

## Carlisle countryside the star at new golf course

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The scenic, rural atmosphere of Flamborough makes for the perfect locale to establish a championship golf course - and golf enthusiasts will have the opportunity to discover a new challenge in the 2008 season, the Dragon's Fire Golf Club.

Originally, the site, located on 8th Concession East in Carlisle, operated as a tree farm. It was zoned for a golf course in 1998 and put on the market shortly after. Owner Bryan DeCunha purchased the land and took on the task of creating the course in 2005.

Thanks to the previous tree farm, mature trees currently adorn the property, said DeCunha. "It will be a pretty golf course."

Since purchasing the land, he has been hard at work, applying for various permits, designing the course and overseeing the construction process, which began in May.

Sprawled across 190 acres, Dragon's Fire Golf Club will house a 20,000-square-foot two-level clubhouse and a pro-shop. The clubhouse will include a full dining facility and allow for scheduled private functions.

### Passion

DeCunha's passion for the industry enabled him to dive head-first into creating his own courses. His goal is to build a championship golf course that would suit beginner and expert golfers, while maintaining reasonable, affordable rates.

As this is DeCunha's second venture in the world of owning a golf course, he told the Flamborough Review that he was determined to take a different avenue when designing the course. Boris Danoff was hired on as architect and the Evansgolf Corporation was in charge of the construction process.

On DeCunha's website, [namethe-course.com](http://namethe-course.com), he encouraged golfers to submit their suggestions regarding the course's design.

"We encouraged golfers to tell us what they would like to see in a golf course, and we incorporated as many of their suggestions as we could in the planning of the golf course," he said.

A contest was also held to help name the course. The name, Dragon's Fire Golf Club, was selected in September. The public had the opportunity to submit their suggested names for the course.

DeCunha explained that during this process, a young lady suggested the course be called Dragon Ridge. A fan of Lord of the Rings, DeCunha ran with her suggestion and brainstormed to come up with Dragon's Fire.

"I liked the name, it was different," he said. "People will remember that name, because it's unusual for a golf course to be called that."



**UP TO PAR** Bryan DeCunha and his wife, Anne, have transformed a local tree farm along 8th Concession East into a championship golf course. Dragon's Fire Golf Club will feature 18 holes, a clubhouse and a pro-shop. Golfers can tee off starting May 2008.

The purchase of the 18-hole course spurred DeCunha and his wife, Anne, to move to the Burlington area from their Mississauga home.

"We moved to the area to be closer to the golf course, it's only 10 minutes away," he said.

Thrilled to be part of the Flamborough community, DeCunha is busy planning for the course's grand opening slated for May 2008.

"We are anxious to open," he said.

Aside from all things golf, DeCunha believes community involvement is an important factor in creating a business.

"We'd like to offer scholarships to students in the area, get involved with the Big Brother organization and maybe even the Special Olympics, to provide them with golf instruction," he listed of the possible projects open to the club.

"We intend on being very involved with the community and give back to the community that we are in," he added.

### Opening

DeCunha also looks forward to becoming one of the largest employers in the Flamborough region during golf's prime season. Food and beverages staff, greens crew and operations crewmembers will be hired from the local area, he predicted.

A grand opening celebration, with dignitaries and individuals connected with the golf course will be invited to the new course early in the 2008 season. A special media day is slated to take place on November 9, where the golf media will enjoy a tour of the course.

Dragon's Fire Golf Club is located at 342 8th Concession E. in Carlisle, just east of Centre Road. For more information on the course and its formation, please visit [www.dragonsfiregolf.com](http://www.dragonsfiregolf.com).



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