



*Michigan's longest continuously
operated golf course*



ISLAND GOLF GETAWAYS ON MACKINAC ISLAND

PLAY WAWASHKAMO GOLF CLUB & STAY ON MAIN STREET

WAWASHKAMO IS MACKINAC ISLAND'S MOST HISTORIC GOLF COURSE – BUILT IN 1898

For Immediate Release

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Historic Golf Links Wawashkamo Golf Club

Tees It Up

With Historic Island Hotels to Offer Island Golf Getaways

(Mackinac Island, MI) May 1, 2018 – One of Michigan's 'Most Historic Golf Courses' –

Wawashkamo Golf Club on Mackinac Island has paired historic links style golf with historic summer resort accommodations at the Island House Hotel, Chippewa Hotel, Lilac Tree Suites & Spa.

Founded in 1898, and designed by Scottish golf professional from Carnoustie and two time U.S. Open winner Alex Smith, Wawashkamo Golf Club is Michigan's longest continually operated golf course. The links style course is noted as "One of America's Historic Golf Landmarks" by Golf Digest and sits on Michigan's Historic Register. Wawashkamo Golf Course is part of the Mackinac State Historic Parks.

Together, Wawashkamo Golf Club, **Lilac Tree Suites & Spa** and the historic **Chippewa Hotel**, known for its waterfront location on Main Street and famous saloon *The Pink Pony*, and the Lilac Tree Suites & Spa is offering guests a golf getaway package that includes: 18-holes of Golf at Wawashkamo Golf Club, Golf Cart Rental, Golf Club Rental, Breakfast at the Pink Pony, Boxed Lunch from the Pink Pony, Round Trip Horse-Drawn Taxi to and from Golf Course, \$25 Pink Pony

Gift Card, and the sweetest part of all – a slice of Original Murdick’s Fudge. Guests are invited to package up all these island ingredients for an additional fee of \$155 per person to the selected guest room at the Chippewa Hotel or the Lilac Tree Suites & Spa.

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A Peek at the History of Wawashkamo

The links-style layout utilized natural hazards as opposed to artificial ones. The fairways were designed to magnify the effects of slicing the ball.

Bunkers were few but strategically placed. As with the St. Andrews links, the fairways were defined not by trees but by mowed grassy areas. Narrow strips of ground were smoothed with a horse-drawn road roller driven in a line between each tee and green, and the fairway areas to the side of each strip were allowed to retain their natural rolling topography. The holes were designed with straight fairways, with no doglegs and the green directly visible from the tee.

The goal of this design, at a time when the gutta-percha golf ball was played more on the ground than a modern ball is, was to deceive the golfer into thinking that it could be effortlessly rolled right up to the green. Semi-visible challenges lay in wait for anyone adopting this attitude, such as the grassy ridge of earth known as the "circus ring" which loops around the 3rd green. This feature was in place before 1921 although it was originally much higher and encircled

the green without a gap. At the time Wawashkamo was designed, one major innovation by club-makers like Alex Smith was the multiplication of golf irons and the beginnings of standardization. The old "niblicks", "mashies" and "mid-irons" were being redefined into numbered irons contained in a cylindrical golf bag that could be carried by a caddie. Club selection thus became a key part of the game. Smith's use of rolling terrain at Wawashkamo, as well as numerous hidden and non-hidden roughs, was a homage to this new specialization of the golf iron. Smith, who knew irons because he hammered them out himself, designed the Wawashkamo course to encourage the golfer to pull every club out of the bag.



Alex Smith and Frank Rounds imported one major and enduring design element to Wawashkamo from the Scottish links pattern. The snuffbox-sized tees and exquisite, hard-to-hit greens, easier to maintain with the twelve-inch push mowers of the 1890s, remain practicable today under northern Great Lakes golfing conditions. No tees and greens meant to be played on for eight to twelve months a year could hold up to the intensive soil compaction and wear of continuous use on such small surface areas. Wawashkamo, however, was designed as a summer-only course. Ironically, this meant that it could retain its Victorian-dimension tees and greens long after most of America's older golf courses had found it necessary to redesign them to support the more intensive golf usage patterns of the late twentieth century. As Wawashkamo celebrated its first centennial in 1998, it remained faithful to the design heritage staked out by Alex Smith in 1898.

For More Information about Historic Island Golf, special rates and events at Wawashkamo Golf Club visit www.wawashkamo.com or call (906) 847-3871.

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