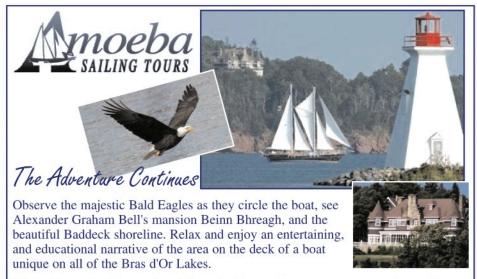
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# Golf in the Kingdom

Victoria County

The origin of golf is unclear and of much debate, however the modern game originated in Scotland, where its first written record comes from its banning by James II in 1457, as an unwelcome distraction to learning archery.

It is somehow appropriate that with the largely Scottish ancestry of the European settlement of Cape Breton that golf should play such an important role in Victoria County today.

Starting with Highlands Links which was conceived and constructed under the watchful eye of world-renowned designer Stanley Thompson, Highlands Links is a classic 18-hole, par 72 links course carved out of the

Cape Breton Highlands in Ingonish.

Highlands Links began as a ninehole course with Thompson convincing his employers that a second nine holes was essential. Normally one to remain with his original plan, Thompson changed the routing of the course during construction to follow the Clyburn River, an integral element of the final layout.

Given the size of the project, construction progressed quickly, taking just two years. It was difficult to bring machinery to the site and local labourers did much of the work by hand. A great deal of the course was already cleared land and much of the growth of the surrounding vegetation has come since. On many holes, few trees were present and it's a tribute to Thompson's vision that with all the growth, the course has

retained its shape.

Bell Bay is one of Nova Scotia's finest golf courses and is situated in the scenic village of Baddeck. This beautiful Thomas McBroom course sits high above the Bras d'Or Lake, now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, overlooking the Bay from which it derives its name.

Bentgrass tees, greens and fairways which have been nurtured by Bell Bay's turf-care specialists, make golfing at Bell Bay a pleasurable experience.

> Course architect, Thomas McBroom's portfolio has garnered many awards including Bell Bay Golf Club's Best New Course in Canada by Golf Digest.

Baddeck Forks is a nine hole course located by the peaceful Baddeck

River, near the historical town of Baddeck, Cape Breton. It was developed by Winston and Sally Cameron in1973 on a site that was previously farm land. A new clubhouse has replaced the original farm house/clubhouse. Great improvements in the last few years, including 3 new holes, have increased the course length and taken it from par 32 to par 35 for nine holes.

The course is 5590 yards from the back tees and contains two par 3 holes, 5 par 4's and 2 par 5's. The 4th hole is 582 yards, making it one of the longest hole in the province.

New to the Island this year is Cabot Links, Canada's first true links course located in our sister County of Inverness. Cabot Links is an exceptional addition to the golf product in the Kingdom of Cape Breton Island.



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