



Sporting chances

Courts and putting greens coming to the fore in Alberta backyards

By Sonya Procenko

SUDDENLY, IT'S OUR HOUSE ALL THE KIDS COME OVER TO," says Joe Starkman. "Now the kids ask 'Dad do you want to come out and shoot basketball?' " He is talking about his sport court, by Sport Court Alberta, on his Springbank acreage.

Two summers ago his wife suggested the sport court idea, an alternative to playing on the driveway for their three children. Now their 30-foot by 60-foot colour-coded, non-slip sport court can be set up for hockey, basketball, tennis and volleyball.

"The sport court takes a beating. I put a tent over it and had a Calgary Stampede Party with 150 people," he says. When the couple hosts dinner parties, they might have a friendly game of tennis pre-drinks.

Not only a homeowner, Starkman owns Knightsbridge Custom Home Builders. His company so believes in sport courts, they will install the outdoor feature in their six show homes, the first one this coming July. The sport courts range in price, depending on size, but he estimates his cost to buyers at approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000.

"The new affluence in Calgary in the last five to seven years makes a big difference in the kind of items people add," explains Starkman. "(The sport court) is a nice resale feature as opposed to a swimming pool."

"You can custom design your court to accommodate up to 20 different games in any size backyard."



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BELOW THE SURFACE

Since 1991, Sport Court Alberta (a dealer of Sport Court International) has covered hundreds of game courts, gym surfaces, decks and patios across Alberta. One of Canada’s leaders in modular game court, decking and flooring technology, the company supplies products to almost every major sports organization for both indoor and outdoor applications.

One standout feature of Sport Court is its OrthoCush™/Lateral Forgiveness™. The surface has been engineered to protect young athletes with developing joints and seasoned veterans with tender lower backs. After research and development, the company says the Lateral Forgiveness™ in OrthoCush™ has shown to minimize the negative impact forces to the body.

“You can custom design your court to accommodate up to 20 different games in any size backyard,” explains Brent Marinos of Sport Court Alberta. “We do more than lay down the surface. You can choose all the components and accessories to make your game court complete.

“Do you need basketball hoops, or nets for tennis, volleyball and badminton? ... Would you like outdoor lighting? We can cover it all for any size home court including a custom logo! Personalize your backyard court with the logo you want.”

STROKE OF CONVENIENCE

“I don’t really know what difference the putting green has made to my golf game,” laughs Glen Griffiths. Last September, the Sherwood Park retired handyman and his wife Kathy, a glass artist, hired Evergreen Turf to install a Southwest Greens putting green in their backyard.

The longtime golfers bought a home and relocated from Victoria, B.C., to the greater Edmonton area. Back on Vancouver Island, their house backed onto a golf course, giving them an easy access golfing lifestyle. Retired and self-employed, the couple travel frequently, often on golf holidays like playing for a month in Florida.

Naturally, they were attracted to Edmonton putting green options and began exploring them at trade and



home shows. Finally, last September, they decided on the putting green covering their small backyard. The recreational golf backyard feature cost the couple approximately \$10,000.

Although, they haven’t experienced summer golf in their backyard yet, the winter hasn’t stopped them from playing. On sunny, mild winter days, he will shovel away snow and play a little golf. Unlike his neighbour, whose turf is now brown, the Griffiths’ putting green retains its grassy green hue.

Their small dog Max has even befriended the putting green for running around, keeping to the borders for his business, he says. Apparently, though animal waste won’t stain the very durable putting green material.

“I’m looking forward to Sunday (family) dinners here and golf games,” says Griffiths. “My son and brother-in-law are also fanatical golfers so they will get great use out of it.” The couple plan to finish their backyard with a little patio so they’re well outfitted to host summer barbecue and golfing parties.

www.sportcourtalberta.com
www.sportcourt.com
www.southwestgreens.com
www.evergreenturf.ca

“Putting greens are great for kids, pets and adults to play on without any worry of damaging the surface.”

“Putting greens are great for kids, pets and adults to play on without any worry of damaging the surface,” says Gary Selanders. “They are also great for the serious golfer. Imagine being able to practice your short game right in your own backyard!”

Avid golfer Selanders of Evergreen Turf, discovered Southwest Greens and thought Alberta families and businesses could benefit from the impressive product so he took a distributorship. His company, the exclusive Alberta distributor for Southwest Greens Canada, installs all over the province.

A leader in home and backyard golf green industry, Southwest Greens is the choice of 25 PGA pros owning a putting green. PGA pro endorsements have come from Vijay Singh, Jesper Parnevik, Sergio Garcia, Hale Irwin, Jim Furyk and many others. In addition, the most famous professional athlete and celebrity endorsers of



A LONG COURTSHIP

What are the advantages of high-quality sport court? According to Sport Court Alberta:

- Game courts and decking surfaces are self-draining and eliminate puddles.
- Excellent cover for your backyard deck, garage floor, patio, or pool areas.
- Non-porous, they will not harbour bacteria, fungus or viruses.
- Game court tiles withstand up to 25,000 pounds.
- Game court, decking and flooring will not soil, rot, blister or splinter.
- Court surfaces can be flooded over in the winter to make a hockey rink.
- UV inhibitors eliminate fading and break down from the sun.

Southwest Greens are Justin Timberlake, Samuel L. Jackson, Vince Gill and Roger Clemens.

“Made from the finest synthetic material, our commercial and residential backyard putting greens are built to last,” says Selanders.

The company says golfers practising on the greens will improve their putting stroke by relying on consistent putts with a true roll from every position on the green. They will be able to chip and pitch from any distance, knowing the ball will stick and roll and they won’t have to repair divets.

“Consider this,” says Selanders. “No more watering, no mowing, no pesticides, no fertilizers and no bugs AND it looks and feels like real grass!” **NL**

Putting green images courtesy Southwest Greens; court photos courtesy Sport Court International.