Open Hickory Championship a special event. Thanks Craig! In addition, thanks go out to Brian and his staff for their help behind the scenes with the tee times, prizes and scramble details.

This year we had two pre-tournament road trips to local golf courses. Each year we choose two different courses on the Monday and Tuesday to get to know new players to the event and brush off some of the rust on the hickory skills.

*Monday August 12* saw us at the Barrhead Golf Club, approximately 1 hour northwest of Edmonton. It is an 18-hole championship course designed by the renowned course architect Les Furber and has been included



in Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play" for the last three years and is remarked as a must stop for all Central Alberta golf enthusiasts.

**Tuesday Aug 13** The pre-tournament road trip with another 48 golfers was to the Riverside Golf Course in the Edmonton river valley with great views of downtown Edmonton. Again wonderful weather and a nice hickory golf course greeted the golfers.

**Wednesday Aug 14** featured the popular 4-person scramble this year with 92 players. This event really marks the beginning of the tournament because you get to play the tournament course, meet new players, pony up some cash and scrape any residual rust off your hickory game. Wednesday saw the team of Kerry Moore, Paul St. Laurent, Don Jackson and Carter Bond turning in a sparkling 14 under par 58 to take the first place prize. The top 6 teams were:

Kerry Moore, Paul St. Laurent, Don Jackson, Carter Bond - 58  
Dennis MacIntyre, Faron Hermanson, Robert James, Brian Lukiw, Greg Roberts - 61  
Taren Plaunt, Vern Kyler, Pat Clark, Ron Wiens - 62  
Blaine MacIntyre, Lance Gartner, Gino Narduzi, Larry Hycha, Harrison Tucker - 62  
Derek Lovlin, Jim Fegyverneki, Ryan Galloway, Lorne Emery - 62  
Robert Cox, Ken Looten, Rick O'Donnel, Ted Kondrat - 62



Following the round, Chris and Camille hosted a BBQ at their house. Players, wives, and significant others made their way there for an evening of relaxation and camaraderie - thanks to all that came!

**Thursday Aug 15** By popular demand, we repeated last year's 2-person scramble. Players selected their own partners with the condition that the team minimum handicap was a total of 22. With a record 45 teams, competition was close with 14 teams within 3 shots...many were rewarded for their good play - the rest just had a great time! Top scores included:

1st - Terry Bader, Fred Bader 67  
2nd - Don Jackson, Kerry Moore 67  
3rd - Roy Schneider, Rob Taylor 68  
4th - Taren Plant, Vern Kyler 68  
5th - Curtis Kucey, Brent Andrew 68  
6th - Chris Horne, Blaine MacIntyre, Steve Karpyskin 69  
7th - Ron Scholes, Edwin Chan 69  
8th - Willie Ducher, Mike Sloan 69  
9th - Troy Schnell, Gino Narduzi 70  
10th - Ben Plaunt, Bobby Plaunt 70  
11th - Keith Hosford, Doug Keith 70  
12th - Chris Ream, Rob Ahlschwede 70  
13th - Ray MacIntyre, Kyle Marvin 70  
14th - Scott Bower, Ron St. John 70



**Friday Aug 16** Championship Friday dawned with overcast skies, little wind and a few wasps (those wearing kilts were in jeopardy - just ask Vaughn!). 91 players vied for the top spots in the 27 hole Canadian Open Championship with triple shotguns on the Champions, Old Hickory and Traditions 9s. After the morning Champions shotgun, the Legends hosted a pizza lunch in the Clubhouse and followed with group photos on the putting green.



After 27 holes, the Open Division was won by newcomer Sean Utley with a score of 114 on the 3 nines. Along with the trophy goes the Canadian Open Hickory Championship flag from the last hole. Second place went to Ben Plaunt at 117.

The highly competitive Senior Division was taken by John Wilson of the Wetaskiwin golf club with a 27 hole score of 114. Interestingly, John Wilson won the inaugural Canadian Hickory Open in 2000 and now adds his name 25 years later to the Senior winner list! Well done John! Second place was Chris Ream at 116.



Following the final round, Ron and Edwin hosted a BBQ and awards ceremony in the clubhouse. It was a gathering of the hickory players coupled with the annual Legends Honoree ceremony. Each year the Legends honors an Alberta resident that has made significant contributions to golf in Alberta. This year's honoree was Kevin Hogan. Kevin has been the Head Professional at



Edmonton's Victoria Golf Course since 1994. Victoria GC is Canada's oldest municipal golf course and one of the busiest municipal golf courses in the world. An avid golfer, when asked what was the most number of holes he played in one day...342 to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Kevin always tells people that he has

the best office in town! Kevin well deserves his place among the Legends honorees.



So, a great way to finish off a wonderful week! With the 25th Annual event a fond memory, we now turn our attention to the upcoming 26th Canadian Open Hickory championship August 11-15, 2025. Players from this year's edition are excited to return and already those that missed out are looking at their calendars too. And, as usual, all are welcome to come up a few days early for the annual pre-tournament road trip. For more information contact Ron Lyons at [antiquegolf@shaw.ca](mailto:antiquegolf@shaw.ca), Brian at the golf course at 780-449-4911 or check the Legends website at [www.legendsgolf.ca](http://www.legendsgolf.ca) under the hickory tab. It will be a wonderful time!

**Mark it on your calendars ... August 11-15, 2025!**

Thanks once again to everyone for your participation in the Canadian Open Hickory Championship! Looking forward to 2025 already!

Stay safe everyone!



## Some Friday Presentations



A wonderful hand-crafted wood burning plaque presented by Vaughn Perusse to commemorate the 25th anniversary



## *Families at the Hickory Championship*

One of the cool features of the Canadian Open Hickory Championship is the number of family members that get to play together - memories that they always will remember. Fully a third of the field are families, be it fathers, sons, grandsons, brothers, cousins, nephews, husbands and wives, in-laws or whatever - it's just special to play with someone so close to you ... some are included below ... and my apologies if I have missed some.

Chris Ream, Michael Ream, Ethan Ream, Austin Galashan, Ryan Galloway

Johnny Bago, Brandon Bago

The Stewart Family - Will, Jonah, Barrie, Rob

Bowling Ball, Rowdy

Rob Taylor, Bill Taylor, Kelly Taylor

Dennis MacIntyre, Blaine MacIntyre, Ray MacIntyre

Ben Plaunt, Bobby Plaunt, Taren Plaunt

Craig Hosford, Keith Hosford, Doug Keith

Terry Bader, Fred Bader

Ross McLean, Matthieu McLean

Dave Racette, Dwayne Racette

Any other families out there? My apologies if I missed you!

Send me a photo!



Jon Collins and son Rowdy.



Rick Boudreau and grandson Craighton.



Johnny Bago and son Brandon



Chris Ream and grandson Austin



Terry and Fred Bader



The Stewart family: Will, Jonah, Rob, Barrie



# Photo Gallery





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Forever losing your sunglasses? A number of hole Prizes and long drive prizes were donated by Rick O'Donnell with the innovative T-Caps featuring built-in sun glasses that slide up and out of the way when not used. They are available through Rick and also are available in the Legends proshop....much appreciated Rick!

In addition, long drive and hole prizes were donated by Steve Boysen - thanks Steve!









## Photo Gallery



Want more photos? Edwin has included a link to his at

[https://1drv.ms/f/c/f22e039fbf19182c/Evf\\_UKzwcX1A196V5-hDYGgBB-RxmIQR9mNjS8Ekgw7SxQ?e=9VBQcT](https://1drv.ms/f/c/f22e039fbf19182c/Evf_UKzwcX1A196V5-hDYGgBB-RxmIQR9mNjS8Ekgw7SxQ?e=9VBQcT)

Simply paste the above link into your browser...they likely initially when clicked on come up as thumbnails - to see a full size original, click on the 3 dots to get a menu that says "view original"



# Photo Gallery - Legends Golf Car Museum



The country club golf ball collection currently displayed in a museum at the legends golf course is a collection of 14,750 different golf balls with country club names from 109 different countries. To the best of our knowledge it is the largest known collection in Canada.





## Which were the hardest and easiest holes during the Championship round?

Thanks to Ross MacLean for the analysis of the Championship round hole scoring. Hole difficulty was measured as strokes over par... that is, the hardest or easiest hole to par...Below are answers ... and some surprises!

Hardest 9 holes - Old Hickory followed by Traditions and then Champions.

Hardest hole of all 27 - #9 Traditions

Easiest hole of all 27 - #3 Champions

Hardest hole on Champions ... #4

Easiest hole on Champions ... #3

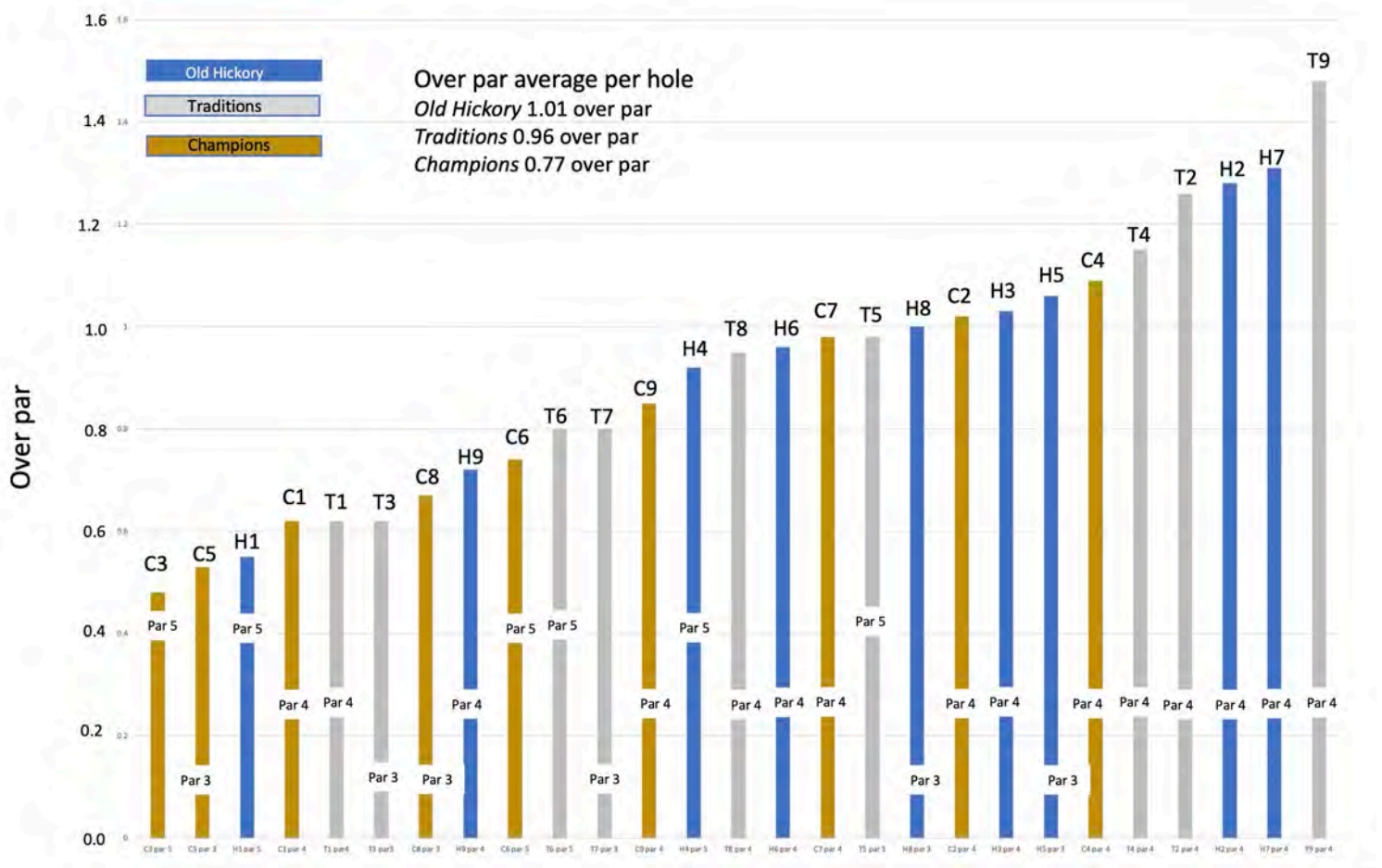
Hardest hole on Old Hickory ... #7

Easiest hole on Old Hickory ... #1

Hardest hole on Traditions ... #9

Easiest hole on Traditions ... #1 and #3

Full Analysis is below.





# Snapshots in Time

As it's been 25 years, I thought it appropriate to have a collage of Canadian Hickory Championship photos over the last 25 years ... some from Road trips as well as some from past Canadian Open Hickory Championships... Lots of memories here!





