

JENAFACTS

GOLF HOLIDAYS 2007-2008



OSPREY VALLEY— HEATHLANDS COURSE CALEDON HILLS, ONTARIO

The acclaimed Heathlands Links course at Osprey Valley is widely considered to be one of Ontario's finest. Once the carefully guarded secret of local aficionados, the course inspired the Osprey Valley slogan 'golf for golfers'. The Course has an Irish feel to it, featuring rough of the most difficult variety, thick and wiry and known as "Sheep's fescue".

Heathlands Links at Osprey Valley is a par 71 that plays 5248 yards from the red tees and 6810 yards from the black tees. This challenging 18 hole championship course with its undulating fairways, pot bunkers and fescue rough provides the opportunity to play every shot imaginable in golf, often when you least expect it !

At Osprey Valley, they don't over-water the golf course. They keep it relatively dry, which is appropriate since it brings into play the variety of shots so often required of a seaside course. Often breezy and in an exposed location, the wind usually hinders rather than helps, and it does not have a weak hole among its 18. It is, as the architect says, "a good, strong, walkable golf course."

The par-5 ninth hole is a double dogleg where you must hit the green or face dire consequences. A creek runs down the right side of the fairway before emptying into a pond, and the challenge is to cut off as much of the creek as you dare on the tee shot. There are a couple of choices on the second shot: a play to the left, over some bunkers cut into a dune, or play far to the right and face a longer approach over water to a well-bunkered elevated green. "Very rarely does anyone hit the green in two," says Carrick. "That's quite a feat."

We rather enjoy the fact that there are not really any buildings and facilities at Osprey Valley. The lack of a decent dining room and locker rooms and even a pro shop doesn't seem to faze the golf purists who religiously make the trek to the picturesque Caledon hills, where they enjoy this links-style course which is always rated among the Top 10 in the Greater Toronto Area.

In addition to the Heathlands Course, two fine new courses have been constructed on this enormous property. They have the charming names of "Hoot" and "Toot" and are receiving very favourable reviews indeed.



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