

GOLF

Nancy B. Bouchier and Ken Cruikshank
McMaster University, Canada

Golf Greens and Green Games: Golf Clubs and Environmental Issues in the Burlington Bay Watershed

In 1894, members of Hamilton, Ontario's social elite created an exclusive Golf and Country Club along an inlet on the southern shore of the Burlington Bay (a. k. a. Hamilton Harbour). At the time no one voiced objections to their venture on the grounds that the location of the course might impede public access to the common resource of the bay's waters; or, that their sport would be inaccessible to Hamilton's working people; or even that the runoff from the golf greens might somehow harm the ecology of the bay's waters – issues typically raised today by environmentalists and community activists. Nowadays sport sociologists and green games advocates are focussing upon the effects of built environments, such as Olympic Games sites, upon our natural environment. Yet this is an unexplored topic in our historiography about the rise of urban sport during the last century and a half in both Canada and the United States. Sport historians have been very good at explicating the social, political, and aesthetic ideas behind urban parks creation, and identifying their implications for our understanding of issues like accessibility and use among people of differing of ages, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, classes, and genders. Yet rarely have we engaged in more penetrating analyses of the subject, examining the sorts of changes to the natural environment that result from the creation of built environments for recreational and sporting use. Nor have we related these matters to issues of social justice. Yet playing fields, stadia, and other recreational facilities make huge impacts upon our natural environment, ones that last for generations to come. This local, case-study research broadens sport history by attending to the environmental aspects of urban sport. It examines the rise of golf in the Burlington Bay watershed area, focussing upon issues of social class in the creation of private and civic golf facilities and situating these issues in the context of post-war environmental awareness. In doing so, it refers to growing scientific literature on

golf courses and freshwater watersheds, and to the rise of programs created by green sport advocates like David Chernushenko, or institutions like the Ecology Unit of the European Association of Golf and the Audubon Cooperative Program for Golf Courses. It provides insights into the interaction between recreation, class, and the environment in a North American industrial city since World War II, and emphasizes the ideological, geographical, social, and aesthetic context of leisure activities. Information for this analysis comes from a variety of sources, including: municipal records; scientific literature on golf greens and water freshwater quality; club records; popular magazines; area newspapers; and environment policy and law documents.

John Nauright

University of Abertay Dundee

The Emergence of Golf as an International Sporting Spectacle 1904-1935

Despite its global popularity and golf generating the most annual turnover of any sport in the world, the history of golf is vastly underrepresented in academic sports history. This trend is beginning to change with more scholars analyzing the history of the game. This paper contributes to an emerging historiography of golf by analyzing the emergence of the sport as an international sporting spectacle. The starting point is in 1903-05 in which the American resident Scotsman, Willie Anderson, won three consecutive US Opens. In 1904, Australian born William J. Travis became the first American based golfer to win the British Amateur. The paper then discusses the post-World War One era when golf was dominated by Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and later Gene Sarazen.

Prior to World War I, golf was viewed as such a minor activity that leading journalists, such as Grantland Rice, were often denied editorial permission to cover it in the sports section of newspapers. Dramatic shifts took place in the ensuing years and set golf on the path towards the phenomenal growth it achieved in its “golden periods” of the Nelson, Hogan and Snead years of the late 1940s and 1950s and the subsequent Palmer, Player and Nicklaus era of the 1960s. The end point of the paper is the establishment of the Masters golf tournament by Bobby Jones and the famous double eagle by Gene Sarazen, the eventual winner of