

SAVOUR the SEASON

GOLF GADGETS FOR THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

BY MIKE DOJC

Golf is best enjoyed when you're not in a rush, when everything else melts away and you start to notice the little things that keep you coming back to the game again and again: the sweet sound that emanates off the clubface when it makes solid contact, the sight of a baby fox scampering across the fairway, and the fresh scent of dew in the morning. Scoff at the saccharine sentiment all you wish, but with days at their longest, there is simply more opportunity to get in a round of 18. Now is the time to think outside the tee box, fortifying your arsenal with gear to make the most of your golf season.

■ SONIC GOLF SYSTEM

Key in on a smoother tempo, improve the efficiency of your motion and find the rhythm of your swing with this innovative audio aid (from \$399) developed by Yale physicist Bob Grober. It might sound odd, but it's so successful Tiger Woods' celebrated coach, Hank Haney, turned to this little gadget to refine Charles Barkley's clunky stroke. The device attaches to your golf club's shaft and converts swing motion into melodious tones that you hear on a headset. Sure,

being berated by an instructor about what you're doing wrong works for some people, but it still creates anxiety as you obsess over the



minutiae of your swing mechanics. By locking into the brain's innate sense of melody, this device allows you to tune out distractions and tune into the tones to fix your swing's deficiencies. sonicgolf.com

■ ECOBEE THERMOSTAT

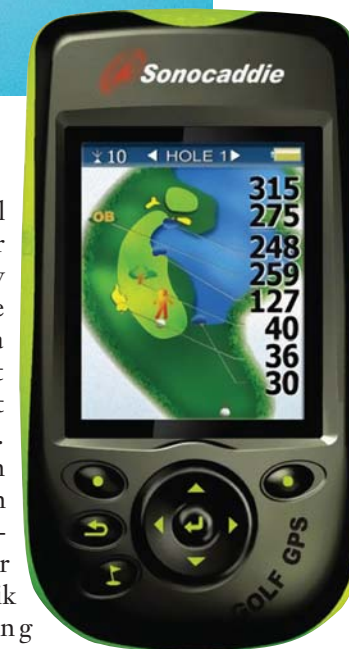
This sleek and "smart" full-colour touch-screen thermostat (\$385) aimed at the green living set will reduce your environmental impact and save you money on your utility bill. With its easy-to-follow menu you can program your preferred room temperature, as well as the time you get out of bed, leave the house and go to sleep. Or just hit the "Quick Save" button if that's more your speed. You can also control the Ecobee remotely via the Internet. If you're heading to the cottage to play 18 and want to make sure the place is nice and cool when you arrive, use your Blackberry to pump up the A/C an hour before you arrive. A step or two above your standard programmable thermostat, this energy-saver connects to your home's wireless router and can receive live weather forecasts and temperature alerts. ecobee.com



PHOTOS
Canon Powershot D10, Sonocaddie V300,
Miura 1957 series putters and TowCaddy.
(Opposite page) Ecobee Thermostat
and Sonic Golf System

■ CANON POWERSHOT D10

This 12.1 megapixel memory preserver (\$330) is not only built to withstand the elements, it will take a beating, too. Forget to zip your bag pocket shut? No worries. The hard body can take a tumble down the cart path and survive to capture your buddy pulling a Henrik Stenson—stripping down to his skivvies to tackle a muddy lie to avoid the hassle of heading to the dry cleaner afterwards. The compact surf and turf cam can also take a 33-foot plunge into the wet stuff to capture underwater moments, and since it can handle temperatures as low as -10°C, it's a must-have for your next ski vacation. canon.ca



time and scope out a myriad of measurements from hazard yardages to the distance to the front or back of the green—even when you don't have a clear sightline. Speed up your pace of play by shaving precious time off club selection. Curious about how far your drive travelled? Press the mark button before taking a shot, then walk to your ball and press it again for an instant reading. It also includes game tracking and analysis features, and users can modify reference points as courses change over time. Sonocaddie features 3D colour layouts of more than 20,000 courses worldwide. Check Sonocaddie's online database to see if they've already got your regular links covered. sonocaddie.com

■ MIURA 1957 SERIES PUTTERS

Master craftsman Katsuhiko Miura has been making clubs for more than 50 years in Himeji, Japan, a city famous for pounding steel into samurai swords. His forged irons have earned him worldwide acclaim, and the Japanese media has lauded Miura as having the "hands of God." Ian Woosnam, José María Olazábal and Retief Goosen have won majors with Miura's divine handiwork, and when Tiger was playing Titleist, he asked



Miura-san to refine the muscle-backed beauties. Miura's putters (\$390) are crafted using the same milling process as his irons, and they emphasize skid-reduction while maximizing distance control. With an elegant oiled chrome finish, these toe-weighted, offset modern classics look as good as they feel. The KM 350 and MP 005 models are pictured. miuragolf.com

■ TOWCADDY

When junior high golfer Cooper Fullmer was looking for a chauffer-free way of getting to the golf course, he and his inventive father, Howard, conceived of this pull cart bike trailer (\$189.95). Whether you live near a golf course and want to give the kids an independent means of getting there, or you're the Inspector Green Gadget in the family and are seeking an emission-free trek to the course, this nifty transport is right up your alley. The cart can be attached to any bike at the seat post. Once you arrive at the links, just pull a pin and the cart detaches from the bike and you're ready to play. towcaddy.com

