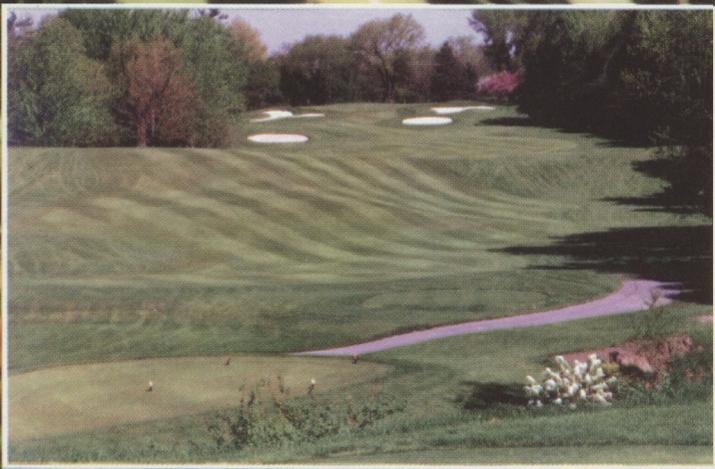


# Green is Beautiful

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION





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## Green is Beautiful 1995

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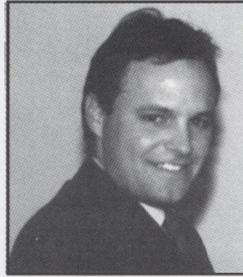
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### GREETINGS AND HO HO HO

Now that the Holiday Season is upon us, the golf course holiday season has also arrived. The days are shorter, the pace is slower, there is very little weekend work and our

time is spent reflecting on the past year and planning for the year ahead.

Winter is also a time for education and in this business it is extremely important to be well informed and up to date. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium promises to be a great learning experience again this year. There will be a very informative speaker program and a dynamic trade show all wrapped up in a new venue. The OTS committee should be commended for the job they have done again this year.

Finally, this is the last time I will address you as President of this fine organization. During my eight years on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association, I have met many fine individuals and made many new friends. This experience has been a rewarding one and I do not regret a minute of it (Well - O.K. - maybe one or two). I hope to continue with Association work in the coming years and I encourage others to work hard to keep the O.G.S.A. strong and growing.

FOR THE O.G.S.A.

JOHN TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

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# OAKDALE AND PAUL DERMOTT

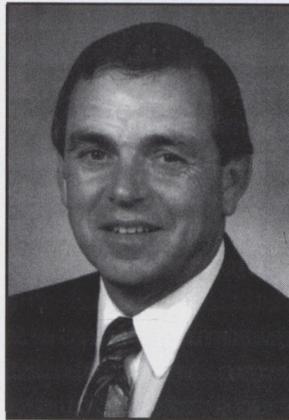
by Gordon Witteveen

The Oakdale Golf Club in Downsview lies in the flight path of a major runway to the Toronto Airport. Passengers with window seats have a chance to get a birds eye view of Oakdale just before touching down. They see 27 immaculately groomed golf holes, alongside a small stream and interspersed with many naturalized wild areas. Oakdale is a small paradise in a suburban jungle. A paradise not just for the well heeled golfers that play there, but also for the foxes, the rabbits, the birds and even at times deer, that make Oakdale their home.

Golf Course Superintendent Paul Dermott likes it that way: 292 peaceful acres for ardent golfers to play on and live in harmony with the animals that inhabit the long grass, the shrubs and the trees. Dermott planned it that way! The golf course was established long ago, 1926 to be precise, but it was just a golf course, a country club with trimmed grass from fence to fence when Dermott arrived almost twenty years ago.

With his farm background and an education from the Ontario Agricultural College, augmented by a diploma from Penn State, Dermott set to work to put his stamp on Oakdale. What a task it was. Tees were rebuilt, bunkers reshaped and fairways leveled. Dermott was careful with the greens. He admired the contours that the late Stanley Thompson had created and made sure they were preserved. Except for one green on the original course, which needed to be completely reconstructed to make it more playable for the discriminating Oakdale golfers.

While Dermott changed the primary golfing areas, he did not neglect the roughs and the boundaries. Hundreds of trees and shrubs were planted and the grass was left to grow in



In 1991 Paul Dermott was selected as the Superintendent of the Year in Canada and received the prestigious Score Award. Recently the Oakdale Course has become fully certified under the NY State Audubon Society cooperative program for golf courses. Earlier this year, Paul Dermott received the Environmental Stewardship Award for all of Canada from the GCSAA.

many areas, where it was not directly in play. At first the golfers objected to the unkempt appearance of the course, but Dermott with the encouragement of his directors persisted and soon the golfers began to realize the benefits of the more natural appearance. Wildlife returned to the links, birds began to sing and wild flowers bloomed to profusion. The contrast between the manicured fairways and the naturalized roughs was startling.

Even single minded golfers, interested only in their scores and handicaps, began to recognize the beauty of their newly created landscape.

A visit to Oakdale and a tour of the property is an experience in perfection. The cartpaths are perfectly paved, there are no cracked edges or potholes. There are few divots on the tees or on the smooth fairways. The ballmarks on the greens are always repaired. The fairways are freshly cut and there are no weeds in the primary

roughs. Although Paul Dermott uses his modern irrigation system sparingly, there is never any brown grass at Oakdale. It seems that turf just does not die at Oakdale. During the horrible summer of 1995 when hardly a golf course in the entire province escaped without losing at least some grass, Oakdale hardly lost a blade! Even a visit to the washrooms on the golf course is an education in superior housekeeping.

It seems there is always a project on the go at Oakdale: A backhoe digging a hole or a bulldozer levelling a hill. Paul carries along a bundle of blueprints and patiently explains his plans. The work will be completed on time and done to perfection. There is no other way at Oakdale. Paul Dermott is constantly improving Oakdale. His most recent endeavour is the creation of huge piles of compost, from leaves,

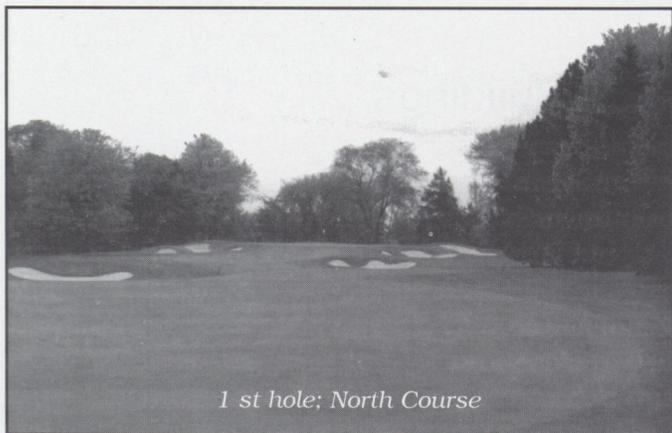
# OAKDALE

*continued*

sod and other organic debris. Fast moving motorists going north on Highway 400 can catch a glimpse of the compost piles being churned by Paul's machinery. Next year he plans to apply the compost to his fairways and greens and is convinced that as a result there will be less need for medicine to control fungal diseases that turfgrass is prone to.

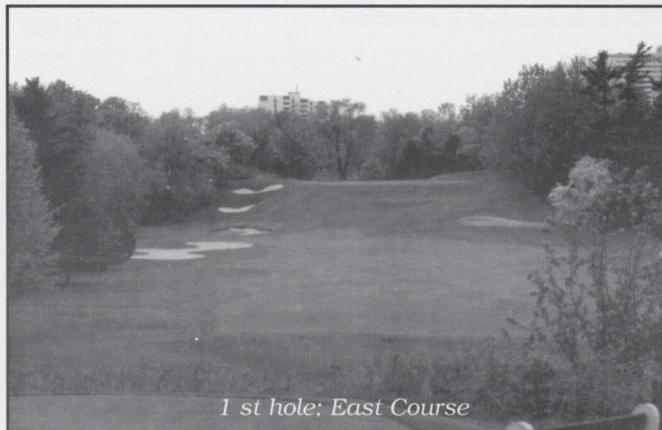
As one enters the Oakdale property from Jane Street one must pass the scrutiny of a no nonsense security guard. An appointment with the Golf Superintendent is all that it takes to be let in. Then there are the flowers, a splendid display of perennial colour, separated by trimmed hedges and emphasized by an occasional piece metal sculpture. The luxurious club house is mostly hidden by plantings of bushes and specimen trees.

The Maintenance Yard at Oakdale is past the parking lot and wedged between the first and second hole of the West Nine. All available space is taken up by three buildings, material bins, a wash up area and a fuel depot. What strikes one immediately, is the neatness, the organized activity and the air of purposeful dedication to doing a good job. There is probably enough equipment and machinery at Oakdale to look after at least three other golf courses, but that is of no consequence. It is the manner in which the equipment is deployed and the organizational talent that result in a superior product on the golf course.



*1st hole; North Course*

Paul Dermott has been a golf course superintendent for more than 25 years and he has now reached the pinnacle of his profession. He is admired and respected by his peers and appreciated by the golfers and guests at Oakdale. He is often asked for advice and shares freely from his knowledge



*1st hole; East Course*

and experience. Dermott however, has been much more than a golf course superintendent. He guided the Ontario Golf Superintendents through some turbulent years but his greatest accomplishment was no doubt the creation of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation.

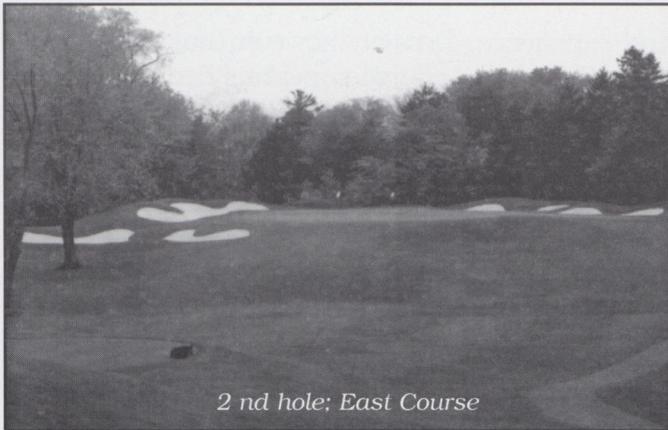
Paul Dermott had a dream, a dream that had its origins at Penn State College, when he was an undergraduate student at that institution. The dream was to establish a turfgrass research facility at Guelph University, his alma mater, equal to, or better than the one at Penn State. Anyone who has visited Penn State and seen the research plots, will realize what an ambitious dream this was for Paul Dermott. With the help of Keith Nisbet and Allan Beeney and several other dedicated individuals, Dermott organized the Foundation and began to raise money. It was his cautious and frugal management, his organizing ability and the countless meetings that he organized with government bureaucrats that eventually resulted in the establishment of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Today, turfgrass research and turfgrass education at the University of Guelph may not be of the magnitude of Penn State, but it is on the way and running, thanks in no small measure to the efforts of Paul Dermott and his fellow turf enthusiasts.

Now this giant of a little man has another ambition, another dream. He wants to become a director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The GCSAA in Lawrence, Kansas is a large organization with nearly 15,000 members and is a major player on the golfing scene in North America. The GCSAA has always had a large contingent of Canadian golf superintendent members. Indeed, the third president of the GCSAA was a Canadian, Wm. Sansom, the one time greenkeeper of the Toronto Golf Club. Others have followed: John Gray from Windsor Essex in 1940. David Moote from Rosedale in 1964 and Jim Wyllie from Lambton in 1982.

# OAKDALE

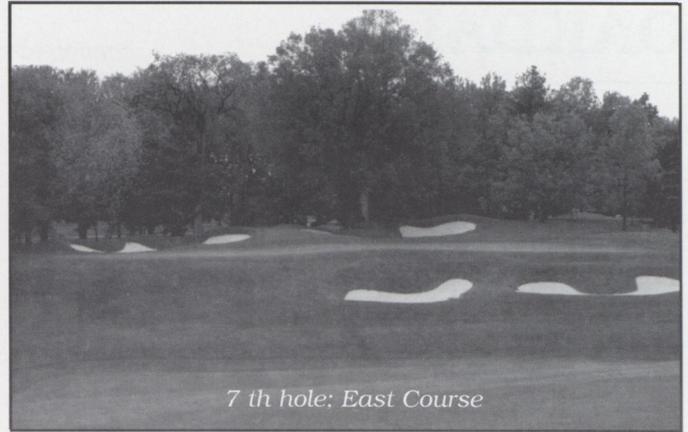
*continued*

It is obvious that the time has come to promote another great Canadian and an outstanding superintendent. Paul Dermott ran for election last year and lost by a whisker. He had wide ranging support from across Canada and carried more than 200 proxy votes not just from Canada, but also from superintendents in other countries. In the United States he had the support from several large chapters, but it was not quite enough!



*2 nd hole; East Course*

This year in Orlando our hopes are high that we can get our colleague and friend elected to the prestigious Board of the GCSAA. A Canadian presence in Lawrence would benefit us all. It would



*7 th hole; East Course*

cement the close relationship we have always enjoyed with the GCSAA. It would also be beneficial for the Americans to have a Canadian on Board. We have been friends for so long and we benefit so much from working together.

The campaign for Paul's election is once again in the capable hands of Bob Heron, Superintendent at Beacon Hall, who has many friends and contacts in the USA. Bob will use his influence and his powers of persuasion but he needs the help of everyone. If you have a friend or an acquaintance in the USA, now is the time to make contact and praise the credentials of our candidate. No one is more solid, no one is more dependable, he is one of our best superintendents and no one will make a better director than Paul Dermott on the GCSAA. **Please share the dream!**

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Dr. James R. Watson** has touched nearly every aspect of the turfgrass management industry. He is an accomplished researcher, author and lecturer on turfgrass care and management, water conservation and cultural practises. Dr. Watson has served to enhance communication between the business community and the research and academic arenas of the turfgrass industry. His unique perspective has allowed the diverse elements of this industry to gain greater understanding of the roles and challenges of each segment.

During his extensive career, he has received many awards for his distinguished service and work throughout the turfgrass industry. His most recent awards have been the prestigious Donald Ross Award presented to Dr. Watson in 1994 by the Golf Architects Society of America and in 1995 the Old Tom Morris Award, the Golf Course Superintendents Society of America's highest honour. Over the years he has been elected to Boards and Committees of various organizations. He is also a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society as well as being appointed adjunct professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota.

Since joining the Toro Company in 1952, Dr. Watson's work has encompassed the areas

of equipment development and evaluation, customer relations and agronomic consultation. Dr. Watson is a leading exponent of the critical need to conserve water, utilize waste waters and evaluate the role of water in turfgrass care and management, as well as the need for development and use of drought and salinity tolerant turfgrasses. In addition, he has conducted research on the adaptability of species and cultivars of turfgrass; fertilization practises; irrigation and compaction effects on fairway turf; snowmold prevention; and techniques for the winter protection of turfgrasses.

As the agronomic coordinator of the 1994 World Cup Venues, Dr. Watson was involved in many new technologies which were put in place to accommodate the requirement that all World Cup soccer games be played on natural turf. Dr. Watson will highlight those technologies, as well as bring us up to date on other new developments that have arisen in the use of temporary, natural turfed sports fields.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**

**8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**  
Lower Level Foyer

**TRADE SHOW OPENS**

Constellation and Galaxy Ballrooms and Foyers

**10:00 A.M. OPENING CEREMONIES**

Rhod Trainor, Chair - OTS '96

**GUELPH TURFGRASS INSTITUTE UPDATE**

**Rob Witherspoon, Director - GTI**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: SOCCER IS PLAYED ON TURFGRASS - PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY**

**Dr. James Watson, Toro International**

**11:30 A.M. TRADE SHOW EXHIBITOR SPONSORED LUNCH BREAK**

**AFTERNOON - INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SEMINARS 2:30 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.**

**GOLF COURSE 2:30 - 3:15**

Low Maintenance Turf for Roughs - **Dr. Doug Brede, Jacklin Seeds**

*continued on page 8*

## Ontario

# Turfgrass Symposium

Continued from pg. 7

3:30 to 4:15

Pesticide Regulatory Update - Pesticide Licensing and Storage - **Lorna Poff and Wanda Michalowicz, Ministry of Environment and Energy.**

4:15 to 5:00

Stress Response of Bentgrass Mixtures vs. Single Cultivars - **Yuelan Chen, GTI**

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

#### MORNING - CONCURRENT SEMINARS

##### 9:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON

1. Irrigation and Water Use - **Dr. James Watson, Toro International**
2. Grub Workshop - **Dr. Patricia Vittum, University of Massachusetts**
3. Basic Turf Cultural Practises, Topdressing, Aeration and Renovation - **Dr. Paul Rieke, Michigan State University**
4. Understanding the Human Element in Today's Organizations - **John Watson, John Watson Group**

11:30 TRADE SHOW EXHIBITOR  
SPONSORED LUNCH BREAK

#### AFTERNOON

##### INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SEMINARS

##### 2:30 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

2:30 to 3:15

Fungicide Resistance Management  
- **Dr. Henry Wilkinson, University of Illinois**

3:30 to 4:15

A Cultural Approach to Moss Control on Bentgrass Greens - **Dr. Karl Danneberger, Ohio State University**

4:15 to 5:00

Thatch Control: Management Practises and

Biostimulants - **Bob Vavrek, USGA Green Section.**

**Thursday 5:00 P.M.**

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

#### MORNING - CONCURRENT SEMINARS

##### 9:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON

1. Turf Disease Management Workshop  
- **Dr. Henry Wilkinson, University of Illinois**
2. Basic Principles of Turf Management  
- **Dr. Jack Eggens, GTI**
3. Turfgrass Ecology and Management  
- **Dr. Karl Danneberger, Ohio State University**
4. Interviewing - A View from Both Sides of the Table - **Dr. Lynda Pinnington, Pinnington Training and Development**

#### 12:00 NOON LUNCH BREAK

#### AFTERNOON

##### INDUSTRY SPECIFIC SEMINARS

##### 1:00 P.M. TO 3:15 P.M.

1:00 to 1:45

Managing Greens Under Stress  
- **Bob Vavrek, USGA Green Section**

1:45 to 3:15

##### Superintendents Talks .....

Installing Drainage into Existing Greens - **Scott Dodson, The Park Club, Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Preparing the Toronto Golf Club for the Canadian Amateur - **John Gravett, Toronto GC**  
Making the Transition from Assistant Superintendent to Golf Course Superintendent **Peter White, Aurora Highlands GC**  
Construction of a Pesticide Storage Facility - **Paul White, Mississauga Golf Club.**

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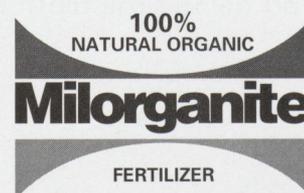
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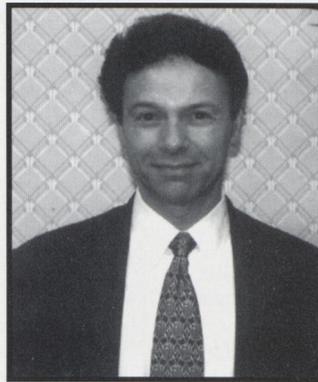
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## Monsanto/Solaris Present Dr. Vince Covello *by Alex La Belle*

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On October 27th Monsanto/Solaris hosted a seminar on Risk Communication at the Airport Marriott hotel in Toronto. It was an eye opening introduction into the realm of public relations. We in Ontario have been faced with an uphill struggle to educate the public of the need for judicious use of pesticides. In many cases we have approached the task in a less than ideal manner. Dr. Covello's work in this area has uncovered a number of subtle nuances that are keys to getting the message across and having the truth accepted.



Dr. Vince T. Covello has authored or edited over 25 books and in excess of 100 published articles on risk assessment, management, and communication. Among his most recent books are: *Effective Risk*

*Communication*; *Programs Evaluating Risk Communication*; and *Risk Analysis: A Guide to Principals and Methods for Analyzing Health and Environmental Risks*. He has chaired over 30 conferences on risk assessment and communication. In addition he has directed workshops and seminars on risk assessment and risk communication for over 100 Fortune 500 companies and 30 government agencies.

Dr. Covello is currently serving as Visiting Professor of Environmental Science at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. He has previously served as Professor of Environmental Sciences and Medicine and Professor of Communications and Psychology in the School of Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Covello is also Director of the Centre for Risk Communication in New York City and teaches courses on risk assessment, management, and communication.

The course that Dr. Covello teaches in risk communication is a 14 week course. His task with us, therefore, was not easy. Through the use of overhead projections and video tapes Dr. Covello managed to pique the interest of the entire audience. In the interest of maximum information output and audience understanding he encouraged questions at any time. This allowed us to have immediate answers. Copies of the overhead transparencies were readily available to anyone who wished to review the seminar. The work that Dr. Covello does is not based on conjecture or vague remembrances of past personal experiences. It is university based research assembled through



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surveys, case studies and Experimental/field testing of messages and message characteristics. Instead of having people watch a video and give a reaction at the end of the viewing, the participants have immediate input. This is accomplished through the use of electronic sensors that can be pressed whenever the viewers see something they like or dislike. This way each part of the message can be dissected. It allows Dr. Covello to assess the audience's reaction to the images, message and person delivering the message.

Dr. Covello showed us that one must know the make-up of the target audience. In general, messages should be delivered at a grade level somewhere between a grade 6 to grade 8 student. This can be accomplished by using word processing software programs that evaluate grammar. It is important to avoid the use of jargon such as "exceeds a standard", "Leachate migrating off site" and "within established parameters". Negative words such as; no, not, never, nothing, none, can't or don't, should be avoided. We have all seen the effects of negative campaigns against the users of pesticides. It makes for sensational news when someone is accused of "violating" the environment. For every negative hit it takes three positive responses to restore a balance and it is not likely that the response will make the front page. Dr. Covello showed that the repetition of a negative allegation, even when refuted, results in reinforcement and reaffirmation of the negative. Non-verbal communication provides up to 50-75% of the message. Non-verbal communication is noticed intensely by the audience, interpreted negatively and can override spoken communication. These non-verbal signs include dress, eyes, hands and posture. Your eyes should look straight ahead and not move around a lot or blink excessively. Your hands should remain between the waist and chest with the palms open. Do not wring your hands or hide them. Your posture should be upright with a tilt forward of about 5%. The message

delivered should show empathy and caring, competence and expertise, honesty and openness, as well as dedication and commitment.

There was just so much information to be aware of that it can not be communicated adequately in this article. I hope that this piece gives you some small idea of what is involved in answering the allegations of alarmists. Conjecture is theirs; the burden of proof is on us and if we cannot effectively present the truth in a believable trustworthy manner then we are in trouble. Watch for an article on "The Seven Cardinal Rules of Risk Communication" by Dr. Vince T. Covello in an upcoming issue of Green is Beautiful. If you have the chance to attend one of Dr. Covello's talks, seize the opportunity. Until then I will leave you with three key risk communication messages as presented at the seminar:

- P = R** (perception = reality),
- G = T + C** (goal = trust + credibility)
- C = S** (communication = skill)



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## DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

### 47th Annual Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show

Saturday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 5

Contact: Conference: Andrea Franks  
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**Joan Yuelan Chen** University of Guelph Student

**Blair Taylor** Mississauga Golf Club Class D

# LETIN BOARD

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Nutrite is pleased to announce the introduction of two new fertilizer products for the 1996 season. At the request of a superintendent group, NUTRITE introduced 21-6-12 MINI F.M.S. (fast, medium, slow release nitrogen) for bentgrass fairways. Nutrite is also introducing SOLUTURF 29-7-15 water soluble fertilizer with Chelated Iron. Soluturf is the first of a new line of water soluble fertilizers being developed for the turf market.



## 2nd Annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge

On Wednesday January 24th the second annual hockey challenge will be held at the Jordan Arena. Jordan, Ontario is situated half way between Hamilton and Niagara Falls. The teams involved represent Toronto, Kitchener/Waterloo, Niagara Peninsula and Western New York.

Last year's contest was a thrill a minute with Toronto squeaking out an action packed win over Kitchener in the last game of the day. Buffalo brought a bus load of fans and far out cheered the Canadian contingent. The refreshments were plentiful and the price was very attractive. (ie. Free)

The person to get a hold of is John Taylor for a list of the area representatives to set up transportation for fan support or player lists. Come on out for a fun time and a chance to see some friendly faces ( except on the ice) half way through the winter break.

Drop by the O.G.S.A. Booth at the trade show for more information.



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## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF GOLF

BY Eric Williamson

Wouldn't it be nice to have a job where it was quite acceptable to be totally wrong in your professional assessments, predictions and forecasts? Ah - the life of a meteorologist.

Now, far be it for me to ridicule the profession of another person. As turf managers, we have all come to know Mother Nature, with her unpredictable mood swings and the vast range of her climatic capabilities from one extreme to the other. She can make it cold and she can make it hot; she can make it calm and she can make it turbulent; and of course she can make it rain and she can make it...? not rain!

How many of us have awakened at night waiting for the rain we were promised by the weather persons, only to crawl out of bed early in the morning to give the greens and tees a generous syringe cycle before the first tee time. On the other hand (for those without weather stations), how many of us have awakened in the middle of the night to the sound of thunder and wondered just how wet that low lying spot on such-and-such a fairway would be in the morning.

Yes, we can all sympathize with the meteorologist. Weather can be funny. Trying to predict it professionally probably isn't. However, I can't help but envy the thought of being able to answer a serious question from the Board of Directors with, "Well, there is a 50% chance of that."

## NOW IN ONTARIO

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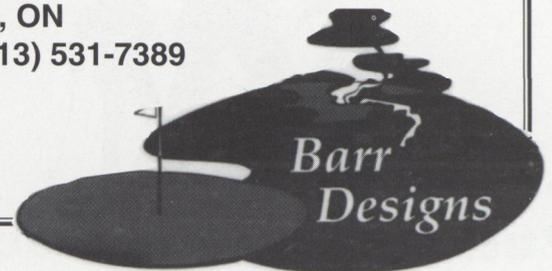
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## Nutrite and Ontario Seed Company Fall Seminar Another Great Success

Whenever Nutrite and Ontario Seed team up to put together a seminar, it is a success and this year's November 1 meeting was no exception. Held at Dundee Country Club, the seminar featured Mr. John Santacrose from the New York Audubon Society. Mr. Santacrose spoke about how superintendents can enhance their golf course environment to attract more wildlife and improve their public image simultaneously. Following this, Ontario Seed's Doug Yates discussed how to establish native wildflowers and grasses from seed on the golf course.

Marie Throne, of the Solaris Group, then made a presentation on the fungicide Banner, using state of the art computer images projected on the screen. Following a delicious lunch, the U.S.G.A. Greens Section Agronomist, Jim Skorulski, presented a topic that all superintendents could relate to "MANAGING PROBLEM GREENS". In his experience, Mr. Skorulski outlined all the major causes and solutions to problem greens. He insisted that poor drainage leads to other common problems encountered frequently by superintendents. Don't miss Jim Skorulski's next seminar on "washed sod" at the Canadian Superintendent's Conference in March 1996 in Vancouver. Next was Lookout Point's Course Superintendent, Aldo Bortolon. Standing on crutches from a soccer accident, Aldo had

everyone's attention with his talk and step by step slide show on the challenges of renovating all the fairways from poa to Bentgrass. The key to the success of this project has been Aldo's consulting with superintendents at other courses who had already gone through this. Aldo and his Greens Chairperson also managed to keep the Board of Directors and club members on side through communication. Stated Aldo, "Sometimes, it is a good idea to bring in someone from the outside to confirm to the Board and club members the benefits of the project. In our case, we brought in another Superintendent and David Oatis of the U.S.G.A. Greens Section."

The last speaker of the day, Mr. John Shelburne of Pursell Industries was unfortunately held up by heavy fog and was unable to attend the seminar. The day ended on a fun note with wine and cheese followed by entertainment by YUK YUK comedian, Dave Merry. Mr. Merry had everyone in stitches with his many jokes and props. He told the audience that he also had a hard time getting to Toronto because of the fog. "We circled the airport at least four times until I got up and told the bus driver that enough was enough" he joked.

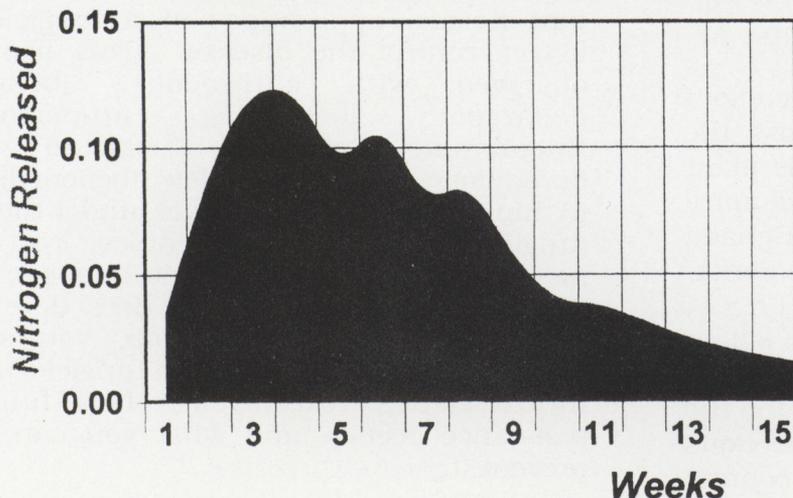
Our congratulations to Adrien and Chuck from Nutrite and Tami, Dave and Kent at Ontario Seed for organizing such a informative and fun seminar.

**Watch for Aldo's article in the next issue of Green is Beautiful.**

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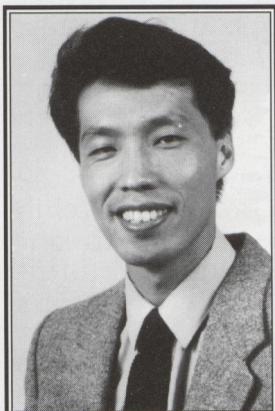


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# WHAT ARE FUNGICIDES AND WHY DO WE HAVE SO FEW IN CANADA?

By Dr. Tom Hsiang, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Guelph.



Fungicides are chemicals that kill or inhibit growth or reproduction of the fungus. Older fungicides were more toxic and generally less specific resulting in possible injury to organisms other than fungi. New fungicides are more selective and inhibitory

rather than killing. This has both positive and negative aspects. By being more selective and less toxic to non-target organisms, the newer fungicides are more environmentally friendly. On the other hand, the newer fungicides generally lack the persistence of older fungicides.

Fungicides (and other pesticides) generally have at least three names: common name, trade name, and chemical name. Many names may be used for the same active ingredient. For example, there are 600 pesticide active ingredients registered in Canada, with over 6000 formulations. Here are some examples of fungicides and their names.

Common Name (generic name, active ingredient)	Trade Name (company)	Chemical Name (formula)
benomyl	Tersan 199 Benlate	Methyl benzimidazole-carbamate
chlorothalonil	Daconil Bravo	tetrachlordisophthalonitrile
quintozene	Scotts FFII	pentachloronitrobenzene

Fungicides can exhibit systemic or contact activity. Systemic fungicides can cross the plant cuticle and are absorbed into the plant and translocated to growing points. Examples of systemic fungicides registered in Canada contain the following active ingredients: benomyl, thiophanate-methyl, carboxin/oxycarboxin, and iprodione (slight systemic activity). Most systemic fungicides have therapeutic properties which can stop the progress of existing or in-progress infections ("kick-back"). Other fungicides have contact

activity only; that is, they coat the plant surface and provide protection from fungal penetration or expansion. Examples of contact fungicides include: chlorothalonil, thiram, and mercury compounds. Systemic fungicides can also have contact activity. See OMAFRA Publication 384 for fungicides recommended for turfgrass management.

Fungicides, particularly the newer ones, do not eradicate fungi from turf; they only act to suppress growth for a relatively short period. Fungicides can be applied curatively (after disease seen) or preventively. The diseases for which preventive control is suggested usually cause so much damage by the time the first symptoms are visible that the outbreak cannot easily be brought under control with subsequent fungicide applications. However the preventive controls should only be used if the environment is conducive to the particular disease.

Curative control is suggested for:  
leaf spot (prior to melting out)  
dollar spot  
brown patch

Preventive control is suggested for:  
snow moulds  
Fusarium patch, especially in fall  
anthracnose  
pythium blight

A big problem with fungicides is the development of fungicide resistance. You find that normal applications of a fungicide no longer control the disease. This has been observed with anthracnose (benomyl), dollarspot (benomyl, propiconazole, thiophanate-methyl), fusarium patch (iprodione), powdery mildew (benomyl), and pythium (metalaxyl). However, under the same fungicide application schedules, resistance has not developed in other situations or other diseases. Where resistance does develop or has the potential to develop, you should alternate with other unrelated fungicides. In a future issue, we'll discuss how fungicide resistance occurs, and what you can do to prevent it.

## WHAT ARE FUNGICIDES AND WHY DO WE HAVE SO FEW IN CANADA?

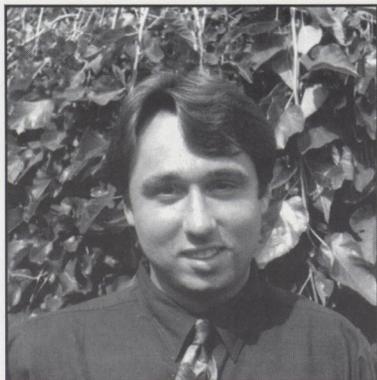
In Canada, we have fewer fungicides than are available in the U.S. For the American turf diseases, fungicide use is about 30 million kg/yr with the dollar spot and brown patch accounting for over two-thirds of fungicide use. For Canada, the statistics are not available, but the estimate is that over 50% of fungicide use on turf is for snow mould diseases, with the remainder divided between dollarspot and other diseases. In the U.S., 8% of the total pesticide market is in fungicides: of this, 25% is for ornamentals including turfgrass. In fact, turfgrass is the single largest commodity for fungicide use in the U.S. To warrant investment in a new active ingredient for turfgrass disease control in the U.S., the product must be good against both dollar spot and brown patch. The entire Canadian turfgrass market is too small for the development of a new fungicide. This

combined with the stringent regulations which we have in Canada is the major reason we have fewer fungicides available in Canada than in the U.S.

Recent reorganization in the federal ministries responsible for pesticide regulation should help streamline the process of pesticide registration in Canada. The branches of the ministries which had different responsibilities for pesticide registration and regulation (Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Health and Welfare Canada, and Environment Canada) will now all be housed together. In addition, there is movement toward equalization of requirements for pesticide registration between the Canadian process and the American one. Perhaps in the future, the same package will be sufficient for an application to register a pesticide for both American and Canadian regulators.

## PLANT PRODUCTS APPOINTS NEW SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Plant Products Co. Ltd. is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Jason Harris to the position of Sales Representative Turf Products.



Jason will be graduating from the University of Guelph with a degree in Horticulture majoring in turfgrass science. He brings with him a wealth of experience in turfgrass management earned while working in the United Kingdom with Buckinghamshire Golf Club and East Sussex Golf Club. Prior to that, he worked at Glen Abbey Golf Club, and at Plant Products Co. Ltd. Jason looks forward to meeting his accounts in north and south Ontario.

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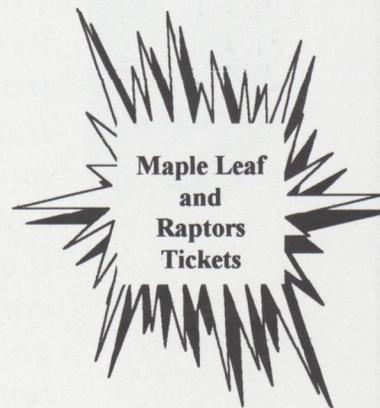
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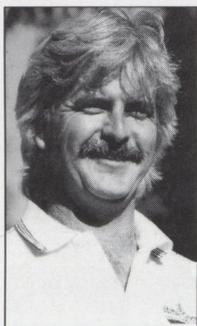
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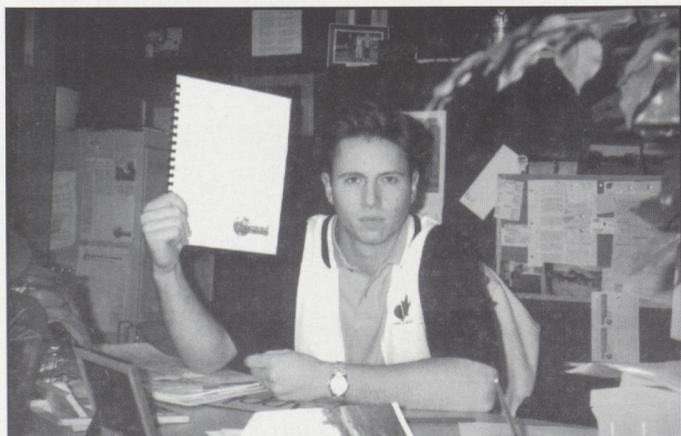
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# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## “HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH ANYWAY?...”

by MARK A. SCENNA



**Mark Scenna; Manager of Business Operations and President of Environmental Investigations Ltd.**

### TURFGRASS INDUSTRY REPUTATION POSSIBLY HARMED

Everybody knows, most importantly Golf Course Superintendents, that natural areas known as Environmental Buffer Zones existed



.....Subsequently, a lot more than Turf Management Professionals had expected.

Environmental Issues have now become the prominent focal point of discussion in many golf course management periodicals, journals, etc. So much so that environmental terms such as “due diligence, compliance & liability” are now common language.

However, many articles focus on strategies Superintendents have carried out to “Naturalize the Environment” or “Create Environmental Buffer Zones.” Terms that have (for the most part) been initiated by the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Now let me start by saying this is not an “Audubon bashing” article. I am not in any way disgruntling or disapproving the NYACSP or their initiatives.

What I do disapprove of and warn Turf Care Managers of is “blanketing or smoke screening” environmental concern on golf courses by just “Naturalizing the Environment”. Although this is the most popular article premise by industry affiliates, there are many other environmental issues a golf course must manage (as you are well aware) that should be addressed openly by the turfgrass industry.

for years before environmental issues came to the forefront of managing a golf course. Now, these unmanaged “wild fescue areas” are being praised for restricted pesticide use and limited mowing.

As environmental issues escalate, inquiries will increase from governing bodies such as Provincial Officers and Conservation Authority Enforcement Officers and extreme/radical environmental activists. Civil suits from angered society coupled with liability issues from Insurance agencies and financiers will expose the amount of environmental concern a golf course can possess.

### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Identification of non-compliance situations may arise at a golf course through such means as:

- Routine inspections
- Spills response
- Addressing complaints
- Environmental Bill of Rights requests (posted on the Internet for 30 days)

## **CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION & COMPLIANCE NEWS UPDATE**

"Pesticide discharged into the South Castor River" - An Ontario farm corporation, Patterson Potato Farms Limited and its' President, Ford Patterson, were recently fined \$12,000.00 after pleading guilty to discharging Thiodan 4EC, a schedule 2 pesticide into the South Castor River.

(courtesy/source: Legal Emissions, Summer '95. Unreported decision of J.P.D. Bartraw. Ont. Ct. (Prov. Div.) October 26, 1994, Ottawa)

"\$5,000.00 fine imposed for unsafe storage of pesticides" - Maclawn spray (1980) Limited was recently convicted of a number of offences under Reg. 914 of the Pesticides Act, namely; (i) storing pesticide in an area that is not clean and orderly; (ii) storing pesticide in an area without chemical storage warning displayed; (iii) storing a pesticide without adequate respiratory protection nearby; and (iv) failing to display a copy of a valid license at the location of the business. (unreported decision of J.P. MacPherson, Ont. Ct. (Prov. Div.) June 5, 1995)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT (ECA), AN ESSENTIAL MANAGEMENT TOOL**

Be prepared for routine inspections, spills response, addressing complaints and stabilize assurance with financiers and Insurance companies through an Environmental Compliance Audit.

Essentially an ECA arms Superintendents and their clubs with the facts required to correlate to environmental compliance legislation, an assessment of liability and contamination contribution. The Environmental Compliance Audit process is divided into two segments; Phase 1 and Phase 2. Typically, a Phase ECA verifies two areas of concern; Past Liability and Environmental Compliance within a golf course's operating system.

### **PHASE 1**

#### **A- LEGACY OF CONTAMINATION/PAST LIABILITIES**

To limit the liability of a property, a thorough

Title Search is completed, along with a study of aerial photography. Fire Insurance maps are studied to identify a visual chronology of past land users and operations/activities performed. Furthermore, a metal detector is used to detect the presence of any abandoned



underground fuel tanks.

Governing agencies including the Conservation Authority, MOEE, Health Dept. and Fire Dept. are solicited for information of any fines or violations issued at the golf course and any current outstanding orders or requests. In addition, inspections and interviews are conducted to identify any past/current environmental liabilities associated with the club.

#### **B - ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OF AN OPERATING SYSTEM**

The heart of the operating system of any golf course lies within the Maintenance Facility. All equipment, vehicles and products used to enhance the aesthetic quality of the course are stored here and can create hazardous conditions. Most of these sectors are governed by some legislation and/or guidelines.

The following sectors of a golf course's operating system are reviewed and then compared for compliance:

- used oil storage and disposal
- gasoline or diesel storage
- pesticide storage
- pesticide registration status
- surface water drainage (rinsate)
- fill regulation
- waste management practises
- misc. hazardous substance storage/disposal

## PHASE 2 SAMPLING PLAN AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM

Due to the current use of pesticides and the cleaning methods of pesticide application equipment, concerns for wash-water rinsate, its' disposal and pesticide residue leaching has elevated. Diazinon, Chlorothalonil (Daconil), Iprodione (Rovral Green) and Propiconazole (Banner) are just a few of the more popular chemicals being scrutinized.

As well, Organochlorines (old active ingredients - Aldrin, Endrin, DDT, Chlordane and Lindane etc.) used until the mid-seventies and heavy metals (mercury and arsenic) all have long residual lives that can pose a problem to the natural environment.

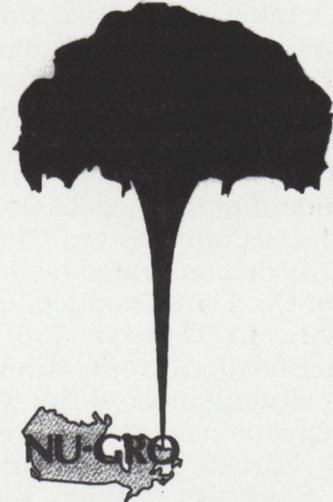
However, each golf course can be assessed through a customized Sampling, Plan & Analysis Program. Ideal sampling locations include: a) on the property (to use as a benchmark), (b) at the equipment cleaning wash basin and twenty feet away from the basin to measure residual leaching effects, (c) a sample taken from a green, (d) samples from surrounding residential boundaries, (e) off the property (to use as a benchmark), (f) a sample of an area 1 day after pesticide use to measure residual life.



Many other optional samples include (but are not limited to) - total NPK analysis entering/leaving/surrounding a property in search of fertilizer leaching. Decommissioning analysis at stained soil locations (oil or gas spill) to limit the golf course's potential liability.

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# NEW AERIFICATION MACHINE DEMONSTRATES ITS' WORTH

by Harold Van Gool

Although it was Friday the thirteenth, lady luck was with us as the sun was shining and the temperatures were high on a beautiful fall day in October. On this day, about 40 participants attended a demonstration of the Floyd McKay Deep Drill Aerification Machine and Profile Porous Ceramic Soil Modifier at Springfield Golf Club in Guelph.

This event was co-hosted by Mr. Ray Duke, superintendent of Springfield Golf Club and by Plant Products Company Ltd. The Floyd McKay Machine was demonstrated by Pro Greens Turf Aerification Co. Plant Products is representing their service in Ontario. Pro Greens does custom aerification work throughout North America including most of the top courses. To date, Pro Greens has aerified over 650 courses including Forest Lake Country Club in Michigan, Sawgrass Country Club and Doral Resort & Country Club in Florida.

The Floyd McKay Deep Drill Machine is a unique aerifier which uses fluted drill bits rather than tines to aerify greens, tees and fairways. Much like a drill bit bores into wood, the drill bits on this machine drill holes up to 1" in diameter and 10" deep. The holes are drilled in a grid pattern about 7" apart. The drill bits work in a "straight in, straight out" action augering out the soil from the turf soil profile eliminating compaction along the sides and bottom of the aerification hole. It does not stress the existing root system by lifting the

turf "mat" or by causing excessive vibration. In addition, the Floyd McKay Machine can give you the option of filling the aerification holes in the same process. The holes can be filled with sand, Profile Porous Ceramic Soil Amendment or a combination of the two accomplishing turf aeration and aeration hole filling simultaneously.

Aerification with the Floyd McKay can penetrate hard pans, increase root depth, allow better water percolation and avoid the compaction problems associated with conventional aeration methods. After the holes have been filled and/or drilled, the soil which mounds around the holes can be spread over the playing surface with a brush, drag mat or simply blown with a blower usually allowing the green to be played the same day.

In this demonstration, 100% Profile Porous Ceramic Soil Modifier was used to fill the aerification holes. Profile is a porous ceramic used as a permanent addition to the soil profile. Profile does not break down and in fact will degrade less than 2% in 20 years. The addition of Profile as a permanent soil amendment on its own or mixed with sand adds permanent pore space to the root zone of turf. It balances air and water pore spaces to help eliminate and prevent drainage and compaction problems. Profile is also non-compactable and will work with sand synergistically to resist compaction. In

addition, it has a cation exchange capacity of 33.6 that improves nutrient retention in the root zone, especially on sand greens and tees.

This demonstration of the Floyd McKay Machine was impressive and showed many advantages over traditional aeration methods. The combination of deep drill aerification by the Floyd McKay and the addition of Profile Porous Ceramic Soil Modifier into the aeration holes should greatly enhance the health and vigour of the turf on the demonstration green. It will be interesting to see the results of this aerification demonstration as the turf growth and health is tracked through next season.

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