

TRUE NORTH IS OWNED BY A TRIO who would put the panel of the hit television show *Shark Tank* to shame. Business executives Tony James, Fritz Duda, and Scott Leisher follow five business principals of accountability, excellence, integrity, teamwork, and entrepreneurship.

HARBOR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN: “There’s no one more cynical than a wealthy New Yorker,” teased Tony James, president of Blackstone and co-owner of True North Golf Club. “The well-heeled in the Northeast tend to gravitate toward South Florida and the Bahamas for an escape. Many are surprised to learn Northern Michigan is the summer playground of the Wrigley, Reynolds, and Forbes families.

“I first learned of Harbor Springs by virtue of my wife’s family vacationing in the area,” said James. “The town sits hard against Lake Michigan offering a myriad of water sports from sailing to fishing. The body of water is so large it’s equivalent to a small ocean, but with fresh and clean water. Each season offers something magical. During winter, there’s nothing more romantic than sitting in front of a roaring fire and during the summer, when days are so long you can host a dinner party, then play 18 holes.”

True North Golf Club is located 10 minutes from Harbor Springs and Little Traverse Bay. It’s a private, debt-free golf club with a nationally recognized Jim Engh championship course and Camp True North with stocked trout ponds. The clubhouse and member cottages are stylish with a Northern Michigan, timber-framed feel.

“Our club cottages, exclusive for member use, provide the luxury of a summer home without the need to purchase a multi-million dollar house,” said James.

As the weather warms, activity at the club and around town comes to life. “One thing doesn’t change—the pace of living in small town Americana. I’m not the best golfer,” admitted James, who carries a 20 handicap, “but I love playing on a championship course that’s always in tournament condition. Life here is serene. It’s my opportunity to reset before heading back to the frantic pace of Wall Street.” ■

Harbor Springs is often referred to as the “Nantucket of the Midwest.”



“I’LL WALK A SITE FOR DAYS ON END noting ‘hot spots’ on the land that will create dramatic view corridors. Typically, I find four or five. At True North, I found eight or nine. The variety of holes creates intrigue and makes you wanting more.” – JIM ENGH