



LADIES' GOLF CLUB OF TORONTO

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ladiesgolfclub.com

The historic clubhouse at the Ladies' Golf Club.

ABOUT THE COURSE

In their centennial year, Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto is still North America's only private golf club created by women for women. The club was founded in 1924 by Ada Mackenzie. In 1925, 9 holes were open for play. On August 23, 1925, the official opening event was played. This was a match between Ada Mackenzie and Helen Paget of Royal Ottawa Club. A premier championship par-72 course (par-70 for men) that has long, narrow fairways; small greens; and lots of enticing challenges as it winds along the East Don River. Members have priority access to tee times and can play unlimited rounds of golf. Men are welcome as Guest Card Holders and guests.

Architect: Stanley Thompson

Type of Club: Private

Number of holes: 20 (the 9th hole is located at the furthest east point of the course. Therefore, members and guests alike, that wish to only play 9, break off at the 7th hole and play 8 alternate and 9 alternate, thus bringing them back towards the Golf Shop, Clubhouse and parking facilities).

Number of rounds annually: 28,000+

Practice Facility: Yes - Driving range, short game facility and hitting nets.

Number of staff year-round/seasonal: 25

Member since 2014

Amanda Frend

Assistant Golf Course
Superintendent, Ladies'
Golf Club of Toronto.



Amanda Frend, Assistant Superintendent, Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto.

Written by Lisa Marie Guilfoyle, Assistant Superintendent, Oakville Golf Club. Photos provided by Amanda Frend.

Perseverance, the one thing that stands out in Amanda's mind that has helped her get to the peaceful position she is in today. "Remember, you're not supposed to have it all figured out kid, that's the journey." A quote from her best mate, Nikki, that has stuck with Amanda for years throughout the expeditions of life. A motivating mantra that keeps her persistent yet grounded.

Amanda's story does not start in the classroom. As she likes to say, she attended the "school

of hands on!" and twenty plus educational conferences in the last 15 years. After putting in many years landscaping and working at her family's stone masonry business - even dabbling with the idea of becoming a Police Officer - in 2009, Amanda applied at the Ladies' GC of Toronto. As a seasonal greenkeeper, she quickly fell in love with working hard to produce a product and seeing the results within the industry. With her 'give it your all' attitude, it was immediately clear to her management team that she is an asset to the club, which allowed her to expand into an exceptionally professional and knowledgeable grass grower and active mentor for women in golf. She officially took the title of Assistant

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q: Favourite golf tournament?

A: CPCK Canadian Women's Open.

Q: Favourite piece of turf equipment?

A: Skid Steer, ok ok, Toro 648.

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: Manitoulin Golf and Country Club.

Q: Ultimate foursome?

A: Brooke Henderson, Mel Reid, and friends!

Q: Lowest round and where?

A: Couldn't tell ya, but I bet the beer was good.

Q: Favourite Meal?

A: Chicken and eggs are my two favourite foods.

Q: Favourite Movie?

A: Rudy

Q: Favourite Season?

A: Fall

Q: Favourite Band?

A: That varies immensely depending on activity or mood. Pitbull to Pink to Chris Stapleton to AC/DC.

Golf Course Superintendent in April 2014. Her work ethic and passion to expand has paved the road to have a successful career in golf course management. "I have been asked several times when I will try to make the transition to Superintendent. I don't know if that is what I want or need. I currently love where I am. I love to be boots on the ground every minute of every day. My current role allows me to do that," Amanda expresses. "I am very fortunate to work under a great superintendent, John McLinden. From the beginning, he never hesitated to take me under his wing, signing me up to be a member of our associations and sending me to conferences. Thus, providing me with education, information, and networking - all at my fingertips. Previous assistant superintendents John Ingam and Rino Pandolfi, also did the same."

Throughout the years, Amanda has been involved in many projects at the Ladies' GC such as a complete par 3 renovation, reshaping



The (Ontario division) Women in Turfgrass Management Mentor Programs' yearly tournament was held at Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto in 2022.

of their target greens as well as constructing a raised veggie garden with an interlock patio used for small weddings and gatherings. This project is something to be admired as the vegetables grown in these new gardens are used in the culinary production in the club's kitchen. Now, in their centennial year, the clubhouse is undergoing a full renovation. With the existing structure being historic, it will not be torn down, keeping the exterior true to its original appearance. Its farmhouse style is no longer appropriate for its modest use. At this stage, the interior has been completely gutted with some walls being knocked down for an open concept to accommodate larger functions. The addition that was built in the 1980's has been torn down and a new addition will house a brand-new kitchen. There is also a three seasons room being added for versatility. John, Amanda, and their team have been very busy this spring assisting in providing the locations for a temporary building and parking for their members and guests.

As a manager, Amanda strives to lead by example by showcasing her determination as well as being personable. She describes her management skills simply as just showing them both sides of herself - that she is not only a work horse but human too. Amanda believes this approach has given her the opportunity to get to know her staff well and build the relationships that provide her with the desired outcome of productivity. For those of you that know her, this does not come as a surprise. Amanda is friendly, kind, and generous by nature.

Amanda and her partner Mandi of 11 years, purchased their first home a few years ago, bringing even more pride into Amanda's life as she has referred to it as one of her biggest accomplishments. They and their two teenage daughters (Charlotte, 17 and Mikayla, 14) love spending time together, along with their dog and two cats. When Amanda is not at the work perfecting the course, you can find her at home puttering about doing the same.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Predominate grass type: Bent/Poa mix on greens, tees, fairways

Predominant soil type: loamy soil/clay soil

Types of greens: 16 Push -up, 4 California style

Course Length: 6000 yards

Size of Property: 123 acres

Size of Greens: 2.2 acres

Size of Tees: 2.2 acres

Size of Fairways: 24 acres

Major Challenges: Mother Nature

She loves small woodworking projects and recently completed a bathroom build in her basement. Amanda is always keeping her hands busy and teaching her daughters how crucial it is to work hard to achieve the things you want. While away from both work and home, you can find the family cottaging in Spring Bay on Manitoulin Island during the summer months. "I often play 4 or 5 rounds at Manitoulin Golf and Country Club. A must is hitting up Split Rail Brewery in Gore Bay," Amanda shares. "And I love to travel to the Caribbean in the winter months."

Did you know that women make up only 1% of leadership roles in the golf and turf industry? As a woman also included in this staggering percentage, I am beyond grateful to know Amanda and call her not only a colleague but a friend. We are two of the fifty women that were sent to North Carolina in 2019 when Bayer (now Envu) expanded the Women in Golf initiative. She and I are also mentors for the Women in Turfgrass Management Mentor Program (shout out to the founder Morgan Creighton of Woodside Golf Course in Airdrie, Alberta) that reaches young inspiring female students in turfgrass programs across Canada. Amanda has continued to be a strong presence in this

important community and most recently was invited to Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club in Vancouver for the CPKC Women's Open in 2023. Alongside her as mentors were Miranda Robinson and Patricia Sloan from British Columbia, and Lesley Thomas, a fellow Ontarian, with students Mackenzie Levesque and Michelle Smith from British Columbia, and Shannon Perry and Hannah Isinghood, both from Alberta. The objective of this experience was to have the eight women assist the Shaughnessy Turf Crew with the daily responsibilities throughout the entirety of the tournament all while facilitating a broader range of education and

networking opportunities. A very successful and memorable event for all involved.

Amanda shares that many of her successes are possible due to the unwavering support she receives not only from her partner Mandi, but her best friend Nikki and loving Mother. "These are the people I look up to most!" This is very heartwarming to hear, and I hope she knows how much many of us look up to her and her ability to continue to persevere, providing high quality results all while opening doors for the next generation to walk in the same muddy boots. ■

"Amanda Frend is a kind, compassionate leader who likes to have her boots on the ground working with the crew. She is dedicated to furthering her knowledge and experiences at conferences and events with a smile on her face. She is the first person to check in to ask how you are doing which speaks to her character. The industry is a better place with people like Amanda representing it."

– Miranda Robinson, Victoria Golf Club

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