



FRED COUPLES,
ONE OF THE PGA
TOUR'S MOST
POPULAR FIGURES IS
THE LEAD DESIGNER OF
A COURSE THAT WILL
ANCHOR 'THE RISE'

Photo courtesy DHZ Media

Call of the West

FIVE GOLFING GREATS LEAVE AN ENDURING
STAMP ON WESTERN CANADA AND MONTANA

By Andrew Hempstead

Since 1892, when a few rough golf holes were laid out behind the sand dunes of Vancouver's Jericho Beach, hundreds of courses have been constructed across western Canada. Traditionally, these layouts were designed to suit the needs of local communities and the number of golfers through the region rose steadily with the population. Meanwhile, a 1970s real estate boom in Ontario saw developers in that province beginning to use **golf courses as a tool** to sell home sites within new communities.

The Rise (Vernon, Okanagan Valley)

In the summer of 2000, Fred Couples breezed into the Okanagan Valley to claim victory at the annual Telus Skins event, hosted by Predator Ridge. One of the PGA Tour's most popular figures has reappeared in the valley—this time as the lead designer of a course that will anchor The Rise, a residential and resort community overlooking the northern reaches of Okanagan Lake.

Couples and Bates Golf Design Group have joined forces to create a challenging yet enjoyable layout etched into the hillside. This imaginatively routed layout will eventually be framed by upscale housing, but home sites (from \$195,000) are set well back from the fairways, allowing nothing to take away from lake views enjoyed on 12 of the 18 holes, including the signature 17th. On a practical note, a technique

known as "hydro-seeding"—mixing seed, mulch and water to encourage quick germination—along with fertile soil and long hours of sunshine have seen rapid progress, and it is predicted the course will be open in late summer 2007.

More than just a golf course community, fully integrated within The Rise will be an estate winery. The vineyards have been planted and a ground-breaking ceremony for the winery complex is scheduled for late March. Upon completion, it will include dedicated wine cellars for each property owner, wine-tasting, fine dining, and a boutique hotel. Residents will also have exclusive access to the Beach Club, a private facility on the region's most popular beach.

Fred Couples

Seattle-born Fred Couples has amassed 15 victories on the PGA Tour since his debut win at the 1983 Kemper Open. In 1992, he won both the Masters and PGA Tour Player of the Year, and has represented the United States in the Ryder Cup five times. But "Freddie" is as well known for his easygoing personality as he is for his golfing exploits. Regardless of his inner desire, fellow golfers and fans see a laidback and friendly character who seemingly effortlessly has remained one of the world's best golfers for a quarter of a century. Fan favourite at made-for-TV events, such as the Shell Wonderful World of Golf and the various skins events held after the regular Tour season ends.

For information about The Rise, visit
www.therise.ca



SWEEPING OCEAN VIEWS, A LAKE, A PARK, AND A PRIVATE PUTTING GREEN WILL TEMPT BUYERS, AS WILL HAVING JACK NICKLAUS AS A NEIGHBOUR AND MEMBERSHIP OF ULTRA-EXCLUSIVE JACK NICKLAUS GOLF CLUB, WHICH ALLOWS PRIVILEGES AT OTHER NICKLAUS COURSES AROUND THE WORLD.



Jack Nicklaus (left) and Elke Loof-Koehler, president and CEO of Marine Drive Properties

Jack Nicklaus

Jack or Tiger? While Tiger Woods is arguably the more dominant player of his own era, Jack Nicklaus is generally regarded as the greatest golfer of all time. During a competitive career spanning five decades, Nicklaus won over 100 tournaments, including 20 major championships. In addition to being the only person to have achieved the Glam Slam on both the regular and senior PGA tours, he represented the United States in six Ryder Cups, was the leading PGA Tour money winner eight times, and voted PGA Player of the Year five times. Even before his competitive career began winding down, Jack Nicklaus began designing golf courses. Nicklaus Design has been involved in the creation or re-design of over 300 courses in 29 countries. The quality and respect of Nicklaus Design courses is staggering—80 of his courses have hosted 500 professional tournaments or national amateur tournaments.

For information about Jack Nicklaus, visit www.nicklaus.com

Photos on this page courtesy Marine Drive Properties

Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort (Ucluelet, Vancouver Island)

Vancouver Island is a household name among Canadians looking for a temperate climate without crossing international borders. But while the island's east coast gets most of the attention from those looking for real estate investment, the west coast has also seen exponential growth in the last decade. Linked to the rest of the world by scheduled flights and a famously scenic highway through towering old growth forests, the population of the west coast is concentrated in two main towns, Tofino and Ucluelet, the former discovered long ago by developers, while Ucluelet has remained in the background as a quiet fishing village.

While Ucluelet's charm will surely remain, the introduction of the \$650-million Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort in late 2006 enhanced the town's profile almost overnight. Anchored by a Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, the planned 150-hectare (370-acre) low-density resort and residential community fronts both the Pacific Ocean and Ucluelet Inlet, with the wilderness of Pacific Rim National Park immediately to the north.

The Wyndansea developer is Marine Drive Properties, the same company behind upscale developments such as Tofino's Tauca Lea Resort and Spa. The first phase of residential development at Wyndansea is the gated Signature Circle, comprising 30 estate-size lots up to three-quarters of an acre in size starting at \$1.5 million each. Physical features such as sweeping ocean views, a lake, a park, and a private putting green will tempt buyers, as will having

Jack Nicklaus as a neighbour (he purchased one of the lots) and membership of ultra-exclusive Jack Nicklaus Golf Club, which allows privileges at other Nicklaus courses around the world. Future plans call for further single-family homes, shared-ownership villas, and an internationally branded hotel and resort-style condominium complex overlooking the ocean.

Construction is already well underway on the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, which will perhaps be inspired by other famous seaside layouts, such as Pebble Beach. Each hole will have its own character, celebrating the natural features of the setting, while also providing a challenge for all skill levels. The golf course will be open for limited public play in 2008. About this particular site, Nicklaus says in a press release: "There are certain projects I want to do, and this is one of them. This is a piece of property that is absolutely gorgeous, you couldn't find a better-looking site anywhere in North America. To have the opportunity to do a golf course on this land, to work with this environment, to work with nature, the ocean, the trees, the rocks—it's an opportunity that you just can't pass up."

For information about Wyndansea Oceanfront Golf Resort, visit www.marinedriveproperties.com

Wilderness Club (Eureka, Montana)

Similar to the other developments covered by this article, the Wilderness Club is resort-style real estate development with a well-known golfer throwing his name behind the golf course. What stands the Wilderness Club apart is the location—across the border from southern British Columbia in Montana. The development is well named, for northwestern Montana is a wild and untamed part of the United States. The Wilderness Club is being developed in the Tobacco Valley, with the Cascade Mountains to the west and the Rocky Mountains protected by Glacier National Park to the east. The surrounding land is mostly untouched—a place where hiking, fishing, and horseback riding have drawn adventurous souls for decades. But from spring 2008 you can add golfing to the mix, and all the services that come with a resort community.

During an illustrious career as one of the world's top golfers, Nick Faldo sneaked away whenever possible to immerse himself in his second love—fly-fishing. Often, these escapes brought him to Montana, to where he has returned to design the golf course at the Wilderness Club. During his golfing heyday, Faldo was admired for his superior shotmaking skills on all manner of courses, and it's these skills he is able to bring to the design element at Wilderness Club. "When I first saw the property," says Faldo, "I was amazed at how you could almost see how the course would lay out." Continuing, he enthuses, "the views of mountains, water and forests from almost every hole will make this a spectacular golf setting."

While golfers will be drawn by the Faldo Design layout, the development is family-friendly and designed for all interests—albeit with a definitive slant toward outdoor pursuits. With this theme in mind, the 220-hectare (545-acre) spread has plans for just 272 single-family homes (lots starting at US\$250,000) and 47 luxury "cabins" (from US\$700,000). Over 40 hectares (100 acres) will be left in its natural state, laced by a network of walking paths. Recreational amenities will include tennis, a freeform outdoor swimming pool, and canoeing on a lake—along with activities such as horseback riding, fly-fishing, and snow sports.

For information about The Wilderness Club, visit www.thewildernessclub.com



Nick Faldo

Nick Faldo (centre) checks plans at Eureka

Nick Faldo burst onto the professional golfing scene in 1976, before going on to compile a resume of 43 worldwide victories over two decades. While other golfers have amassed a higher number of victories, Faldo was renowned for winning high profile events, including six majors. He spent a total of 98 weeks ranked as the world's Number One golfer, including most of 1990 when he won both the Open Championship and the Masters, while also placing third at the U.S. Open. Having represented Europe a record 11 times in the Ryder Cup, it was no surprise

when he was nominated as captain for the 2008 trans-Atlantic competition. Election to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1997 was a mere formality. Faldo Design has been responsible for golf courses throughout the world, including offbeat locations like Cambodia, Russia, and Iceland. The company is also behind Louisbourg Resort Golf & Spa, across the continent on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia and slated for completion in 2009. You can also hear Faldo as lead analyst for CBS golf coverage.

For information about Nick Faldo, visit www.nickfaldo.com



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Wildstone (Cranbrook, Columbia Valley)

With over a dozen courses, long hot summers, and easy access by road from Calgary, it's no wonder the Columbia Valley is one of western Canada's premier golf destinations. In 2008, Gary Player, one of the greatest golfers the world has ever seen, will add his name to the already impressive roster of local courses. Wildstone is a planned residential community comprising two golf courses on a rolling 900-acre property with the Canadian Rockies rising majestically in the east. The company behind the development is Havaday, led by Joel and Jay Savage, the former a 16-year veteran of the NHL and European hockey leagues. Born and raised in Cranbrook, the brothers have returned to lead what is considered the most ambitious project yet in the region. The 15-year plan calls for 3,000 residences—from single-family estate homes to cost-effective condominiums—at build-out.

On signing up for the Wildstone design project, Player stated in a press release: "In all my years in the golf course design business, I've always searched for the right opportunity to work in Canada and finally the Havaday team presented us with an immaculate piece of land." About that first visit, he recently told us: "I visited the site of the new development late last year, which was one of the few times I've been lucky enough to conduct a site visit on horseback. I have a huge passion for horses and beautiful natural scenery, so it was a real treat!" Construction of the first of two courses has begun and is slated to open in 2008. The second will be a Gary Player Signature Course, for which Player will be intimately involved in all stages of the design and construction. Both courses will feature fairways that follow the rolling terrain, rough left in its natural state, and sweeping views from most tee boxes.

Chris Dadson, president of Kootenay Rockies Tourism, sees Wildstone as a win-win scenario for both locals and visitors. "From a marketing standpoint," he says, "it raises the profile of the Columbia Valley, while those purchasing real estate get to enjoy their investment." He also points out that Cranbrook's local airport, with a lengthened runway and recently re-branded as Canadian Rockies International Airport, is just a 10-minute drive from Wildstone, providing easy access from western Canada.

For information about Wildstone, visit www.discoverwildstone.com



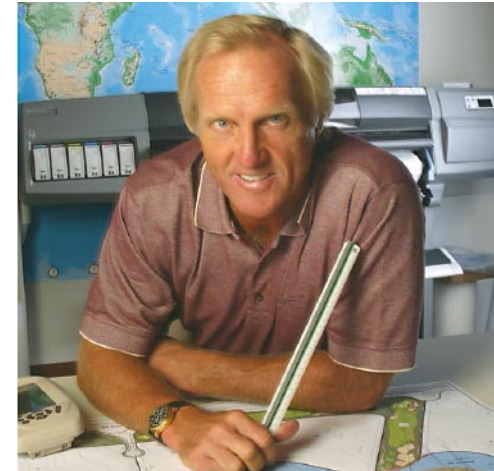
Photos on this page courtesy Brian Clarkson Photography

Gary Player

South African-born Gary Player is regarded as one of the greatest golfers of all time. Three years after playing his first round of golf, he turned professional, thereby beginning a career that set many records that may never be broken. He compiled 166 professional tournament victories (more than any other golfer), is one of only five golfers to ever win the Grand Slam, and won nine Majors. He is also the only person to win the Open Championship in three different decades and was the oldest golfer, at age 63, to make the cut at the Masters. Black attire, unwavering determination, and courtesy to all

were Player trademarks that continue beyond his competitive golfing years. Having flown over 14 million miles, Player is also regarded as "the world's most travelled athlete." Over the last 20 years, Gary Player Design has been responsible for over 200 golf courses around the world, including 40 in the United States. The Gary Player Group portfolio of services also includes real estate, golf equipment, golf tours, and the education of underprivileged children.

For information about Gary Player, visit www.garyplayer.com



Cliffs Over Maple Bay (Maple Bay, Vancouver Island)

Greg Norman is the epitome of a golfer who has transcended a successful competitive career to make a splash in the business world. While his portfolio of services include wine making, raising beef, real estate development, a clothing line, a restaurant, and even his own brand of turf, the "Shark" has really made a mark in the world of golf course design. And so when developer Warren Paulin went looking for a partner for his planned Cliffs Over Maple Bay real estate and golf community on Vancouver Island, an hour's drive north from Victoria, Norman was a natural choice. "Having his name on the course changes the whole logistics of real estate," stated Paulin. "His name is really a valuable one."

Set against the backdrop of Vancouver Island's forested interior and with views of the equally magnificent Georgia Strait, The Cliffs Over Maple Bay is a sprawling property beautifully located in the heart of a vacation paradise that has seen a booming real estate market in recent years. Winding through what at build-out will be five phases of residential development is the Greg Norman Signature Golf Course. A challenging yet playable layout, with fairways following natural contours over and around the naturally hilly locale, Norman is slated to hit the opening drive in the spring of 2008.

Phase 1 of single-family residential lots at Cliffs Over Maple Bay sold out quickly in 2006, and 2007 has seen brisk sales of lots in Phase 2 (starting from \$240,000). Mark Bouvette, of Sotheby's International Realty, attributes this success to the combination of sensibly-priced home sites and a clever layout that sees most with golf course frontage. "But," he explains, "the very best lots are in Phases 4 and 5, at the highest elevations and with uninterrupted water views." At build-out, the development will boast 360 single-family home sites, 215 multi-family units, and a 125-room hotel.

For information about Cliffs Over Maple Bay visit www.cliffsovermaplebay.com

Greg Norman

Fans mostly know Australian Greg Norman, the Great White Shark, for his swashbuckling style. But it was his relentless domination of the golfing world through the 1980s and '90s that his peers will surely always remember, when he was ranked as the world's Number One golfer for 331 weeks and spent over 640 weeks ranked in the Top 10. Taking up the sport as a teenager in Queensland, Australia, Norman won quicker and regularly in his home country. By the time he turned 50 in 2005, he had amassed 88 worldwide victories, including 20 wins on the PGA Tour and two Open Championships. He was elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2001. Norman's success continued into the business world, most notably course design. His company has designed almost 50 courses worldwide, with another 20 under development.

For information about Greg Norman visit www.shark.com



The Falls (Chilliwack, Fraser Valley)

Debuting in 1996 as one of Canada's top new golf courses, The Falls is part of a real estate development in British Columbia's Fraser Valley, a one-hour drive east of Vancouver. The owners have recently signed an agreement with Greg Norman Golf Course Design for a second course, one which will elevate the status of the residential and resort community even higher.

Representatives from Alberta and British Columbia are planning on investing millions of dollars over the next few years, not just to present a world-class golf course, but as part of a larger real estate initiative. As with

similar developments, the opportunity to purchase real estate comes in many forms, including single-family lots in Emerald Ridge, where discerning buyers enjoy a ten-year golf club membership. While the Norman course is yet to take shape, unlike the other developments discussed in this article, visitors can already overnight at The Falls, staying in luxurious villas and enjoying contemporary cuisine in a casual restaurant that takes full advantage of sweeping valley views. Staff will gleefully point out—especially to visitors from Alberta—that the course is open year-round. R

For information about The Falls visit www.thefalls.com