

# ONTARIO VISUALLY IMPAIRED GOLFERS (OVIG)

## February 2015

Special Offers, Benefits and General Information for OVIG Members  
Learning opportunities:

\* GOLF LESSONS (ORGANIZED BY THE CITY OF TORONTO) Parks, Forestry and Recreation Dept.:

- Location: Don Montgomery Community Recreation Centre (DMCRC);  
2467 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto

- Tel: 416-396-4043

- Playing opportunities:

Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

The Toronto Hunt (Scarborough, Kingston Road just west of Warden)

\* This obvious benefit for OVIG members within easy traveling distance of Toronto, is for 1 foursome (consisting of no more than 2 OVIG members and 2 playing coaches) to golf after 4:00 pm on Mondays (no other time). Non-playing coaches are also welcome. There is no cost for this privilege, unless a power cart is required.

- To avoid possible complications, the "ONLY" contact person will be:  
Iona Gherasim Tel: 416-425-0397

(OVIG members should leave messages on Iona's voice-mail at this number)

- When wishing to schedule a round at The Toronto Hunt, an OVIG member must contact Iona by the Wednesday of the week preceding the week they would like to play (earlier is better). In general, she will book on a "first-come-first-serve" basis. However, OVIG members may not be allowed frequent bookings if there are requests from members who have not yet been able to take advantage of this opportunity. You may feel free to ask Iona any additional questions about playing at The Toronto Hunt.

- This opportunity will likely start in late May. It should be noted that OVIG membership cards can be, and have been, requested by The Toronto Hunt staff prior to play. Therefore, it is recommended that those playing at The Hunt keep their membership cards handy when they check in at the Pro-shop before their rounds.

Expanded golfing opportunities for golfers with disabilities at golf courses operated by the City of Toronto:

- \* OVIg recently helped to negotiate an agreement with Toronto City Golf Courses, to encourage golfers who have various disabilities, not just for those who are blind or visually-impaired, to play golf more frequently.
  - Golfers with disabilities will pay the regular greens fee, and for golfers requiring on-course assistance, there is no cost for a coach/guide", whether she/he golfs or not. If a power cart is required, a discounted power-cart rental fee likely will be available.
  - This opportunity will be available on any day of the week as long as the course is open during the season, and is not restricted to Toronto residents.
  - OVIg members should identify themselves as members when booking tee times - in advance. Please confirm fees at that time.
- (PLEASE NOTE: some Toronto Golf Course staff may not be fully aware of the details of this programme; so, if you encounter difficulties, please contact Jim Hamilton, E-mail: [jim.hamilton@rogers.com](mailto:jim.hamilton@rogers.com))

The Cardinal Golf Course (King Township, east of HWY 400, west of Keele Street and on north side of Davis Drive), Tel: 905-841-7378

- \* This course, which for a number of years has been the site for the Colin Kressler Charity Golf Tournament (OVIg's primary funding resource), wishes to offer OVIg members a 20% discount on golfing fees, for themselves and their coaches, at all of their courses, during the season.
- OVIg Membership Card, or CNIB Identification Card must be shown at time of check in.

Hamilton and Area

- \* The City of Hamilton operates 3 local golf courses, King's Forest Golf Course, and the 2 courses at Chedoke Golf Club - The Martin Course and the Beddoe Course.
- These golf courses provide reduced prices for blind and visually-impaired golfers requiring the assistance of playing, or

non-playing coaches.

- Cost: based on the greens fee charged at each course; but, it is possible that coaches might be able to "play and ride" for free.
- Members are encouraged to book ahead, and they can confirm fees at that time.
- \* Chippewa Creek Golf course (Mount Hope), 905-679-4240 will offer all OVIg members two green fees for the price of one for play any day of the week after 12:00 noon, provided that their anticipated course bookings for that day will facilitate an appropriate pace of play and an enjoyable experience for OVIg golfers.
- If power carts are required, playing, and non-playing coaches will "ride for free".
- Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance and those making the booking will need to request the OVIg two-for-one special.

## Guelph

- \* Victoria Park Valley Golf Club, Tel: 519-821-1441, offers the following opportunity for OVIg members:
  - an OVIg member's coach would play and ride for no cost, after the member has paid the regular greens fee and her/his half of the power cart rental - if one is required.(OVIg Membership Card or CNIB Identification Card must be shown at time of check in.  
(PLEASE NOTE: Len Haslam, Club Pro, has requested that bookings be made through him, at the above number.)

## Cambridge

- \* The Management at the Cambridge Golf Course, 519-621-5491, wishes to offer - complimentary Green fees to the Coaches of OVIg members; however, coaches would have to pay for their half of a power cart rental if they are golfing.
- If coaches are not playing, they may "ride for free". This offer is available on any day of the week.
- OVIg members must identify themselves when booking tee times.

## London

\* If a golfer with a disability has an "ACCESS2 Entertainment Card" and chooses to play any of the City of London's full regulation courses (Thames Classic, Thames Hickory, River Road, Fanshawe Traditional or Fanshawe Quarry), the coach can walk with the golfer for free.

- If that golfer rents a cart, the coach can ride with the golfer for free. The coach cannot actively play the round of golf for free though, they have to pay for their green fee if they wish to play themselves.

-- to apply for the ACCESS2 card, go to:

<http://www.access2card.ca/programinformation/>

- Fanshawe Golf Course's Parkside 9-hole Golf Course is free for everyone of all ages and abilities. It actually was the first wheelchair accessible course built in North America. Golfers and coaches get free access.

Other Opportunities: Will be announced when arranged.

- OVIg members and volunteers are encouraged to enquire about discounted rates at local golf courses, and driving ranges. Please be sure to inform Jim Hamilton, E-mail: [jim.hamilton@rogers.com](mailto:jim.hamilton@rogers.com) with information about any discounts that you have successfully arranged. Such information will be passed on to OVIg's membership as soon as it is received.

- Also, you may get in touch with Jim if you would like him to contact specific local courses, on your/OVIg members' behalf, to determine if discounted fees might be available.