



Staff photo by Chris Horobin

Ignat and Didi Kaneff, accompanied by course designer Ted Baker (left), display plans for Iron Bridge International Golf Club. The course will be located in Niagara-on-the-Lake, nestled between the Niagara Escarpment and the 120-year-old Welland Canal. Baker also designed Peel's Lionhead Golf and Country Club,

The builder, the Baker...

Peel Biog.

Oct. 20/99
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Construction begins

Iggy Kaneff believes he's seen perfection.

And the 73-year-old Mississauga entrepreneur is about to try and duplicate it — with some key assistance from a pair of other city residents.

Developer Kaneff, heads up the Kaneff Group of Companies, which owns Brampton's Lionhead Golf and Country Club, considered one of, if not Canada's top public course.

At a press conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake yesterday, details of Kaneff's latest venture, the Iron Bridge International Golf Club, were announced. Construction on the \$10 million, 27-hole facility began there three weeks ago.

The facility, which will feature three nine-hole championship courses, is expected to open in May 2001.

Iron Bridge will be designed by Mississauga's Ted Baker, one of Canada's foremost golf course architects. His previous works include Lionhead.

"There is no better place to go than Lionhead," Kaneff said. "But this new course will be just as good as Lionhead."

Iron Bridge will have several positives

in its corner, most notably its remarkable scenery.

The course is nestled between the breathtaking Niagara Escarpment and the old Welland Canal.

"It's just the most beautiful site to look down on," Kaneff said, adding the majority of the holes will be about 50 metres above sea level.

Iron Bridge is also located mere minutes from the United States border.

Mississauga lawyer Frank Racioppo, who will serve as the general manager at Iron Bridge, is confident the new course will be a hit with golfers from both sides of the border.

"I don't think we'll need a push (to entice those from the U.S.)," he said. "The Americans do frequent the Niagara Region. We do anticipate the New York state community will frequent the golf course so much so that we believe they'll bring in anywhere between 10-25 per cent of our business."

Racioppo said club officials are predicting 30,000 rounds of 18-hole golf will be played during Iron Bridge's inaugural season.