

Wee-bit of the Emerald Isle

True North another Engh winner



True North in Harbor Springs

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HARBOR SPRINGS — With his newest course, True North Golf Club, set to open early next month near Harbor Springs, renowned golf architect Jim Engh is on a role.

In addition to having The Club at Black Rock in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, being named the "Best New Private" golf course in America for 2003, Engh was also recently named as *Golf Digest's* first-ever "Architect of the Year."

That same publication ranked Tullymore Golf Club, his first Michigan masterpiece located near Stanwood, as "America's Best New Public Upscale Golf Club" the year previous.

True North is another Engh winner. The antithesis of Tullymore, his other Michigan course which was carved out of wetlands and scrub pine forests, True North is sculpted out of the rolling Glacially carved hill and lake country of northern Michigan. The two courses, one already an award-winning design and the other destined to be, truly shows off his versatility and ability to work with totally different landscapes and topography.

"Jim continues to demonstrate why we selected him to design True North," said Brad McGinnis, co-founder of True North, a golf and real estate community. "And from the outset, he's told us he thinks our project has every chance of being recognized as perhaps the finest course he's done to date."

Engh, a devotee of Irish golf, sprinkled a wee-bit of the Emerald Isle around True North in the

design and use of wild native grass along the rough and between holes and in between fair and fairway.

"This golf course is a complete change from Tullymore," said the golf course architect. "From the wetlands of that design to the rolling terrain and valleys of True North the topography and sandy soils are reminiscent of the sites where golf was first played. Add to that the dense northern Michigan forests and we had an opportunity to create something spectacular here."

The unique par-72 layout will measure a little over 7,000 yards from the tips down to 4,808 yards from the forward tees. With four sets of tees to choose from, players will be able to find a comfortable playing yardage to fit their game. This unique 18-hole layout also features five par-fives and five par-threes.

More than half-dozen ponds scattered around the links will mirror the essence of nearby Lake Michigan, and dramatic bunkering will both help outline the course and collect errant shots. Towering pines and hardwoods line many of the fairways and help define the generous landing areas Engh has built into the design of most holes.

True North is slated to become a private, gated community and will be open to the public for only a limited time.

"That is the plan," said GM and director of golf Dave Mocini. "Eventually it will become a private golf club, but we don't have a timetable set in

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