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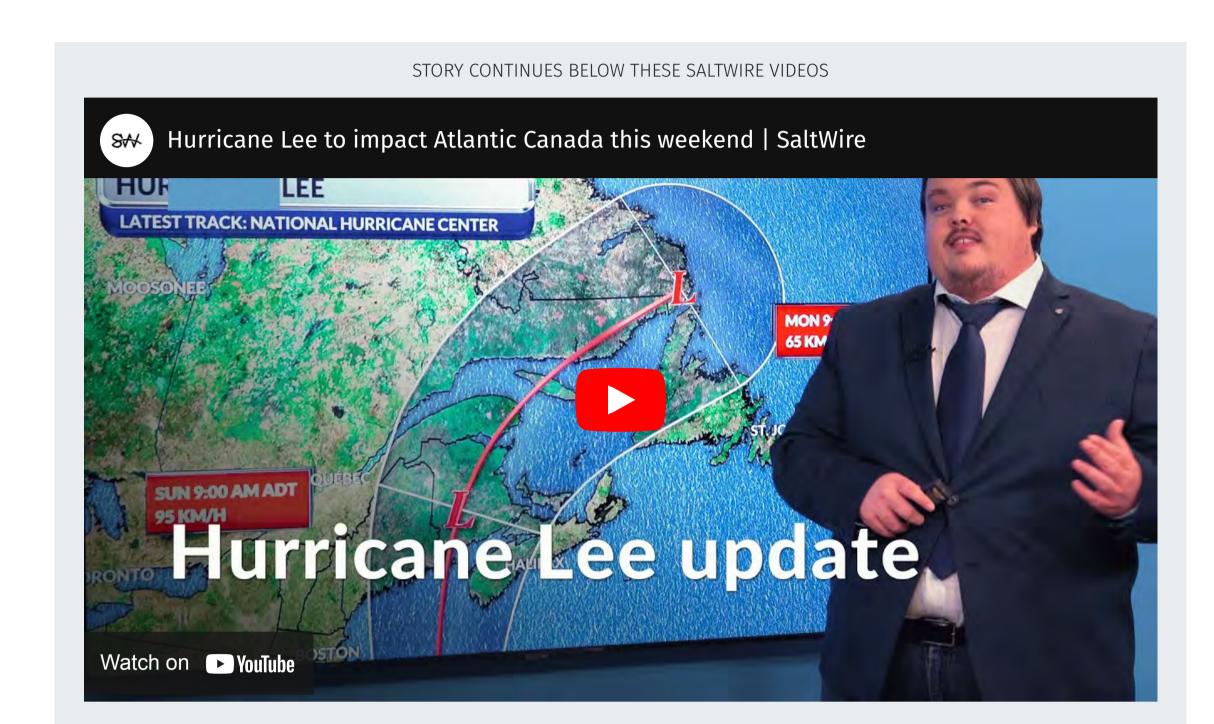
Top Canadian golf architects pitch in as work begins on Fox Harb'r resort expansion

Bill Spurr · Multimedia Journalist | Posted: June 5, 2023, 2:28 p.m. | Updated: June 5, 2023, 2:30 p.m. | 4 Min Read





Top Canadian golf architects Tom McBroom and Doug Carrick have teamed up to create a new course at the Fox Harb'r resort. - Bill Spurr



Strait.

But a year from now, golfers will get to see what architects Tom McBroom and Doug Carrick are creating with \$10 million.

The best view of the expansion happening at the Fox Harb'r resort is

from the nearby lobster boats plying the waters of the Northumberland

It's not at all common for two top architects to work together on a project, and this partnership came about because the two essentially

tied in an international competition held by the resort.

Joyce.

amount") is underway.

"Doug and I each submitted a separate proposal, and we both had the same vision, to do this 18-hole ocean course," said McBroom. "I think Kevin and Steven said, 'Boy, these guys are on the same page, they're Canadian, let's give the job to them after we find out if they'll work together."

"We wanted to take advantage of the chance to have two of Canada's greatest golf architects work together," said Toth, describing the pair as

having different styles but similar sensibilities. "When I asked both Tom

Kevin and Steven are Fox Harb'r president Kevin Toth and owner Steven

and Doug if they would consider that, it took them a couple of days, but they came back and said they'd be honoured to work together. It's been great to watch."

So far, a par three course has been plowed under, tennis courts have been relocated to the other side of the spa, and the movement of a couple of hundred thousand cubic metres of earth ("not a crazy")

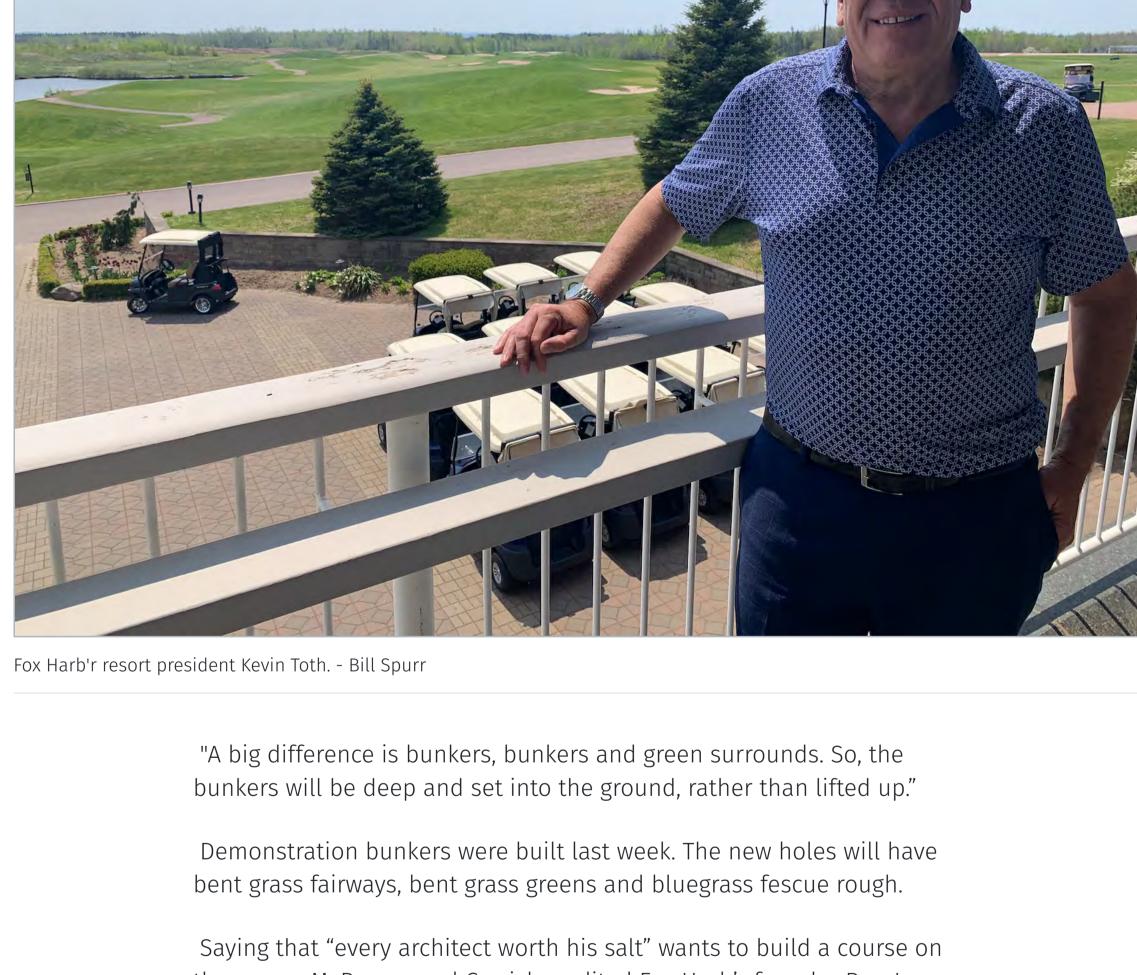
"The new ocean course opens first thing in 2025," McBroom said. "The whole point of a links course is to make it look natural ... what we want to achieve is that it doesn't look like we moved any dirt, we want it to

The section under construction right now is scheduled to open mid-

summer of 2024, and the nine ocean-front holes already existing will

undergo a renovation to make them "links-y."

look like this was always here."



the ocean, McBroom and Carrick credited Fox Harb'r founder Ron Joyce for having the foresight to reinforce the shoreline when the resort was

"The storms are more intense now, so we have to plan to deal with

those things during construction, how you build the golf course and

how you protect against erosion of the soil during construction. Those are things that are a little different than when we first got in the

business," said Carrick, adding that even though Fox Harb'r has deep pockets, they have not been given carte blanche. "We've had to make adjustments to meet budgets. It's very rare to get a client that says

adjustments to meet budgets. It's very rare to get a client that says spend whatever you want."

Toth echoed that, saying that while he would never take the five-

Toth echoed that, saying that while he would never take the five-minute walk from his office to where the work is being done to offer advice, for example, on the shape of a green, the resort has given "a lot" of input to Carrick and McBroom.

"It was on the overall design, practicality, usages, what we wanted the guests to experience," he said. "We wanted a golf course that was going to be dramatic and took advantage of ocean views at every opportunity. You create the best golf course possible, but it's going to be well over a million a hole."

million a hole."

There will be a period of time when the resort has 27 holes in play, with the ultimate goal of an 18-hole parkland course to complement the 18

That's probably five years away.

Fox Harb'r wants golf that's "fun

holes of links golf.

Fox Harb'r wants golf that's "fun and fair," with a degree of difficulty that reflects the resort's population. In other words, not too penal.

"So far, from what we've seen, we're really excited about it," Toth said. "We felt like it was time in the evolution of the resort to anticipate growth, mostly on our membership side, and we wanted to accommodate that. We also wanted to open up the real estate opportunities on the east side of the property."

During the construction phase, 40 workers have moved to the area, and are renting housing locally, creating a bit of a boom.

Fox Harb'r has just finished the creation of additional staff housing and will add 30 full-time jobs when the first new nine is complete. That will

will add 30 full-time jobs when the first new nine is complete. That will bring employment to just under 300.

When Fox Harb'r opened, tee times were 20 minutes apart, which is extremely rare. It's too busy there now for that to be the case, but the

resort wants to maintain an unhurried pace.

"We're at 15,000 rounds. In our long-term strategic plan, 15,000 was where we were going to start expanding the golf course. We won't build the final nine until we get to about 22,000 rounds. Most Canadian

courses are doing 20 to 25 with just 18 holes."