

Ada Mackenzie: Golfer, Promoter, and Businesswoman

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The purpose of this presentation will be to cover the life and career of the great Canadian amateur golfer, Ada Mackenzie of Toronto. Without doubt, she was the best Canadian woman golfer in the first half of the twentieth century.

The presentation will cover her family background, her education, and her golfing career. In addition to her golfing successes, the presentation will focus on several of the other interests that made Miss Mackenzie such an extraordinary woman. These include her development and building of The Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto, Ltd., her real estate involvements, and her ladies sportswear shop.

The reasons leading to her decision to build a golf course, primarily for women, will be covered. A similar project was started on Long Island, also in the 1920's. The Long Island course is, at this time, still a golf course, although it was not able to continue strictly as a course for women. Some attention will be paid to why one course was able to continue primarily for women only and the other one was not.

At this preliminary stage of the research it is believed that her course is the only club in the world which was developed by and for women, that is still in existence. Efforts will be made to determine if this is in fact true. The results of these efforts will be reported in the presentation.

A slide show containing pictures of Miss Mackenzie and perhaps her greatest accomplishment, the golf club, will supplement the oral presentation.

This biographical sketch will also discuss the Ada Mackenzie Foundation and the work that it carries out, especially as it relates to the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association, the Canadian Blind Golfers Association, and the Track Three Ski program. Since the inaugural golf tournament in 1975, about \$200,000 has been raised for these worthy causes, in the name of Miss Ada Mackenzie.