

Golf Association of Ontario Announces Winners of Ontario Golf Coaches Awards at Inaugural Ontario Golf Coaches Summit



The Golf Association of Ontario (GAO) in conjunction with the Ontario PGA recently held the first annual Ontario Golf Coaches Summit. The theme for the 2011 summit was "Developing Junior Golfers through Coaching" and close to 100 Canadian PGA Professionals' from across Ontario were in attendance. The Summit, which took place at White Oaks Resort in Niagara, saw a number of experts speak to the attendees. Those experts included Rick Jenson, Fred Shoemaker, Rudy Duran and Dr Greg Wells to name a few. "The format, location and overall experience were exceptional and many of the attendees took away some great ideas to enhance their current junior programs," said attendee and Ontario PGA President, Dustin Kerr-Taylor. The partnership between the GAO and Ontario PGA is as strong as ever and future summits are in the planning stages. Look for a formal announcement in the coming months regarding Coach Development in Ontario.

The first day of events culminated with the Ontario Golf Coaches Award banquet, with awards handed out to five recipients. The awards are designed to recognize outstanding coaches and facilities and highlight their contributions to athletes in Ontario, and were presented on behalf of the GAO, Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, Golf Canada and the three Canadian PGA zones in Ontario.

2011 Ontario Golf Coaching Award Winners

Recreational/Participation Coach of the Year - Male

Brian Gallant, FireRock Golf Club, London ON

Brian is the lead instructor for CN Future Links Girls Club London, is a Callaway Golf for Kids and National Golf in Schools Instructor in the London area, and is operator of BG Golf. He also earned the 2011 Ontario Coaching Excellence Award, Recreation and Grassroots Category earlier this year for his dedication to developing young golfers, a first for a golf coach.

Recreational/Participation Coach of the Year - Female

Carrie Vaughan, Clublink Academy at Glen Abbey, Oakville ON

Carrie has been instrumental in the development of many young female golfers through her dedication to the creation of a variety of "girls only" programs. Carrie's passion lies in making golf fun for her students, and she has found success in teaching good fundamentals. Twice a competitor in the CN Canadian Women's Open, Carrie has found her place on the lesson tee at Glen Abbey.

Developmental Coach of the Year - Male

Laird White, The Academy at the Georgian Bay Club, Collingwood ON

Laird has built an extensive body of knowledge and a reputation for excellence as Director of Instruction at Georgian Bay Club. His support and commitment towards junior golf development has inspired many young Canadian golfers to enjoy the game at the highest level. Through his coaching and education, Laird has worked with many of Canada's best junior, amateur, and professional golfers, and he has also been a driving force for expanded junior golf development in the Collingwood/Blue Mountain area.

Developmental Coach of the Year - Female

Carla Munch-Miranda, Cambridge Golf Club, Cambridge, ON

Carla has cemented her role as one of the country's top female coaches through her position as Head Coach for the women's golf team at the University of Waterloo, a team she has guided to great success since 2004. A co-owner of Cambridge Golf Club, Carla has been instrumental in implementing development programs in Cambridge for all levels. She has also been named Ontario PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year (2006) and OUA Coach of the year in 2007 and 2008.

Facility of the Year - Shelburne Golf and Country Club

Shelburne Golf and Country Club is nationally recognized for its progressive junior golf development programs that continue to produce successful competitive golfers, while introducing the game to new golfers in a fun and accessible environment. The Club offers an all encompassing approach to the game of golf, instructing young golfers in the concepts of golf management, the etiquette of the game, the psychological approach, and health and nutrition for best performance. Directed by Sam Young, a multiple Ontario PGA Teacher of the Year for Juniors award winner and Canadian PGA Junior Leader of the Year winner, Shelburne Golf and Country Club continues to be one of the finest junior golf facilities in Canada.

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