

NAMING THE STREETS OF BALLANTRAE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

I provided an article similar to the following for “Home on the Green”, which was published in 2007. The article detailed the history behind the name of each street in our complex. I thought it important to document this data as many years from now the names will still be the same but the files may be closed.

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As it was to be a golf course community, the land developer selected a name for your street from various prominent players in each of the following categories:

CONDO 1 – 968: Names honouring prominent Masters Tournament winners.
CONDO 2 – 1002: Names honouring prominent U. S. Open winners.
CONDO 3 – 1066: Names honouring and recognizing prominent CPGA Champions.
CONDO 4 – 1079: Winners of the British “The Open” Championship.
CONDO 5 – 1193: Names recognizing “Lady” legends and honourable mentions.

It all starts with the common roads in our complex. The main entry road from Highway 48 is named **Ballantrae Common** and leads to all other “common roads” The two traffic circles were logically called **First Round** and **Final Round**.

The roadways called **The Masters South** and **The Masters North** delineate the south and north portions of the “Ring Roads”. These were named after what could be described as the most prominent single tournament in golf.

Our eastern entrance road, **Legendary Trail**, it has been suggested, was named for the many legends that blazed a trail for the great game of golf. I am of the belief that it might have been named for the many legendary tales told by golfers playing the game at BG&CC.

Here are some facts on the golfer after which your specific street was named. Some of these facts you may already know, some may be considered meaningless trivia and some may be trivia you would like to know.

Andy’s Alley – *Andy North* was a three-time All American while attending the University of Florida in Gainesville. He then had a moderately successful career on the PGA Tour, winning only three tournaments. What is unique about Andy is that two of his three wins came at the U. S. Open.

Arnie’s Chance - *Arnold Palmer*, as we know, was one of the players who dominated the game for many years. He won the Masters four times and was also runner-up four times. He participated in the Masters for an unbelievable 50 consecutive years. His very first win as a pro was at the Canadian Open in 1955. It was played at Weston G&CC.

Does someone in your house watch too much golf on TV? You can blame Arnold, as he was one of the founders of the Golf Channel.

Babe's Way – *Mildred (Babe) Didrikson-Zaharias* was considered by many as the greatest woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century. She was the first American woman to win the British Amateur title (1947). She then turned professional and went on to win 33 times on the LPGA tour, including three wins at the Ladies' U. S. Open. Babe married a professional wrestler with the last name Zaharias. Shortly before her death, she donated the Babe Zaharias trophy, which is still presented today (2012) to the American woman amateur athlete of the year.

Barrett Bend – *Percy Barrett* won the CPGA title twice. He also won the Canadian Open the fourth year it was played (1907). He became a Southern Ontario course designer and did the original layout for both the Mississauga and Galt Golf Clubs.

Ben's Reign – *Ben Hogan* won the Masters twice and was runner-up on four occasions. He also won the U. S. Open four times. He was involved in a horrific auto accident in 1949, which really shortened his career. In 1951, he entered just five tournaments but he won three of them including the Masters and the U.S. Open. He finished second and fourth in the other two. He won the 1953 British Open Championship the only time he entered the tournament.

Berg Court – *Patricia (Patty) Berg* won 39 times on the LPGA tour. She was also the leading money winner on three occasions. As of 2012 she holds the record for the most Major wins (15) on the LPGA tour. On three different occasions, the Associated Press named her the Woman Athlete of the Year.

Bobby Locke Lane – *Arthur D'Arcy "Bobby" Locke*, like Gary Player, came from South Africa. He finished as the low amateur the first time (1936) he played in the British Open Championship. He eventually won it four times. He also won the Canadian Open in 1947.

Boros Link – *Julius Boros* won 18 times on the PGA Tour. He won the U. S. Open in both 1952 & 1963. With his win at the PGA Championship at age 48, he became the oldest player ever to win a major.

Braid Bend – *James Braid* was also a five-time winner of the British Open Championship. When he retired from professional golf, he became a course designer. He designed both the King's Course and the Queen's Course at Gleneagles, Scotland. Many Canadians consider these courses among their favorites in that country.

Couples Gallery – The street named for *Fred Couples* lines the eastern portion of Condo 1. It encompasses the residential area much in the way the gallery of fans lined the fairways when he is playing. His win at the Masters came in 1992 and he is still (2012) a strong and popular player on the tour.

Emmo Alley – This Street is the only one in the complex not named after a professional golfer. It was named as a tribute to a local Stouffville politician for his unwavering support and efforts through the Municipal Planning and approval process for our

complex. Schickedanz Bros thought so highly of this person, the Mayor of Stouffville at the time, that after the complex was designed they wanted to recognize and give credit for all the work he had done. They ultimately decided to name a street in his honour and used a nickname he had since his early years. The nickname, Emmo, (pronounced M – O) belongs to *Wayne Emmerson* who at one time also lived in the complex.

Faldo's Flight – *Nick Faldo* was a three-time winner of the Masters. With his win in 1996, he set a record by coming back from a six-stroke deficit after the third round. He was one of the most successful European players in the U. S. He also won the British Open Championship three times.

Gene's Landing - *Gene Sarazen* is one of only a handful of players to win all Major golf championships. He won 39 times on the PGA tour and won the U. S. Open in both 1922 and 1932.

Gentle Ben - "*Gentle*" *Ben Crenshaw* was a two-time winner of the Masters. He turned pro in 1973 and won in 1984 and 1995. He, like *Seve Ballesteros*, has also been the runner-up on two occasions. He is widely regarded as one of the best putters in golf history.

Golden Bear – *Jack William Nicklaus* also known as "The Golden Bear" was for many years revered as a major force in professional golf. Until recently he was generally regarded as the greatest golfer of all time. Jack is the only golfer with two streets in our complex named after him. See **Jack's Round**.

Hagen Hollow – *Walter Charles Hagen* was a major golf figure in the first half of the 20th century. He won the U. S. Open twice. In 1922, he became the first American to win the British Open. (He eventually won it four times.)

Hale's Landing – Between 1971 and 1994, *Hale Irwin* won 20 times on the PGA Tour. He played on five Ryder Cup teams and won the U. S. Open three times. His third win came at Medinah in 1990, 15 days after his 45th birthday. This made him the oldest player, ever (until 2012) to win this tournament.

Horton's First – *Horton Smith* was the winner of the very first Masters, when it was held in 1934. He repeated the feat again in 1936. His share of the prize money in 1934 was \$1,500. Actually, the tournament lost money and one of the host-club members put up the \$1,500. The winner's share of the 2013 purse was in excess of \$1.4 million.

Jack's Round – *Jack Nicklaus* is a six-time winner at Augusta and is revered as one of the greatest golfers of all time. His dominance at the Masters spanned an amazing 24 years. Three of the Masters records he still holds are: the oldest golfer to win (46), most cuts made (37) and most top ten finishes (22).

Jose's Way – *Jose Maria Olazabal* spent the first ten years of his professional career on the European tour. During this time, he travelled from Europe to twice win the Masters. He was a member of the European Ryder Cup team on seven occasions.

Lamb's Run – *Willie Lamb* was a successful multiple winner of tournaments in the early years of the CPGA. When he retired from tournament play, he became the Head Pro at Lambton G & CC in Toronto where he remained until 1964.

Lee's Gallery – *Lee Trevino (The Merry Mex)* is an icon for Mexican Americans. He won 29 times on the PGA Tour, and another 29 times on the Senior's Tour. He won the U. S. Open in both 1968 and 1971. His 1971 win came only after an 18 hole playoff with Jack Nicklaus. Two weeks later he won the Canadian Open, and the following week the British Open. He thereby became the only player ever to win three national titles in the same year. He went on to win the Canadian Open on two other occasions.

Little Ben – The developer wanted to name a street after the local amateur icon, the great *Marlene Stewart-Streit*. Unfortunately, the names Marlene and Streit were both rejected by zoning officials. It was therefore decided to name a street **Little Ben**, a name by which she had been affectionately referred to by members at Lookout Point in Fonthill Ontario, the golf club where she first took up the game. The "Little" refers to her 5ft 4 stature and "Ben" to her golfing personality, spirit and competitiveness, somewhat like another golfer named *Ben Hogan*. The accomplishments of Stewart-Streit are unparalleled in the world of women's golf. She was an eleven-time winner of the Canadian Ladies' Open Championship, the oldest to win the United States Senior Women's Amateur, and the only golfer to have ever won the British, the United States, the Australian and the Canadian Ladies' Amateur Golf Championships. Marlene is also the only Canadian (male or female) to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. In 1967 she was awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada. (*This street was originally named Mickey Lane after the prominent female golfer, Mickey Wright*).

Long Stan – *Stan Leonard* was Canada's most persistent champion capturing a total of eight titles during his 21-year career. He played exclusively on the Canadian Tour from 1938 until 1954. In 1955 he joined the PGA Tour. Many years later, he was to say, "I wish I had played some PGA events earlier in my career". He finished in the top ten at the Masters on four different occasions. He was also the low Canadian at the Canadian Open nine times.

Lord Byron - *Byron Nelson* was a two-time winner of the Masters and a prominent player in the early years of the PGA. He also won the Canadian Open in 1945 when it was played at Thornhill Country Club. That year he won a total of 18 official PGA tournaments and finished second in seven others.

McDermott Trail – *John J. McDermott Jr.* was the first U. S. born golfer to win the U.S. Open. He won in both 1911 and 1912. When he won in 1911, he was 19 years 10 months old, making him the youngest ever to win this tournament. One hundred years later this record still stands.

Morris Belt - The British Open Championship is unique in that it has had multiple father and son winners. Not only that, but *Tom Morris Sr.* and *Tom Morris Jr.* each won the tournament four times. The Belt portion of this name also has some historical significance. *Tom Morris Jr.* was the first participant ever to receive an actual award for his efforts. The prize? ... a belt.

Player Place – *Gary Player* was born in South Africa and has three Masters titles. With his win in 1961, he became the first ever non-American winner. With 23, he still holds the record for the most-consecutive cuts made at this tournament.

Rawlins Gate – *Horace Rawlins* was the winner of the very first U. S. Open, played in 1895. There were 11 entries that year and he received \$150.00 of the \$335.00 purse plus a \$50.00 gold medal. In 2013, there were 9820 entries with the winner receiving \$1,440,000 of the \$8,000,000 purse.

Rawls Lane – *Elizabeth (Betsy) Earle Rawls* took up the game when she was 17 years old. She won her first of 55 LPGA Tour events when she was 24. Included in her 55 wins were eight Majors. She won the U. S. Women's Open four times, a feat she shares only with *Mickey Wright*. Betsy was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1967.

Seve's Approach – *Severiano "Seve" Ballesteros* was one of six professional golfers in the Ballesteros family. He won the Masters twice and was runner-up on two other occasions. His win at Augusta in 1980 was the first ever by a European player. In addition, at the time, it gave him the record as the youngest (at 23) ever winner. (Tiger Woods, of course, broke this record in 1997)

Sir George – *George Knudson* is one of Canada's most recognized golf names in the world. He won the CPGA title five times. He tied for second in the 1969 Masters when he missed a birdie putt on the 72nd hole. Making the putt would have put him in a playoff with the eventual winner, *George Archer*. He still shares (with *Mike Weir*) the record as the Canadian with the most wins (eight) on the PGA Tour.

Snead's Green – *Sam Snead* managed three wins at the Masters. He is also famous for holding the record as the oldest player ever to make the cut at the U. S. Open. He did it in 1973 at the ripe age of 61. His 82 PGA wins is still the record (at least until 2012) for the most lifetime wins on tour.

Suggs Lane – *Louise Suggs* won 50 times on the LPGA tour; eight were Major Championship titles. In 1950, she was a Co-Founder of the LPGA. She was also the first woman elected to the LPGA Hall of Fame. In 1949, she won the U. S. Women's Open with a 14 stroke margin. This was a record for the largest victory margin, at least until 2012.

Turn Taylor – *John Taylor*, along with *James Braid* and *Harry Vardon* dominated the British Open Championship at the turn of the 20th century. He was the winner five times. He also captained Britain's Ryder Cup team to their win over the U. S. in 1933. He is the only team captain on either side never to have played in an actual Ryder Cup match.

Tommy Armour Alley – *Armour* won the Canadian Open three times. He also won each of the PGA Championship and the British Open once. In 1921, he was a member of the British team that played an international tournament against the U. S. In 1926 he played for a professional U. S. team that played an international match against Britain. Thereby,

he became the first player ever to represent both the U. S. and Britain in international play.

Vardon Gate – *Harry Vardon*, by winning the British Open six times, holds the record for the most wins of this prestigious event. If, when holding your golf club, you have the little finger of your lower hand overlapping the index finger of the upper hand, you are using what is called a Vardon grip. This grip style was originally used and made famous by *Harry Vardon*. Today the PGA tour player with the lowest stroke average for a season is presented with the Vardon trophy, named for *Harry Vardon*.

Wethered Way – *Joyce Wethered* (later to become *Lady Heathcote-Amory*) won the British Women's Amateur on four occasions. She also won all five English Ladies' Championships she entered. The immortal *Bobby Jones* once remarked, after golfing with her, that she was the finest golfer, man or woman, he had ever seen.

Willie's Round - *Willie Anderson* was a Scottish emigrant who became the first golfer to win four U. S. Opens. He is one of four players to accomplish this feat. (Others were *Ben Hogan*, *Jack Nicklaus* and the amateur *Robert T. Jones Jr.*). He is however the only player in history to have won this tournament in three consecutive years.