



LOCATED ALONG THE PICTURESQUE COAST OF NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, LIES A HIDDEN GEM – AS YET RELATIVELY UNKNOWN IN SPORTING CLAYS CIRCLES. HOWEVER, THAT LOOKS SET TO CHANGE – AS **DON BRUNT** REVEALS

**D**riving through the imposing gates of Fox Harb'r resort you know that you have arrived somewhere special. The grounds are immaculately tended and as you drive toward the main reception building you cant help but be struck by the absolute perfection of everything you see. At

reception, you're greeted with friendly faces and by the time you've got your room key you are absolutely convinced (if you weren't already) that you are someone special and that nothing is too much trouble for the attentive team entrusted with ensuring you have a fantastic stay at the resort.

Fox Harb'r is located near to the town of Fox Harbour in Cumberland County that reputedly got its name from a Captain Fox who stayed there during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) [also known as the Seven Year War]. Set in several hundred acres of stunning grounds it encompass an award winning world class golf course, a sheltered sea front marina that can accommodate boats up to 80 ft in length, a hunting preserve and of course, a sporting clays course which has its own lodge. It doesn't end there though! How many places do you

# THE MARITIME INFLUENCE



ABOVE: THE ENTRANCE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT FOX HARB'R IS SOMETHING SPECIAL. LEFT: WILL YOUR NAME BE ON THE FOX HARB'R'S INVITATIONAL TROPHY IN 2011?

shoot where you can fly in on your private jet, landing on the resort's own 5,000 foot runway, and be on the range breaking clays within the hour?

Accommodation is provided in the form of twelve manor style guesthouses, each of which are subdivided into six spacious individual suites. Fox Harb'r describes them as 'luxuriously appointed'. I think that maybe understated – each is simply sumptuous with private terraces that overlook the golf course and out to the nearby coastline of the Northumberland Strait and Prince Edward Island.



**BEN HUSTHWAITE WITH RON AND STEVEN JOYCE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE FOX HARB'R A GLOBAL PLAYER IN THE SHOOTING WORLD.**

The resort was the brainchild of entrepreneur Ron Joyce who was the driving force behind the massively popular Tim Horton's Coffee Shops which currently has over 3,600 outlets in Canada and the US. The ethos behind the project was the idea of giving something back to the area in which he grew up – and it has certainly done that, bringing an abundance of investment and jobs to the locality. As such, no expense has been spared across the entire resort – including this year's investment in the shooting facilities. Jim Miller, General

Manager of the resort explains, "Our mission is to make Fox Harb'r into the premier shooting facility in Atlantic Canada, matching the standard of the rest of our world class resort. Now we plan to increase the awareness of our shooting facilities and expand our customer base. I feel that with the superb facilities the resort has to offer, Fox Harb'r makes an excellent location for family travel as well as for those just looking to shoot."

## Sporting Facilities

Set in picturesque woodland the shooting facilities include 12 sporting stations, a 5-Stand layout and a skeet range. Considerable thought has been given to each station and they certainly make the most of the terrain which includes lakes and streams as well as a good

mix of woodland including some purpose cut clearings to show well presented targets.

As you would expect from a resort that aims to take its shooting to a world class level, they're not resting on their laurels. They have now employed 2010 World Sporting Clays Champion, Ben Husthwaite, to oversee the creation of 24 new shooting positions, all of which will be in the shape of traditional English grouse butts and linked by gravelled pathways. Three stations will be Ben's 'signature' stations made from stone – including one which will be built on a 20 ft peer jutting out from a valley side. An additional 10 Promatic traps are to be installed allowing for a

completely new 5-Stand layout and a pheasant walk up. To take the stress out of your day, clay carts are available for all shooters and Winchester ammunition is available from the lodge, while current plans also include a Krieghoff Pro Shop.

For those who also enjoy shooting feathered targets, the large well managed hunting preserve offers both Hungarian

partridge and pheasant, shooting over some of the best working dogs in North America – meaning that you can shoot clays in the morning then be out hunting 30 minutes later. Sensational!

Fancy winding down after your shooting? If so, then why not take a massage or other treatments on offer at the Spa and Wellness Centre. It truly is a resort that has everything you can think of. For those who fall in love with the resort and like the idea of spending a good deal of time there, you can buy a home amidst the exclusive gated community of Harb'r Stone Village.

So impressed with the venue is Ben Husthwaite that he intends to run Master Class courses during 2011 and he had this to say about working to help raise the profile of the facility, "Being involved with Fox Harb'r must be the highest accolade available in sporting clays. I would liken it to a golfer being partnered with Augusta!"

**HUNTING IS ALSO AVAILABLE.**



**THE GOLF COURSE IS SHEER PERFECTION!**



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## WHAT DOES IT COST?

The price of such perfection is less than you might think. For example accommodation starts at \$200 (Canadian) per night with beverages and food on top. Expect to pay around \$200 per day for shooting. Worth every cent!

(Example prices for late season stays after 1st October.)

## 2010 Invitational

As part of the program to improve awareness of the facility, the Fox Harb'r Sporting Clays Invitational was held in mid October. Ben Husthwaite set the targets for the two day 200 bird event as well as being on hand to offer advice and assistance to both the shooters and the organising team.

The weekend started on Friday night with a cocktail reception at the Sporting Lodge which gave the competitors the chance to get acquainted and indulge in friendly wagers in the form of a Calcutta. Saturday's race was 100 targets. Despite some tricky presentations, Peter Chiefari put in an impressive round of 95 to secure a lead going into the six man final. Close on his heels was Sandy Figliomeni who shot near flawlessly, scoring 23ex25 in the final but

**BELOW: A COCKTAIL RECEPTION STARTED OFF THE INVITATIONAL IN STYLE.**



HOA PETER CHIEFARI.

Chiefari's lead of four, although narrowed to almost nothing, was just enough for him to take the win. Robert Sidler secured the third spot on the podium.

Suitably refreshed after the Saturday evening banquet, competitors took to the course to tackle the second 100 targets which saw the same three closely matched once again. Despite high and low points from each of them, the positions remained unchanged and Chiefari's name will be engraved on the impressive perpetual trophy.

Next year's event will take place on October 14th-16th with a



**ABOVE: SANDY FIGLIOMENI SHOT NEAR FLAWLESSLY.**

revised format that will see 225 targets thrown during the event, comprising two 75 bird rotations on Saturday and a further 75 on Sunday morning. Ben Husthwaite will be setting the course once again. Judging by the reactions of those who took part in this year's event, spaces will be at a premium – so don't delay if you want to take part. (For more information visit [www.foxharbr.com](http://www.foxharbr.com)) ■

**ROBERT SIDLER TOOK THIRD.**

