

## **Imagining a new golf course requires the most creativity**

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For renowned golf course designer Michael Hurdzan, this time in the process of building a golf course is the most fun. Hurdzan was in Lake Country this week walking parts of about 300 acres that will be used to design a signature golf course inside the LakeStone development near Winfield.

LakeStone commissioned Hurdzan to design the 18 hole course and the well known builder ([www.hurdzanfry.com](http://www.hurdzanfry.com)) used his time this week, his second trip to LakeStone, to continue visualizing and planning the course.

"I've been doing this for 40 years and I enjoy all aspects of it but this really requires the most creativity," said Hurdzan before hiking the area this week. "You're trying to imagine how things will fit. You're trying to find your way on the map and trying to find the key areas. I think there is a lot more cerebral challenge to this phase than any other phase. It's really the creative part of it."

Right now there isn't much at LakeStone except for trails and bushes and rock. But Hurdzan sees more than just your average hiker who might stumble along the ridges overlooking Okanagan Lake.

"We're just doing site analysis," he said. "We take our plans and walk the site and try to get a sense of the area and get a general feel. Right now there are some trails and a lot of the area is through bush and up and down rock faces. It's fairly steep in some areas."

Hurdzan is known in the golf design business as an expert on making a golf course green and using the natural elements within the design of the course. Hurdzan recently received the 2007 Donald Ross Award, the American Golf Course Architect's highest honour and is an international expert on golf course environmental issues.

"What we're trying to do as we build the skeleton of the golf course is we're trying to avoid those areas that are the most sensitive and we're getting a really good sense of the areas that need to be protected," he said. "We will try to avoid those areas and where we can't avoid them we need to find a way to compensate for them."

The golf course at LakeStone will overlook parts of Okanagan Lake as well as parts of Woods and Kalamalka Lakes. Using the steep terrain Hurdzan already has visualized what could be the course's signature hole.

"The par three fifth, in our mind, is one hole that is most self evident when we walk the area," he said. "You are standing on one of the high ridges and looking across the valley to a rock outcropping and you can visualize the green being there. I think the potential of this site is absolutely incredible. If the golf course is anywhere close to what I believe it's going to be its going to be fabulous because you have such a wonderful mix of rock and trees."

The design will likely be done by next spring but construction will depend on government approval.

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**Renowned golf course architect Michael Hurdzan (right), along with Jason Straka of Hurdzan Fry, study the plans for a new golf course they are building near Winfield.**