

Whitlock clubhouse facelift well underway

by JIM DUFF

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HUDSON — The Whitlock Golf and Country Club clubhouse is beginning to look like a million bucks, as well it should. That's the amount being put into a major renovation of the nearly 50-year-old structure.

The dining room and kitchen have



Darling Place, a small street off chemin du Golf, is named in honour of Ken Darling, Whitlock's oldest member when he cut the ribbon opening the new nine-hole addition in 2008.

(Gazette, Jim Duff)



The ceilings in the dining room and lounge have undergone dramatic facelifts, with more insulation and new lighting as well as structural improvements.

been extensively refurbished and the lounge and locker rooms are in the process of a facelift that will give the facility a classic country-club look, replete with dark wainscoting and woodwork. The new bar has been installed and work is well underway on the lounge ceiling.

"We've been very fortunate to work with a local general contractor who has been extremely helpful in making this a reality," says incoming president René Marineau. "It was a major challenge to do everything we've been able to accomplish with the initial budget but we expect to come through on budget and be finished by mid-April."

Much of the work was required to bring the 50-year-old structure up to code. "We definitely had to make some structural changes to the lower floor where absolutely nothing was up to par

with the existing codes." They even brought in a tractor to excavate the lower level so they could pour a new floor.

The clubhouse entrance portico will get a makeover. The bathrooms have already been renovated with extensive use of granite and there's a new bar in the lounge, also with a granite counter. The ceilings in both the lounge and dining room have new lighting systems, the trophy cabinets have been redone and everything repainted in contemporary colours.

With the facelift come some small but significant changes. Gone is the starter's shack on the first tee. This year, the starter's office moves into a space beside the completely renovated golf boutique.

Whitlock has always been available

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FACELIFT

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for functions, but with the improvements comes more flexibility, says Marineau.

"We're going to have a club that operates all year round," he adds. "Our dining facility will be much more pleasant. I think we'll be able to attract much more members whether they're social members or curling members or golfing members. I think many people might be interested in joining the club and enjoying our great cuisine."

The revitalization is part of the overall process to make the clubhouse an integral part of the Whitlock West hamlet, developer René Schubert's development just to the west of the clubhouse.

The entrance off Côte St. Charles, now a public road, has been officially named chemin du Golf following a resolution to

that effect adopted at the last town council meeting. Chemin du Golf winds around the back of the existing parking lot before continuing up the hill to access Whitlock West.

Several hundred metres further along, a second road splits off to the south before ending in a circle. This is Place Darling, named in honour of the late Ken Darling, one of Whitlock's longest members. Over the next two years, some 50 semi-detached villas and single-family residences will be built along these two roads.

A major challenge was to ensure that groundwater flowing through Whitlock West would be able to find its way down a number of natural streams to the Vivery River. The main road traverses a causeway across a 40-foot-deep ravine and the roadbuilders have added a number of retention basins and culverts to handle flash flooding that would otherwise fill the Vivery with silt-filled runoff.

Roughly half the lots have been sold, others are reserved, and last weekend saw a steady flow of potential buyers who can walk the land as soon as it dries



Downstairs, both locker rooms have been extensively revamped, beginning with the excavation of the basement to provide more headroom and airier atmosphere. The walls are now covered in wainscoting, giving the area a classic look. Bathrooms upstairs have been refinished in granite.



Young beeches line one of the ravines that cut through the centre of the Whitlock West project. Soon, prospective homeowners will be able to walk the land to choose their building sites. (Gazette, Jim Duff)

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