

Golf Course Profile- What's Your Course Saying?

Hamilton Golf and Country Club

Event: 2024 RBC Canadian Open

Superintendent: Jordan Kitchen, AGS

Golf Course Name, Number of Holes: Hamilton Golf and Country Club, 27 championship holes (West, South & East) and nine-hole Short Course

Where (Address, Directions, Email, Website):

232 Golf Links Road, Ancaster, ON, L9G 2N5

Jordan Kitchen – jkitchen@hgcc.ca

Website – www.hgcc.ca

Superintendent, Designations, Awards, Years of Experience:

Third Canadian Open at HGCC.

Started as an intern at HGCC in 2012, while completing his turfgrass education in the University of Guelph's two-year Associates Diploma in Turfgrass Management program.

Moved into an assistant superintendent role in 2013, followed by Associate Superintendent in 2016

Obtained MBA specializing in Agri-Business in 2018 while working full-time at HGCC.

Golf Course Superintendent at HGCC since 2020, following the retirement of Rhod Trainor.

Currently in fourth year teaching the Business & Finance Course in the University of Guelph's Associates Diploma in Turfgrass Management program.

Holds the professional accreditation of Accredited Golf Superintendent (AGS)

Ontario Director for the Canadian Golf Superintendent's Association for 2024 and 2025.

Annual Rounds Played: 31,776 rounds played in 2023

Average Season Length: Late April to early November

EAST: 2,304 to 3,291 with six sets of tees

WEST: 2,291 to 3,469 with six sets of tees

SOUTH: 2,281 to 3,609 with six sets of tees

Total Yardage: West/South for RBCCO – 7078, par 70

Total Area of Greens, Number of Greens, Predominant Type of Turfgrass: 5 acres of greens, 40 greens plus a nursery. Greens V8 are bentgrass.

Total Area of Fairways, Predominant Type of Turfgrass: 38 acres, native bentgrass/poa mix

Total area of Tees, Predominant Type of Turfgrass: 4 acres, bentgrass/poa mix

Predominant Soil Type on Course: Sandy loam

Irrigation System Type, Water Supply and Age: Toro Two-Wire Irrigation System (2021), 20 million gallon reservoir (2010)

Number of Bunkers and Sand Type: 101 bunkers, Better Billy Bunker Linear, Best Sands Signature 900 Sand

Number and Type of Water Features: Serpentine Creek, two ponds

Construction and Original Architect:

Club founded on October 24, 1894 in Hamilton.

Moved to Ancaster with the official opening of the 18-hole Harry S. Colt designed layout (West & South courses) on June 1, 2016.

East nine designed by C.E. (Robbie) Robinson opened in 1974.

Renovations and Architects:

Completion of the \$11 million Golf Course Improvement Plan – October 2019 to July 2022.

Martin Ebert, of Mackenzie & Ebert International Golf Course Architects hired as the club's consulting architect in 2024.

The plan included reconstructing tees, bunkers, and greens on all 27 holes, including the West, South, and East courses, a new irrigation system, a practice putting green, and a new practice area.

Renovations continued and completed through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The course received Golf Digest's 'Best Renovation Award for 2022' in North America.

Maintenance Shop Construction Year: Original building was built in the late 1950's, there have been several additions, as well as building of several outbuildings

Number, Type and Make of Equipment:

Short turf mowing equipment is a mix of John Deere and Toro. Utility Vehicles are John Deere and Kubota. Golf Carts Club Car, Cushman and Yamaha.

Does Your Course Have a Separate Chemical and/or Fertilizer Storage Facility (Size, Age)?: No

Number of Staff (Year-Round, Seasonal, Mechanics, etc.):

11 full-time employees, 42 seasonal, 2 mechanics

Assistant Superintendent:

Tracy Fowler, Senior Assistant Superintendent

Chad Oberle, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Agronomy & Irrigation

Corey Young, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Operations

Mike Louth, Junior Golf Course Assistant/Spray Technician

Club President: Bill Johnston

CPGA Professional: Head Golf Professional, Emerson Mahoney

Club Manager: Chief Operating Officer, Alan Carter

Club Owner: Member-owned

Other Key Course Personnel:

Wayne Shaw, Head Mechanic

Jamie Fowler, Arbourist

Sarah Wells, Horticulturist

Mike Horton, Irrigation Technician/Golf Cart Mechanic

Current Course Projects:**Long Range Plans:****Challenges:****Success Stories:**

Completion of the \$11 million Golf Course Improvement Plan – October 2019 to July 2022

Audubon Certification obtained in early 1990's

Member supervised bee hives on-site since 2019

Initiated Assistant-Superintendent-in-Training Program in 2024

Unique Features of the Course:

Hosting the club's seventh Canadian Open, 1919, 1930, 2003, 2006, 2010, 2019 and 2024.

20 million-gallon water reservoir completed in 2010