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KAMLOOPS, B.C.—In some ways, golf course architect Tom McBroom hasn't travelled very far.

Raised in the Credit Valley area of Mississauga, McBroom now lives in the south Kingsway section of west Toronto. But while his personal life is still local, his professional side has gone global. With 60 courses to his credit, he is considered one of the game's top architects and his client list includes projects in Provence, Montenegro, Orlando, Halifax and half a dozen projects in British Columbia.

"We've never been busier," says McBroom.

His most recent creation is Tobiano, a course west of Kamloops in the Thompson Okanagan region of the B.C. interior. Like all course architects, McBroom gushes over new courses like they are long-lost loves. But it's clear that Tobiano has a unique place in his golfing heart.

"It's the best natural piece of land I've ever had to work with," says McBroom. "It has all the elements that you love to incorporate into a design — water, mountains and a rumpled landscape. The diversity is incredible."

Two weeks ago, I made the trek out to Tobiano to check it out, and McBroom has every right to get weak in the knees. Spearheaded by the Grenier family, Tobiano is a massive, \$800-million project, which will raise the golf and resort bar in this part of the country by a couple of notches.

When complete, it will include three hotels, a lakeside village, an equestrian centre, marina and 1,000 homes and for the high-flyers, three helicopter pads. And on the other side of the Trans Canada Highway, Tobiano controls 8,000 hectares of wild backcountry where guests will be able to fly fish for the muscular brown trout on one of its five isolated lakes, or play cowboy on its horseback trails.

While the thousands of hectares of wilderness and high-end infrastructure are dazzling, none of it means much if the golf course is subpar. Fortunately, it matches the rest of the project. The course, which opened July 6, is routed above massive Kamloops Lake and then through the shadows of the brown mountains, which dominate this part of the country. The front nine hopscotches across the clay bank dunes and the eerie hoodoos, with impossible looking leaps across gorges. The 6th green is perched on the bluffs and when the wind is up, looks ready to topple into the water. The back nine rises, dips and then rises again, with uninterrupted views of the lake and the mountains.

Even the practice facilities are first-class. There's a 450-yard double-ended range featuring nine bent grass target greens, a white, silica-lined chipping green and two full-sized putting greens.