

Three city courses spotlighted in new pro-am tournament

Fraserview, Langara and McCleery used in an effort to attract more traffic from locals

BY BRAD ZIEMER, VANCOUVER SUN APRIL 3, 2009

The Vancouver park board has partnered with the Vancouver Golf Tour to bring tournament golf to the three city-owned courses.

Fraserview, Langara and McCleery will be the site of the Vancouver City Open late this summer. The 54-hole event, scheduled for Sept. 13-15, will be open to golf professionals as well as amateurs with RCGA handicap factors of 18 or less.

A field of 70 pros is expected to compete for a purse of \$25,000, while 150 amateurs divided into flights based on their handicaps will compete for \$25,000 in prizes. The first day of the tournament will also feature a separate pro-am that will partner pros with amateurs who have handicap factors of less than 36.

The Vancouver Golf Tour, run by local pro Fraser Mulholland, is beginning its third season this year. It has 22 events on its 2009 schedule.

"This will be our biggest event this year, for sure," Mulholland said Thursday. "It will have the biggest purse by far and we're hoping it will have the best field."

Howard Normann, the park board's supervisor of golf operations, would love to see the tournament become an annual event at the three city courses.

"No. 1, we want to expose more players to the golf courses," Normann said. "We especially want to attract some of those players who travel to other areas of the province to play golf. We'd like to have some of those players saying 'you know what, I played the city of Vancouver courses and they were great.'"

"One of the things we're trying to do this year is to try and get more local players out to play our courses ... There's a perception among some, who say, 'forget it, we'll never get on there.' The fact is we're accessible, we're fairly priced and we are putting a pretty good product out there."

The pro and amateur players in the tournament will be cut to the top 60 per cent after two rounds. The first round will be played at Fraserview, the second at Langara, with the final round scheduled for McCleery.

Entry fees are not yet set, but will likely be in the neighbourhood of \$250 for the three-day tournament.

For more information, visit vancouvergolftour.com

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