

Stanley Thompson and Lockport Town & Country Club

A correspondence from Stanley Thompson & Associates

Guelph, Ontario

July 6th, 1949

“Gentlemen,

We visited your property on the 1st of July with a view to reporting on:

- (a) What could be done to improve the existing course
- (b) Possible extension to 18 holes by acquiring on of three available properties.

We commend the following for your consideration:

- (A) Your present course is too hilly, too short, and too crowded. The course could be flattened by removing the sod, pushing the hillocks into the depressions and replacing the sod. This could be affected with little inconvenience to play at a reasonable cost. Having flattened the course, and using only the existing terrain, the resultant layout would be far short of standard length.

It is suggested that you acquire as much as possible of the wooded tract of land at the Northwest of your property, alongside the 7th fairway. Having this and grading it in conjunction with the existing nine holes would give you sufficient land on which to build a sporty, interesting, standard nine hole course. The cost of grading your present course and the new tract of land in conjunction with it, building necessary tees and greens, altering the water system and installing one Inclinor, would likely cost in the neighborhood of \$55,000. This would give you a charming course, interesting to play, easy to climb, and pleasant to look at. This nine-hole course could be so arranged as to bring the ninth hole just below the men’s locker room. This area could be terraced, treated and landscaped as to make it a feature of the Club instead of the existent messy morass.”

(The letter continued with proposals to possibly purchase three other properties to make the course an 18-hole golf course, but the Board of Directors chose to accept the 9-hole golf course design)

A letter signed by Stanley Thompson himself, dated September 7th, 1949

REVAMPING PLAN OF THE NINE HOLE GOLF COURSE

TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB, LOCKPORT, NY

HOLE NO. 1: 465 yards, par 5

This hole is along the same route as the old No. 1. Remove the slope at the right side of the fairway immediately in front of the old tee. Put a pipe of sufficient size in the old culvert in front of the tee to carry off the surface water. Use the fill obtained to grade the bottom of the fairway. Also, grade out the knoll that juts out in front of the green at the south side of the fairway. Nestle the green in close to where it is at present. The grading on this hole should be approximately 6,000 cubic yards, exclusive of the green.

HOLE NO. 2: 190 yards, par 3

This hole is located as shown on the plan. The grading of fairway should be approximately 1,500 yards.

HOLE NO. 3: 470 yards, par 5

This hole is along the route of old No. 4. The fairway is to be generally flattened and built up on the south side so that it will be considerably lower than it is at the present time. The estimated grading should be 6,500 cubic yards.

The green is to be about seven or eight feet lower than the fairway and is to be made "punch bowl" in effect. The surface of this green will be about fifteen feet below the tee of No. 5 hole.

HOLE NO. 4: 410 yards, par 4

This hole is along the route of old No. 5. The fairway is to be graded by knocking the high spots into the lower areas. The estimated grading is 5,500 yards. The tee area and the environs are to be lowered six to ten feet but as many of the trees preserved as possible.

HOLE NO. 5: 460 yards, par 5

This hole is along the route of old No. 6. The front of the tee is to be graded in trough-like formation. The fairway is to be made concave by knocking down the knolls and lowering considerably the area in front of the green. The grading will be approximately 4,500 cubic yards.

HOLE NO. 6: 175 yards, par 3

This is to be a short hole into the new property. Approximately 2,500 feet of fill should be obtained from the back of the green. The green will nestle into the bank "punch bowl" effect about seven to ten feet above the fairway.

HOLE NO. 7: 340 yards, par 4

This hole will be across the corner of the fence, or the route could be wide to the left, in which playing this will entail being half stymied by two or three trees to the left

front of the green. The play to this hole will be through an arbor of overhanging branches of the trees. Grading of this fairway is estimated at 1,500 cubic yards.

HOLE NO. 8: 410 yards, par 4

There will be no grading on this hole. It is along the trough.

HOLE NO. 9: 220 yards, par 3

This is a new hole with the green nestled around the clubhouse. The grading of this fairway is estimated at 4,000 yards.

RECAPITULATION ESTIMATE

- Preliminary estimate of grading 32,000 cu. Yards @\$.30 is \$9,600
 - 9 Tees @ \$150 each is \$1,350
 - 9 Greens @ \$1,300 each is \$11,700
 - 20 Bunkers and Mounds @ \$150 each is \$3,000.
 - 20 Acres of fairway to renovate, seed, top soil, etc. @\$300/acre is \$6,000
 - Sodding 5,000yards @ \$.25 per yard is \$1,250
 - Planting is \$1,000
 - Water System is \$10,000
 - Unforeseen expenses, Workman's Compensation, etc. is \$1,000
 - Fees, supervision, etc. is \$5,000
- TOTAL COST IS \$49,900

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF SCORE CARD

Hole No.	Suggested Name	Yards	Par	Hole No.	Yards	Par
#1	"Road Hole"	465	5	#10	430	5
#2	"Little Misery"	150	3	#11	130	3
#3	"Hard Fight"	420	4	#12	405	4
#4	"Bunker Hill"	365	4	#13	380	4
#5	"NY Central"	445	4	#14	430	4
#6	"Crows Net"	270	4	#15	300	4
#7	"Elm"	360	4	#16	330	4
#8	"Glen"	450	5	#17	420	5
#9	"Despond"	195	3	#18	220	3

First Nine – 3,080 yards

Last Nine – 3085

Total Yards - 6,165

Par 72

"Country Club to Relocate Golf Course" Lockport Union Sun & Journal

October 6, 1949

"With the acquisition of two and one-half acres of land from George C. Bewley, the Lockport Town and Country Club is in the process of relocating its golf course.

F. Somers Oldham, chairman of the Golf Improvement Committee, said the services of Stanley Thompson and Associates, Canadian golf course specialists, are being utilized in making the change.

The contracting firm of George C. Bewley is engaged for the project, which requires lengthening the course at the northwest end, behind the clubhouse.

At present, workmen are cutting down a large knoll on the property purchased from Mr. Bewley. Fill received from the knoll is being used to level the course at certain points and preparing it for the proposed layout.

The Ninth Hole, now located at the entrance to the clubhouse near the City Line, will be moved back into the valley, Mr. Oldham explained. At the rear of the clubhouse, two layers of terrace will taper down into the valley.

Mr. Oldham said it is hoped that most of the operation will be completed this fall. The new golf links are expected to be ready in June.

With this work actually underway, the club is realizing a project, which it long envisioned. The new course will be more acceptable to members, Mr. Oldham declared."

NEW COURSE READY AT CC FOR '50 SEASON

The remodeling of the golf course was the big news at the Lockport Town and Country Club during 1949. Work is expected to be completed for playing on June 15.

Some 800 yards were added giving the course a total of 3300 yards for the nine holes. Other improvements included the leveling of the knolls. The work was done by architects from the Stanley Thompson firm, Hamilton, Ont., at a cost of \$50,000.

"The improvement should be a tremendous boon to golfing in Lockport," Club Pro Walter Bemish claimed. He said that the greens will be the finest in Western New York.

Submitted by Dr. Joseph Breloff