

History

Founder - Esmond Lando, Q.C.

Surrey Golf Course and Delta Golf Course were developed and built by Esmond Lando, Q.C. a Vancouver businessman, barrister, artist and community leader who loved to golf.

Surrey Golf Course

Since his introduction to golf in the 1930's, "Mr. Lando" did more than his share in shaping the golfing landscape in British Columbia.

Mr. Lando began his involvement in the golf business in 1944 He led a group of businessmen from Vancouver's Jewish community in their successful efforts to establish a golf and country club on the run down Gleneagles course in West Vancouver. Fifteen years later the Gleneagles members located some broader and flatter pastures for golf in Richmond and he was among the movers and shakers who developed the Richmond Country Club. His next involvement was in 1964 as a minor shareholder in the syndicate that built another Richmond landmark, Green Acres Golf Course.

In the early 1970's, Mr. Lando, as a solo entrepreneur and assisted by his brother, Harold Lando, built the Surrey Golf Course near Fry's Corner in Surrey. A portion of the land was a dairy farm and portions, characterized as peat bog, were primarily used for duck hunting before becoming a golf course. The peat bog and wet conditions, created by a series of underground springs, constantly hampered course construction. After much hard work, the golf course was opened for play on July 8, 1971 followed by the opening of a Clubhouse in 1972.

The Surrey Men's Club was formed shortly after the golf course opened with a robust membership of 400. Roy Ellis set the competitive course record in 1973 at 68 and, although a number of golfers have tied this record, no one has yet to surpass it.

In 1994 the clubhouse was renovated from 6,296 sq. ft to 8,872 sq. ft. with a 3,456 sq. ft. outside patio. The renovation updated the Golf Shop and the Coffee Shop, increased the size of the Banquet room, which now has the capability of holding up to 150 people and increased the size of the kitchen facilities.

Today, the 6,700 yard Championship lay out with it's pleasant blend of trees, water hazards and bunkers is regarded as a good test of golf. Over the years the club has garnered a reputation of having excellent greens and offering the core golfer good value in golf and clubhouse amenities. It also has the longest par 5 in B.C. measuring 630 yards from the blue tees.

Willows Nine at Surrey Golf Club
(renamed Willows Nine in 2001)

In answer to a need for a shorter course better suited to new players, juniors and seniors, The North Nine was opened in 1988. It measures 1983 yards in length with five par 3's, three par 4's, and one par 5. The course is reasonably priced and no reservations are required, one of the few remaining courses that still offer this option. The course has a good mix of trees (primarily willows), bunkers and water features and while a shorter course, accurate shot making is required to score well. The "Willows Nine" as it was renamed in 2001 to reflect the main character of the course (willow trees) is situated on 63 acres.

A new state of the art Turf Care Centre was constructed in 2000/2001 and officially opened March 22nd, 2001 and provides for all required needs for the care and maintenance of the golf courses.

In addition to the Surrey Golf Courses, Mr. Lando also developed Delta Golf Club which is now a subsidiary of Surrey Golf Course Ltd. See deltagolfcourse.com for a full review of our sister course.

Esmond Lando died suddenly in 1987. Following the death of Mr. Lando, the family established Surrey Golf Course Ltd. with Delta Golf Course as a subsidiary company. Barry Lando, the late Mr. Lando's son, presides as Company President and the shareholders and directors are family members and close confidants of the family. Edith Lando, Esmond's Widow, served faithfully on the Board until her resignation in August of 2003. She passed away suddenly in November of 2003. Edith brought many special qualities to the Board. Particularly she encouraged and promoted the need for marketing as well as developing banquet facilities and the banquet business. She will be fondly remembered.

The Board of Directors employ professional management and staff to operate the golf courses in the tradition and fashion originally intended by Esmond Lando: providing good golfing value to the core golfers of the Greater Vancouver area.

The courses are open 364 days a year (closed on Christmas Day), from sun up to a few hours after sun down, subject to weather and patronage. The exact hours vary with the seasons of the year.