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**JUDY DARLING EVANS AND BOB VOKEY TO BE INDUCTED INTO CANADIAN GOLF HALL OF FAME**  
Hall of Fame's 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> inductees to receive highest honour in Canadian Golf

**OAKVILLE, Ont. (Golf Canada)** – The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum is proud to announce that Montreal natives Judy Darling Evans and legendary golf club maker Robert (Bob) Vokey have been elected as the 2017 inductees into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

Darling Evans will be inducted under the player category while Vokey will be inducted as a builder. With their inductions, the Quebec duo will become the 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> honoured members of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

"The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding individuals and their tremendous impact on the game of golf and it is without question an honour welcome July Darling Evans and Bob Vokey as our newest honoured members," said Sandra Post, Chair of the Hall of Fame's Selection Committee. "During her competitive career, Judy was fierce and accomplished competitor while the Vokey name has become synonymous with excellence in craftsmanship. Their respective elections exemplify the diversity of talent represented among the members of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame."

During her stellar amateur career, Darling Evans, 79 was a dominant force in Quebec and Canadian women's amateur golf with a resume that includes three Quebec Junior Girls' titles (1953, 1956 & 1957); six Quebec Women's Amateur titles (1957-1961, 1972); and a Quebec Women's Senior title (1988); three Quebec interprovincial team titles; a Canadian Junior Girls title (1957) and a pair of Canadian Women's Amateur victories (1960-61). She also represented Canada at the 1959 and 1963 Commonwealth Games and in 1998, her accomplishments were recognized with induction into the Quebec Golf Hall of Fame.

A product of a proud golfing family, she and her mother Dora are the only mother-daughter duo to have both won the Quebec Ladies Amateur Championship and the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship.

"Just last weekend I was at the Honda Classic at PGA National where I live, and I was cheering on Graham DeLaet who was well under par, when my phone kept buzzing and I ran home to find Sandra Post had called," said Darling Evans about getting the call from the Selection Committee. "She told me that I had been selected to be inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame. I was overwhelmed and shed more than a few tears. It was the most wonderful surprise. I would like to thank Sandra and the Selection Committee for bestowing this honour on me. It is truly a great privilege to be in the company of such distinguished and accomplished honored members and I am very excited about the upcoming ceremony this summer at Glen Abbey."

Born in Montreal and raised in Verdun, Que., Vokey has become one of the world's foremost wedge designers and trusted short game advisor to many of the modern game's greatest golfers. His innovative designs have made Titleist Vokey wedges a trusted brand among golfers of every age and skill level.

Over his illustrious career, Vokey, 77, has designed wedges for many of golf's notable players including Seve Ballesteros, Lee Trevino, Bernhard Langer, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Sergio Garcia, Adam Scott, Tiger Woods, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy, as well as Canadians Mike Weir, Ian Leggatt, Graham DeLaet and Brad Fritsch.

"I'm truly humbled by this incredible honor. This is something I would never have dreamed of as a young boy growing up in Verdun, working in my Dad's machine shop. I've never forgotten where I came from, so to see my name on the same list of Canadian golf legends is overwhelming. I have always been surrounded by passionate, hardworking people who love the game as much as I do. This honour really is a reflection of everybody that has provided me the opportunities to live out my passion over the past 50 years in golf."

Darling Evans and Vokey will be officially inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame during ceremonies to be held later this year.

### **About Judy Darling Evans....**

For nearly a decade, the name Judy Darling Evans was synonymous with amateur golfing success. She was born on October 6, 1937 in Montreal and was first introduced to the game at Whitlock Golf Club where her grandfather, J.A. Darling—a Quebec Amateur champion himself— served as the club's first president.

Through the years, the Darling family was an institution at the Whitlock club. Judy's father, Bill won 11 club titles as well as the Western Canada championship. Her mother, Dora, twice captured the Québec Women's Amateur crown and won the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship in 1936. Her sister Mary was a three-time Québec junior champion. As well, her brother Brian was twice named to the junior interprovincial team and was a five-time member of the Québec team in matches against Ontario.

Darling Evans first joined the Whitlock club at the age ten, although she had begun swinging a club almost as soon as she could walk. In 1953, her family also held membership at Royal Montreal Golf Club, although she continued to compete under the Whitlock banner. It was during her time at Royal Montreal that she was mentored and coached by longtime pro and Canadian Golf Hall of Fame honoured member Pat Fletcher, whose victory at the 1954 Canadian Open marks the last time a Canadian golfer has won Canada's National Men's Open Championship.

It wasn't long before Judy earned a formidable reputation in the junior ranks. In 1952 she finished runner-up in the Québec Junior Girls' Championship as a 14-year old and then the following year captured her first Québec Junior Girls' title. Her domination in Québec junior ranks continued with a runner-up finish in 1955, before winning her second of three Quebec Junior crowns in 1956. She would go to capture national attention with a runner-up finish at the 1956 Canadian Junior Girls' Championship.

By age 19 she had become one of the province's elite players. In 1957 she captured the first of five consecutive Québec Women's Amateur crowns (1957-1961), earning her the distinction of becoming the first golfer to win both the Quebec Junior Girls and Quebec Women's Amateur titles in one year. She carried that success to the national level by capturing the 1957 Canadian Junior Girls' crown.

Judy's domination at the provincial and national level earned a selection to the Canadian women's golf team competing in the 1959 Commonwealth Games in St. Andrews, Scotland. She would help Canada finish second at the four-nation event.

In 1960, after graduating from McGill University, she would finish runner-up in the Canadian Ladies' Close Amateur Championship before winning the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship. The victory was historic as it marked the first time a mother-daughter duo – her mother Dora won the Open title in 1936 – would have their names inscribed on the Duchess of Connaught Trophy. That year she would rank third in voting for Canadian Female Athlete of the Year.

In 1961, Darling Evans captured her record fifth consecutive Québec Ladies' Amateur title and went on to successfully defend her Canadian Women's Amateur Championship crown. She was again nominated for Canadian Female Athlete of the year, eventually finishing second in the balloting. Later that year Judy Darling would wed Douglas Evans.

The summer of 1962 brought different joy with the birth of her first child, daughter Katherine. Eight months later, after taking more than a year off from golf, Darling-Evans accepted the invitation to play for Canada in the 1963 Commonwealth matches in Australia. Those Commonwealth matches were to be her last hurrah as a competitor as she redirected her focus toward family life.

Competitive golf made way to recreational enjoyment as her family grew to include four children, Katherine (1962), Cynthia (1964), Tracey (1967), and Daphne (1969). In 1970, she rejoined Royal Montreal Golf Club and two years later entered the Québec Women's Amateur Championship. Although she had spent nearly a decade away from competitive golf, her talents led to capturing her sixth Amateur title in 1972.

Amateur golfing success continued into her later years with a win (1988) and runner-up finish (1989) at the Québec Senior Women's Championship.

Darling-Evans career as one of Canada's most accomplished amateurs was recognized with induction into the Quebec Golf Hall of Fame in 1988.

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### **About Bob Vokey.....**

Bob Vokey was born in 1939 in Montréal, Québec. and credits his early inspiration in club design to the summers he spent with his father, a fine tool and die maker who had a penchant for golf and enjoyed tinkering with equipment.

He was a three-sport athlete in hockey, baseball, and football growing up and his talents on the football field led to a professional stint with the Québec Rifles of the United Football League as a punter, receiver and safety. He moved to Southern California in 1965 to work for AT&T laying telephone lines and it was during this time that he developed a passion for golf and the tools required for golfers to play their best.

In 1976, he pursued his passion by opening Bob's Custom Shop which offered club building and repair services. From there, it didn't take long for the 'Bob Vokey' name to become synonymous with craftsmanship within the South California golf community.

In 1986, he joined TaylorMade as their primary club builder in the company's Tour department. It was during this time that he developed relationships with players such as Lee Trevino, Seve Ballesteros and Mark O'Meara.

In 1991 he joined Founders Club and continued to gain the trust of the game's greats including Lanny Wadkins and Peter Jacobsen with performance products that included the TV-1 Irons, Founders Forged and Fresh Metal Plus metal woods.

In 1996, the lead club designer at Titleist, Terry McCabe, asked Vokey to join him in the R&D and Tour Departments. His first project at Titleist was assisting with the final design of the Titleist 975 driver, which quickly became the No. 1 driver in play on the PGA Tour in 1996.

Shortly thereafter, Titleist CEO Wally Uihlein entrusted Vokey with the task of driving the company's wedge business. The 456.14 wedge was the first Vokey Design wedge in play on the PGA Tour when it debuted in the summer of 1997 and introduced to the consumer market in 1998.

Vokey's innovation with wedge design introduced popular concepts such as bounce and grind into golf equipment lexicon. The 400 series Vokey Design wedges delivered the finest in product design and committed service to the world's best players and were complimented by 200 and 300 series wedges from 2000 to 2004. In 2004, Vokey Design wedges became the No. 1 wedge in play on the PGA Tour, a distinction of excellence that continues today.

In 2005, Vokey's innovation introduced the Spin Milled groove cutting process, which ultimately led to Vokey Design wedges becoming the No. 1 wedge in the world's largest consumer market, the United States, in 2009, a market leadership position it has held now since 2011.

Vokey and his design team continue to focus on innovation and in 2016 introduced 'progressive centre of gravity' to the wedge category with the Spin Milled 6 models. The technology represented another leap in wedge design from custom sole grinds, to spin milled grooves and centre of gravity precisely positioned based on loft. Each innovation to this day is grounded in Vokey's commitment to the golfer, and his mission to deliver the best in wedge play performance.

Earlier this year, his contributions to the game were honoured with election into the Quebec Hall of Fame.

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#### **ABOUT THE CANADIAN GOLF HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM**

The Canadian Golf Hall of Fame celebrates the outstanding individuals of Canadian golf from players, both amateur and professional, to the builders, architects and others who have been fundamental to the evolution of the game in this country. Operated by Golf Canada, the Hall of Fame, museum and library are open to visitors to discover more about the game and the inductees. For more information, please visit [www.golfcanada.ca/cghf](http://www.golfcanada.ca/cghf).

#### **CANADIAN GOLF HALL OF FAME NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS:**

Honoured Members of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame have been inducted since its inception in 1971.

Honoured Members and representatives from the media, the PGA of Canada, as well as the golf industry comprise the ten-member Selection Committee.

The committee is responsible for reviewing all nominations and selecting inductees. To be considered for election to the Hall of Fame, a nominee must have made an extraordinary national or international contribution to the game of golf in Canada. These achievements may include, but are not limited to, golfing accomplishments, illustrious golf-related careers or other exceptional contributions to the sport. Individuals may not nominate themselves and every nomination submitted to the Selection Committee must be seconded. Inductees to the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame must receive a minimum of eight of 10 votes. Individuals who receive a minimum of three votes will be carried forward; ones who fail to do so will be removed from the nomination process. Additional information regarding the nomination and election process is available here. Nominations must be received no later than July 31 to be eligible for selection the following year.

**GOLF CANADA – LOVE THE GAME. GROW THE GAME.**

Golf Canada is the National Sports Federation and governing body for golf in Canada representing 306,650 golfers and more than 1,400 member clubs across the country. A proud member of the Canadian Olympic Committee, Golf Canada's mission is to grow participation, excellence and passion in the sport while upholding the integrity and traditions of the game. By investing in the growth of the sport and introducing more participants of all ages to the game, our goal is to be relevant to and respected by all Canadian golf enthusiasts from coast to coast. For more information about what Golf Canada is doing to support golf in your community, visit [www.golfcanada.ca](http://www.golfcanada.ca).

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