

**Ontario Golf, by Jeffrey Reed**  
**Special to Toronto Golf & Travel Show 2010**

Ontario's population of 12 million-plus residents embrace hockey sticks and curling brushes during winter, but from spring through fall no other Canadian pastime is beloved more than golf. Want proof? In total, there are now more than 1,900 Canadian courses.

In Ontario – arguably the golf capital of North America – there are close to 800 golf courses. It's an astounding number. As a life-long London, Ontario resident whose foremost passion is golf, I consider myself privileged to live within an hour's drive of more than 100 beautiful golf courses in the heart of Southwestern Ontario.

In fact, for Ontario's residents and its millions of annual visitors from around the world, golf is much more than a game: it's a lifestyle. Whether you play like a pro, or simply enjoy the great outdoors, Ontario golf courses are yours to discover.

The Greater Toronto Area is home to many of Canada's top tourist attractions. The city of Toronto is one of the world's most ethnically varied communities, with more than 100 languages spoken amongst 2.5 million residents. The GTA's 4 million population are privy to 200-plus golf courses all within an hour's drive of the CN Tower, the world's tallest freestanding structure.

Harbourfront Centre in Toronto is a 10-acre waterfront site which draws 12 million visitors annually to its shops, restaurants, greenspace, art performances, ice skating rink and boardwalk. Toronto is a sports fan's dream come true, with Blue Jays baseball, Argonauts football, Maple Leafs hockey and Raptors basketball. Shopping at Kensington Market, exploring the Ontario Science Centre and enjoying live theatre – it's all here.

A trip to Toronto Highlands Golf is a must. North of Toronto, rolling hills, green valleys and the Oak Ridges Moraine provide championship golf backed by Mother Nature. Impeccable golf courses provide an idyllic escape from urban adventures. And a visit to the GTA is not complete without a round of golf at Oakville's Glen Abbey Golf Club, home of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum, and hosting the PGA Tour's 2009 RBC Canadian Open, July 20-26.

The Headwaters Golf Trail, set in the lovely landscapes of the Niagara Escarpment, is only minutes from Pearson International Airport. Sitting at the highest elevation in Southern Ontario, it sits at the headwaters of four major river systems which have created wondrous hills and valleys throughout the golf layouts.

In tiny Avon in southwestern Ontario, Tarandowah Golfers Club has received the nod from Ontario golf insiders as the best new course of 2008. Designed by reknown English golf course architect, Dr. Martin Hawtree, Tarandowah offers a trip to true links-style golf – visit Ireland, Scotland and England right here in Ontario!

And that's the beauty of Ontario golf: it takes you wherever you want to go. All you need is your golf clubs, an adventurous spirit and your imagination to make memories which will last a lifetime.

Arnold Palmer once quipped, “What other people may find in poetry or art museums, if find in the flight of a good golf drive.”

No matter where you travel in Ontario this summer, you are sure to fall in love with golf.