

**PANELIST COMMENTS:**

"A great walk unspoiled!"

"The Highlands is a national treasure, and deserves to be treated as such. What a shame that conditioning is rarely up to snuff for this Stanley Thompson beauty. The powers that be simply can't get their heads around the fact that the course deserves to be in excellent shape all the time. The bunkers also should be restored properly. They're not close to how Thompson built them."

1

HIGHLANDS LINKS

Ingonish Beach, N.S.
highlandslinksgolf.com

2

GLEN ABBEY GC

Oakville, Ont.
en.clublink.ca/golf/glenabbey

3

EAGLES NEST GC

Maple, Ont.
eaglesnestgolf.com

4

MUSKOKA BAY CLUB

Gravenhurst, Ont.
muskokabay.com

5

KANANASKIS COUNTRY GC - Mt. Kidd

Kananaskis, Alta.
kananaskisgolf.com

* List is limited to non-resort courses

■ It has been more than a decade since Highlands Links was restored in an attempt to recreate the original work by the late, legendary Canadian course architect Stanley Thompson. Taking full advantage of the natural topography of Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Thompson laid out this wonderful track over the land — not around it, nor through it. The fairways are contoured as nature intended them: side-hill lies, bumps, depressions and other quirks mean you will need every club in your bag as

it's a shot-maker's delight. The greens are classic, open-faced with dramatic roll off areas.

Other charms are everywhere. The Scottish-Gaelic holes names, the simple clubhouse, the strenuous walk between 12 green and 13 tee, the warning signs alerting players to the presence of bears and the way the land seems to encompass both mountains and the ocean in equal measure. It's almost as if Thompson could sense just when you want to change your perspective between land and sea.