

NGCOA Canada News

Clint Eastwood Attends NGCOA Canada Reception

Movie Star Now A Golf Course Owner As Well

"I'm not into golf course ownership for the money. My Tehama Golf Club is what I like to see and where I like to be." Clint Eastwood

Each year, during the NGCOA Annual Conference & Trade Show, the Canadian Reception is a highlight, however this year surpassed everyone's expectations when Clint Eastwood arrived.

Since the reception was at Mission Ranch, Carmel, CA, a property owned by the movie star and he had recently entered the golf business, NGCOA Canada invited Mr. Eastwood to attend. Although his invitation generated rumours, few actually expected him to show up.

An hour before the reception began, Jeff Calderwood, executive director, was alone in the hall reviewing the evening agenda when he walked Clint Eastwood to check out the situation.

"He was on his way home from the golf course and was wondering about our reception. We talked about golf, the NGCOA, his time as mayor of Carmel and our plans for the evening. As he left, he asked me what time would be best to drop in so I suggested 9 PM. Sure enough, at 9 o'clock sharp he arrived and it really 'made our day'".

After some initial mingling, Mr. Eastwood accepted the opportunity to say a few words at the microphone and then casually moved through the room pausing for many autographs, photos and conversations as he sipped his white wine. The evening was certainly a most memorable NGCOA Canada event.

An avid golfer himself and chairman of the AT&T Pebble Beach tournament, Clint Eastwood is now enthusiastic about being a golf course owner as well. In 1996, he began the construction of an elaborate 18 hole course between Carmel Valley and Monterey, called Tehama Golf Club, opening in the spring of '99.

"I don't want to sound like the movie guy who says he's in it for the art, but I'm not in this for the money" explains Eastwood. "I thought it would be nice to play with an affable group of people who share a philosophy about how the game should be played".

Tehama is a private golf club ... very private. Memberships sell for \$135,000 each and are limited to a total of 300 golfers which will generate over \$40 million this year. Slow play and overcrowding will not be a problem.

Built on 2010 acres of pine and oak property, the Tehama Golf Club estate accommodates 88 residential properties for multi-million dollar homes. The residential community is called Canada Woods, pronounced ken-yada.

During construction, Mr. Eastwood has encountered considerable pressures from environmental groups and local conservationists. Such challenges are familiar to many Canadian golf course owners, however the beautiful coast of California and the high profile of a celebrity developer escalated these issues.

After 57 movies over 40 years, Clint Eastwood is now quite ready to wear another hat, that of a golf course owner. As a matter of fact, he enjoys golfing in his 'Fac Diem Meam' hat, which is latin for 'Make My Day'.