

# Canadian Women Golfers Celebrates 15 Seasons



## CWGI: A Unique, Flexible and Affordable Way for Women to Play Golf

"It's a great golf club for women!" exclaimed a new member recently. "You get to play with all levels of golfers on many excellent courses throughout the region, and have fun too!"

**Canadian Women Golfers Inc.** (CWGI) started 15 seasons ago as a golf league for women offering 9-hole games on most mornings and evenings during the week at several area golf courses. The idea was to make it easy for busy women to learn and play the game. Even back then it was different. Members could play at different courses from week to week choosing from a variety of courses throughout the Ottawa/Gatineau region. CWGI has since significantly expanded its program to provide a full season of organized golf including 18-hole games three to four times a week and a variety of 9 & 18-hole golf and dinner events, one-day bus excursions and two-day golf getaways.

"We are taking a leadership role for women and golf in the region" says CWGI President Bonnie Robinson. "We are truly interested in helping women take up the game and play more. The CWGI model of a membership fee plus preferred rate green fees only when you play, instead of an overall fee, is unique". When members are busy at work, have family commitments or are away on vacation and can't play, it doesn't cost them anything. When they have more time they can play as often as they want. This makes CWGI very affordable.

### CWGI's Strength is its Program Organization

Women are busy and the last thing they need is something more to organize. Knowing this, CWGI organizes a program of games during the week and on weekends and members simply decide when and where they want to play. Foursomes and tee times are organized for members so there is always someone to play with.

"CWGI wouldn't be able to implement its extensive program without its Member Coordinators - experienced members who help organize the games, represent CWGI during games at the golf courses and assist in running the program in many other ways" Bonnie adds. "This terrific team of sixteen enthusiastic members works hard and has fun together, making CWGI welcoming, dynamic and successful."

CWGI was an early adopter of using the internet and email for communications with its members. The Members' section of the CWGI website ([www.canadianwomengolfers.com](http://www.canadianwomengolfers.com)) is the virtual "club house" where members can find out about the detailed program for the season and register for games and events as they choose. An online store is the members' "pro shop". And, members can register for golf lessons and clinics online, provided exclusively by CWGI's "golf pros", its women golf pro partners. Using email and through its electronic newsletters, CWGI communicates with members on a continuous basis throughout the season.





## Program Features of the Club

### I'm just a beginner, can I join?

CWGI is a recreational club welcoming both new and experienced golfers. Golf is an individual sport where success is measured by individual improvement. CWGI understands that women beginning to play the game benefit from support and encouragement. To help new members, particularly new golfers, feel more comfortable on the golf course CWGI provides a new member orientation and a mentor program. The mentor program teams up an experienced member with a new golfer.

New golfers can also be reassured by CWGI's "Golden Rule", designed to take the pressure off new golfers and to maintain a great pace of play for everyone. On each hole, once the number of shots taken to reach the green matches the par for the hole, the golfer simply picks up her ball and drops it on the green to putt out.

These initiatives go a long way to helping women feel supported as they take up the game.

### I work full time, should I join?

Absolutely! CWGI members who work can take advantage of the evening 9-hole games Monday to Thursday, as well as 18-hole games offered on weekends. The Friday afternoon 18-hole games, the "Take a Day Off to Play Golf Bus Excursions" and the two-day "Golf Getaways" are very popular with working members as they can plan ahead to take time off work to participate.

### Do you have 18-hole games for women who can play during the week?

The 18-hole games during the week are well attended. Games are planned for Monday and Wednesday mornings and often on Friday afternoons.

### Where is the club?

CWGI is a "virtual" club using the power of the internet through its website to provide information about the program to members, to allow members to register for games at golf courses throughout the region and for foursomes and tee times to be confirmed. On the members' website, there is also an on-line 'pro shop', a directory of members and other features for member use.

### Where do you play?

Members regularly play 9-hole golf in the morning and evening during the week at nine different courses across the region and 18-hole games are played during the week and on weekends at over thirty courses during the season.





## How do I register for games?

For 9-hole games, members contact the golf course and book a tee time during CWGI scheduled times. For 18-hole games, members register online. A Member Coordinator is present at all games to welcome members and to ensure they have an enjoyable golfing experience and can be contacted easily to answer questions or deal with cancellations or changes.

## How far ahead must I book, can I play last minute?

Normally bookings are up to a week in advance. Sometimes women cannot make commitments to play until the last minute and this is often possible. If plans change, it is easy to cancel.

## Can I get lessons through CWGI?

Yes, CWGI partners with women golf pros who offer a variety of lessons and clinics for members throughout the season. These are posted on the members' site for members to view and to register if interested.

## What about the social and networking side of a golf club?

CWGI members come from all areas of the region providing a wonderful way to socialize and network. Following the games, members often remain at the course for a drink or a bite-to-eat. CWGI also plans several 9 and 18-hole game events during the season which include a dinner. CWGI promotes the businesses of its members and encourages its members to consider these businesses when buying services and products.

## What are the benefits of an all-female golf club?

Many women are introduced to golf because the men in their lives are golfers. They enjoy playing with CWGI because it is very supportive playing with other women and helpful in improving their game. Many members play with CWGI during the week and with their husbands or male friends on weekends.

## How do I find out more about CWGI?

To find out more about CWGI, check out the website at [www.canadianwomengolfers.com](http://www.canadianwomengolfers.com). Also, plan to come next spring to the CWGI Open House & Season Kick-off at the Hampton Inn and Conference Centre during March. The CWGI website will provide more information on this complimentary event starting in February.

## Giving Back to Our Community

Giving back to the community for needy causes related to women and children has been an important CWGI value. Over the years CWGI has raised over \$125,000 based on a \$10 per membership fee, with the remainder largely raised through fundraising at the Season-end Tournament and Banquet, which is held every September.





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As an example, in 2009, CWGI donated \$15,200 to HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters), CWGI's current "Charity of Choice". Many children from needy families start school ill equipped to succeed and tend to fall behind as they move through the system. This organization recently began its program in Ottawa through the Vanier Community Centre. The program works with needy families by helping parents, typically mothers, to train their children at home in the basics so they become school-ready by the time they start school. These mothers in turn can then train other mothers, which provides them with a job and helps to build self confidence.

Over the years, through its donations and fundraising CWGI has supported many community causes including Harmony House, The Youville Centre, The Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre, Interval House & HIPPY.

CWGI is also the volunteer partner for Tee Up For Y Kids, a golf tournament to raise funds for the Y's Camp Davern, a summer camp for girls.

### CWGI's Golf Partners Help Make it Successful

CWGI has successfully partnered with the region's many golf courses to offer members the best in golfing opportunities. While CWGI members enjoy great golf, the courses benefit by CWGI introducing more women to golf. "The golf courses welcome us. They appreciate our organized approach and the considerable business our over 500 members bring them." Bonnie adds. CWGI is also grateful to its women golf pro partners, Danielle Nadon from Danielle Nadon Golf School and T-to-Green, Pam LeBlanc from the Canadian Golf and Country Club and Rebecca Mulville, all exceptional golf instructors who have been associated with CWGI over the years, providing a varied program of lessons and clinics exclusively for members.

### Looking to the Future

Golf is a sport for life and women recognize the health and social benefits it offers. More and more women are taking up the sport in the region and this makes the future an exciting one. CWGI's welcoming approach and its well organized, varied and affordable program positions it well to meet the needs of current and future members.

## THANK YOU FOR 15 GREAT YEARS



### CWGI Would Like To Thank All Of The Golf Courses From The Region For Being So Supportive of CWGI & Women's Golf

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Amberwood Golf Course           | Edelweiss Golf Course          | Marshes Golf Course        | Perth Golf Course             |
| Arnprior Golf Course            | Emerald Links Golf Course      | Meadows Golf Course        | Prescott Golf Course          |
| Anderson Links Golf Course      | eQuinelle Golf Course          | Metcalfe Golf Course       | Renfrew Golf Course           |
| Calabogie Golf Course           | Glen Mar Golf Course           | Mississippi Golf Course    | Riverbend Golf Course         |
| Canadian Golf and Country Club  | Greensmere Golf Course         | Mont-Cascades Golf Course  | Royal Papineau Golf Course    |
| Casselview Golf Course          | Hammond Golf Course            | Montebello Golf Course     | Smith Falls Golf Course       |
| Cedarhill Golf Course           | Les Hautes Plaines Golf Course | Montpellier Golf Course    | Sorcier Golf Course           |
| Champlain Golf Course           | Héritage Golf Course           | Mont Ste-Marie Golf Course | Stonebridge Golf Course       |
| Chateau Cartier Golf Course     | Hylands Golf Course            | Mountain Creek Golf Course | Tecumseh Golf Course          |
| Chateau Montebello Golf Course  | Irish Hills Golf Course        | Nation Golf Course         | Timber Run Golf Course        |
| La Cité Golf Course Golf Course | Larrimac Golf Course           | Nationview Golf Course     | Upper Canada Golf Course      |
| Cloverdale Golf Course          | Lombard Glen Golf Course       | Oaks of Cobden Golf Course | Les Vieux Moulins Golf Course |
| Dragonfly Golf Course           | Madawaska Golf Course          | Outaouais Golf Course      |                               |
| Eagle Creek Golf Course         | Manderley Golf Course          | Pakenham Golf Course       |                               |

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