

# History of the Beaver Golf Course

As told by Bob Glover  
Validated by Redge Lopeter and Corny Unger

In 1985 Bill Andreas who was always an instigator for anything to be done at Beaver Flat was telling me that we should have a golf course here. I told him I was really interested and I would talk to some people about it.

I mentioned it to Glen Thingelstad and Corny Unger and maybe Redge Lopeter also. We got together and decided to look into the possibility of acquiring the land for a golf course. The main part was to get the land west of the village that was crown land and we got permission to use that to.

We had another get together and I believe we decided that Corny and I would go out and look the area over to see what lay out was possible.

Corny and I took a bunch of small wood stakes out and a hatchet. We started at No. 1 tee off and just put a stake where we thought the tee off would be and it is still the tee off location today. I walked south west and carefully counted my paces and we got to where No 1 green is today and Corny drove a stake in there. We crossed the road and staked No 2 tee off and No 2 green (where it is today. No 3 (the long one) also is the same today as is No 4 tee off and green.

Now No 5 posed a problem for us a little as we originally teed off close to No 4 green and hit east about 180 yards then more or less north to where the green is today. So it was a fairly sharp dog leg, probably about 360 yards total. This was changed by a new golf committee a few years later (maybe two). The tee off was moved to the top of the hill where it is today and this was a good change. This is today a very scenic fairway looking from high on the hill to the green by the lake.

Corny and I debated a lot on where to go with No 6 fairway. We originally had the tee off close to where it is today but we wanted the fairway to go straight up the east hill. This would have been a scenic fairway with the lake on the left all the way to the green still on the east edge of the rise. We walked it and staked it but we knew as we did this that it would be hard to make a fairway up that hill as it was and still is very rocky.

About two weeks later we called a public meeting and set a date for a work bee. Something came up for Shirley and I (we had to go out to a reunion in Alberta the weekend they set the date for the work bee). They did a lot of work that weekend mostly picking rock and large cactus off the fairways. Another change took place as they were working that weekend. Corny and some others decided to run No 6 fairway down the valley where it is today. Another good change as this made a nice fairway instead of that rocky hill. (Two more recent changes have taken place as No 7 fairway was shortened a little because of lots 402 and 404 that were purchased west of Smith Crescent about 2006. The No 8 tee off was moved about 2012 due to lots 317 and 319 (south side of Herchmer Crescent) being purchased). No 8 green and the No 9 hole are original.

After the rocks and cactus were removed Bill Andreas found an old flail mower, I believe about a six foot cut. So that's what we cut the course with for a few years.

We had work bees for building greens. We marked the circle for each green and had the sod dug out maybe 4-5" deep. Sand was the next thing we needed. We had it delivered from Swift Current. I knew how to mix sand and oil because of the way we did it at the Kyle golf course (with a short grain auger). We got an old auger and used oil from garages in Kyle. It worked real good to mix the sand. I believe we had the greens all done the first year.

We put our store where it is today in 1988 and opened that April on weekends. So it worked out good for golfers paying their green fees in the store and when we were closed the honor system box.

I don't remember what year it was that we planted all the trees on the course. I believe Redge Lopeter was the great pusher for that. I know he had a tree planter and we had several people to help with this job. We were real lucky as that year we had lots of rain all summer so the trees got a great start.

Some improvements later were the metal shelters that were built on No 5, 7 & 8. Again Bill Andreas was responsible for the shelters. I believe he

purchased the material and donated it but I do know it was purchased in Swift Current.

The toilet by No 3 hole (by village garbage) was built by Leroy Ecklund and me. A septic tank was installed by Redge Lopeter and we installed the toilet on top of it.

Michael Rogowski was president of the golf course for a few years. In those years he had tee offs built using railroad ties and also improved other tee off boxes. This included ladies tee offs at No 3 & 9.

Some of those early executive members were Bob Glover, Glenn Thingelstad, Corny Unger, Fred Bolding, Redge and Marg Lopeter, Tony Fraess and Donnie and Donna Lopeter. These members did an outstanding job while serving on the golf course committee. And some of these folks have served multiple times over the years and actually Redge Lopeter is presently serving on the committee. As well there was always a lot of effort put into running successful golf tournaments each and every year. Thanks to all of them we are where we are today – one year away from the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beaver Flat Golf Course!

I will probably miss some folks but I want to try and remember all those that made this golf course possible. Here is that list in alphabetical order.

- Bill and Sophie Andreas
- Bob and Iris McNeill
- Bob and Shirley Glover
- Corny and Liz Unger
- Donnie and Donna Lopeter
- Fred Bolding
- Gary and Gloria Nickell
- Glen and Clair Thingelstad
- Harold and Rosemary Moen
- James Seymore
- Jim and Chrystal Hartley
- Jim and Dawn Rogowski
- Kerry and Linda Oscar

- Kevin Unger
- Lu Porter
- Marie Lynd
- Mark and Shirley Maltais
- Norman and Myrna Utkee
- Redge and Marg Lopeter
- Richie and Barb Lopeter
- Rick Siemens
- Ron and Zeeta Vetter
- Tony and Lavina Fraess
- Vic and Doreen McMaster
- Vic and Maryanne Klymyshyn
- Walter and Lynne Schellenberg