

## High school golfers headed to provincial championships



*Zack Gervais, left, and Graham Byrne will compete in the Humber Cup Ontario junior golf championship tournament in Burlington next week.*

(Windsor, Ontario, Aug. 21, 2014) – A pair of golfers from two local Catholic high schools will be competing in the biggest tournament of their young lives next week.

Zack Gervais, who goes into Grade 12 at St. Anne Catholic High School next month, and Graham Byrne, who enters Grade 11 at St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School, will play in the Humber Cup Ontario Junior Tours Championship, a two-day event which kicks off Monday at the Hidden Lakes Golf Club in Burlington.

“I’m not nervous now, but you never know until you step on to that first tee,” said Gervais, the fourth player to qualify for the local team, which includes Vincent Massey Secondary School student William Stadder and University of Michigan sophomore Bryce Evon.

Players were selected for the team based on their performance in the Jamieson Junior Golf Tour, a summer-long, 10-event tour played at courses throughout Essex County. Byrne, who

finished third overall in the area, and Gervais both learned they made the team on Aug. 14 at Essex Golf and Country Club, the last stop on the tour, where they both shot an even 72.

“This is my first real out-of-town tournament that I’ve qualified for, so it’s really taking my game to the next level,” said Byrne, who also works part-time at the Essex club. “I’m kind of nervous, but I’m very glad to have a few older guys on the team who can help me understand what it takes to play in a tournament like this.”

The event will see participants play 54 holes over two days of the event: four-ball stroke play, alternate shot and individual stroke play. In addition to crowning a team champion, individual titles for both top male and female golfers will also be awarded.

Neither golfer has played Hidden Lakes before, but Byrne has an uncle who lives in the area, and has played the course about a dozen times.

“All of his friends have been e-mailing me and giving me details on how to play each hole,” said Byrne, who will get in a couple of practice rounds – one with family members on Saturday, and one with his team on Sunday – before the event. “I already have a little book going.”

Gervais, who played in the Ontario junior championship in 2012, said he likes the variety of competence and skills that each player on the team brings.

“We have a really good team,” he said. “We’re all different players. Graham is one of the best putters in the county, and Stadder just hits bombs off the tee. I hit a lot of greens and don’t miss too many fairways. And of course, Bryce has a ton of experience.”

Neither player has decided on their post-secondary plans just yet, but Byrne is leaning towards engineering at the University of Windsor, while Gervais is considering marketing and business at St. Clair College. Both play for their high school teams and said it’s “pretty cool” that they get to represent their region and their school at the provincial level.