



For immediate release

Russ Howard, curling champion, takes on leadership role at Royal Oaks Golf Course

New management charts new direction for golf course

(Moncton, NB - August 22, 2017) Royal Oaks Golf Course has hired Russ Howard, two time curling champion (1987 and 1993) and Olympic gold medalist, as their Director of Golf. Howard, who has been a resident and member of the club for over 20 years, is well known and respected in the community. He will be running the course and the associated area.

"We're really excited to officially have Russ as part of our team," said Patrick Miniutti, owner of Royal Oaks. "Not only is he well-known and liked in the community, but he's been a part of the Royal Oaks family for a long time and he has the knowledge and charisma to excel as the Director of Golf."

The golf club has also partnered with Management 2000 (M2K) – a hospitality management company based in Moncton. Going forward, M2K will manage the operations at Royal Oaks to enable the course and restaurant to continue to grow and improve. M2K is owned and managed by Rolande Thibodeau – a well-respected hotelier in the region. The company is known for their high standards of hospitality, excellent customer service, loyal employees and healthy working environments.

Also joining the team is Pascal Pisegna as the Director of Food and Beverage Services. Pisegna has an extensive background in the hospitality and golf business and is well known as a leader in the industry.

Finally, coming on as the Director of Club Operations is Esmond Clouthier. Clouthier has been in the golf industry as a Class A, PGA of Canada for 30 years as a teaching pro, director of golf, director of instruction and head golf professional. He has held positions at premier private and semi-private golf clubs in Ontario, London (England), Cairo (Egypt) and Abu Dhabi (UAE).

The golf course grounds and maintenance will continue to be cared for by Kevin Wentzell, Course Superintendent. Wentzell, who has been with Royal Oaks for the past eight years, has over 28 years in the golf turf maintenance industry. He is well respected in the industry across Atlantic Canada and over the last 12 years, Kevin has served on both the Atlantic Golf Superintendents' Association Board of Directors and the Atlantic Turfgrass Research Foundation (ATRF) where he's held various leadership positions.

"Russ, Pascal, Esmond and the M2K team will work with Kevin and our other current staff members to make Royal Oaks better than ever," said Miniutti. "This is a time of advancement for the Royal Oaks family and we're excited about what's to come!"