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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ONTARIO SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

APR 23 1996



April Edition 1996





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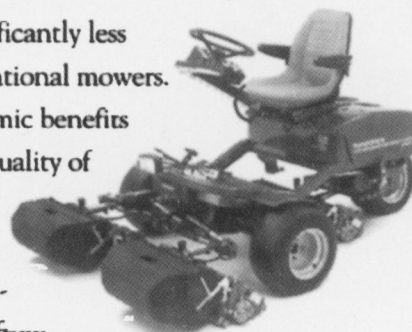
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"Icescaping" at Galt Country Club's #16 hole

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Cover: Lookout Point Country Club/Aldo Bortolon



President's Message

Many of us have, by now, had the chance to examine our courses and breathe a sigh of relief or utter a moan of despair. I cannot recall a winter that came so early and had as many thaws as the one just past. I'm sure there will be many interesting comparisons made between what we expected and what we actually got. Whatever the circumstance, I'm certainly happy to be at it again! We have had many interesting events occur over the "off season". The O.T.S. was a tremendous success, the hockey tournament treated everyone to an exciting shoot-out finish. The ski day and curling day were loads of fun and gave many people a chance to catch up on the latest gossip. I hope many of us were able to take part in the educational events that were available over the winter months. It is very important that all superintendents and assistants remain updated with regards to the latest information. It can give us the edge we may need in responsibly managing our courses. The golf and meetings schedule is prepared and a great round of applause should go out to Ian Bowen and his committee. The wheels have been set in motion on these events earlier than we have seen in many years. Ian also has the tournament schedule set up for many years to come. Bravo!, Ian. We welcome to the board Mark Piccolo as the new newsletter editor who has leapt into the job with enthusiasm and energy. Jim Flett joins us as membership director with some new and interesting ideas. Monte Anderson, from sunny Windsor, has agreed to undertake the onerous task of reviewing bylaws. A fond farewell to Bruce Burger, who steered us through some stormy weather and kept the ship from running aground. Thanks Bruce!

There have been a few job changes around the province. Some new people are getting their first crack at superintendency, there are some new assistants and some lamentable departures. Each year we start off faced with new challenges. Our association was founded in 1924. At that time the employment scene was very much different than it

is now. In a nutshell, our mission is to promote research and exchange scientific and practical knowledge to aid in the care of golf courses and turfgrass operations. We further seek to ally ourselves with like minded associations and organizations. We believe in promoting our ethical standards, justice, benevolence and education to and for our members. We offer a limited definition of ethical standards in our roster. In short we expect members to treat each other as we would like to be treated. We do have a say in what happens between members and should trust in each other to behave responsibly. In those cases we can convene an ethics hearing. What occurs between a club and its superintendent is out of our hands. This association is not a union set up to grieve employment injustices; perceived or otherwise. It is important, therefore, that when an opportunity for employment presents itself, that the individual ensure that all facts are obtained regarding the new position and the circumstances which led to its availability. Too often rumor is passed on as truth and misunderstandings lead to alienation. We should realize that the best way to serve and promote this association, and ourselves, is to earnestly do the best job we can at our courses, in an honorable and professional manner.

Good luck to everyone.

Wm. Alex La Belle C.G.C.S.

Master Superintendent

Wm. Alex La Belle, superintendent of Merry-Hill Golf Club, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA).

To become certified, a candidate must have five years' experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific educational requirements of college/university credit or CEU's. The candidate must then pass a rigorous six hour examination and an on-site golf course inspection by two currently certified superintendents. In Alex's case Mr. Paul Dermott and Mr. Neil Acton inspected the course.

Beach Grove Golf & Country Club

The 1996 Boarder Cities Golf Tournament will be held at the Beach Grove Golf & Country Club on April 22nd. This event traditionally launches the O.G.S.A. Golf and Meetings calender. It is time for us to avenge last years loss to "the damm yankees" so come out for the battle of 1812 all over again.



HISTORY: Beach Grove Golf & Country Club was founded in 1921 by a group of dedicated golfers from the Windsor area. The first president was Hiram Walker. He and his fellow directors engaged the services of renowned Canadian golf course architect, Stanley Thompson to design the Golf course. There have been changes, but many of Mr. Thompson's design features remain as evidenced by photos from the 1920's. The course is flat, heavily treed and requires accurate shot

making. The whole family can enjoy golf, curling, swimming, and a marina on Lake St. Clair. In the early years the golf course was mowed by horse drawn mowers. A ghost is said to haunt the dark corridors of the old tudor style clubhouse. The horses are gone and we're modernizing and improving our infrastructure, but we'll keep the ghost and the old charm that makes Beach Grove a unique facility providing year round enjoyment for its members.

We are honored to have the opportunity to show our hospitality to the members and guests of the Ontario and Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Associations annual spring meeting. We will already have begun to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Sincerely
Randel S. Hooper C.G.C.S.



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Golf Course Hockey Challenge

by Scott E. Dodson CGCS



Coach Everett Nieuwkoop

I would like to thank all the participants, volunteers and sponsors for making this years tournament a great success and congratulations to Team Kitchener for winning the championship. Even though Team New York was not very successful on the ice, everyone had a good time and our fan support was excellent. I have stressed to the rest of my team that Canadians are very serious and passionate about the game of hockey and that we are going to have to play to a higher level in order to beat them. Could you imagine the trauma of one of the Canadian teams losing a game to Team New York! Well you never know it could happen. (Yeah, right like the Sabres and Maple Leafs playing for the Stanley Cup!) Anyway, I will never be busy recruiting more players for our line up, and it might be interesting to note that a couple of questions that are on some Western New York Country Clubs employment applications, 1. Do you play hockey? and 2. Are you any good?

Well I hope everyone has a great golf season and we will see you on the ice next winter.

Superintendent's Top Ten Causes of Stress

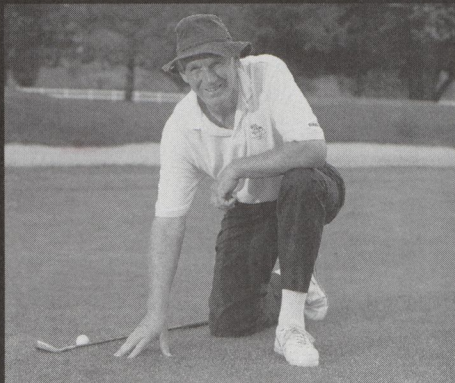
by Tom Hilferty

10. Owner wants you to hire nephew, who is going to school to become a superintendent.
9. Spray tech thinks calibration works best by trial and error.
8. Mechanic believes three different cutting heights is the best way to get that striped look.
7. Greens chairman enters you in big weed growing contest.
6. Weekend crew turns out to be you!
5. Your only friend are salepeople.
4. "Top Man" mows 45 acres of rough with mower in backlap.
3. High kryptonite levels in soil samples have you feeling run down.
(Sorry! That's Superman Stresses1)
2. Most of your membership are Paul Havery fans.

1. Last entry is missing spray tech's log is "Round-up-greens. Ha-Ha-Ha."

Ever believe in a product so much you want to write an ad?

Gordon Witteveen, Superintendent of Toronto's Board of Trade course did – and here, word for word – is what he wrote about his success with Nutrite Professional Quality Fertilizers.



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Gordon Witteveen, Golf Course Superintendent

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD AWARD

Paul Dermott, CGCS, of Oakdale Golf and Country Club in Downsview, Ont. has been named winner in the Environmental Steward Award Competition. The award is sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America Foundation and golf industry leaders Ciba Turf and Ornamental Products, Rainbird's Golf Division, Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. and Lebanon Turf Products.

"With the high quality and significant number of entries, winning an Environmental Steward Award has become one of the top honours for a Golf Course Superintendent," said Gary Grigg, immediate Past President of GCSAA. Paul Dermott's entry represented the International Region.

The Environmental Steward Awards were created to recognize Golf Course Superintendents and golf courses for their work to protect and enhance their local environment. Winners are recognized for overall course management excellence, outstanding programs to maximize pesticide and fertilizer efficacy, and irrigation and equipment efficiency, as well as wildlife preservation and habitat enhancement.

OAKDALE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

The Oakdale G&CC has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York State, and endorsed by the United States Golf Association and the Royal Canadian Golf Association. Oakdale Golf and Country Club is only the second in Canada and the fifty-second golf course to receive the honor.

Oakdale G&CC joined the program in 1992 and has shown "a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Marla Briggs, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Society of New York.

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1996 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium

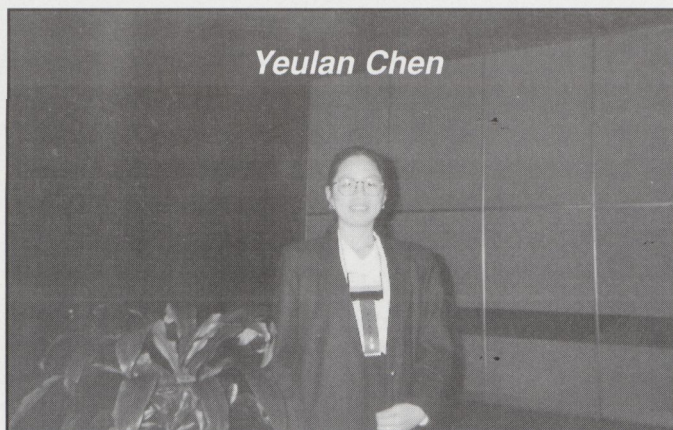
by Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turfgrass Advisor

of humour. The superintendent talks this year were of particular high calibre and the credit for that goes to Bruce Burger who is the O.G.S.A.'s representative on the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium Executive Committee. There are so many staff from the Office of Open Learning behind the scenes who also deserve much of the credit for the symposiums success, Belinda Jardim and Ursula Rodrigues to name a couple.



Dr. John Watson with Rhod Trainor

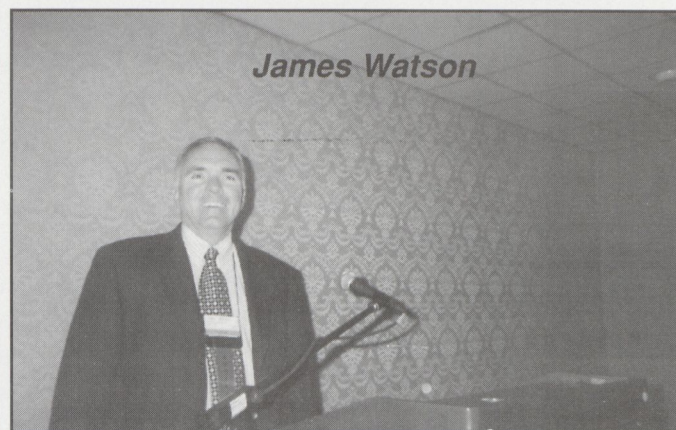
I think it would be safe to say that the 1996 OntarioTurfgrass Symposium was the most successful symposium to date. There were a total of 1500 attendees, which included exhibitors, speakers, volunteers and staff. There were a total of 97 exhibitors and 1177 attendees.



Yeulan Chen

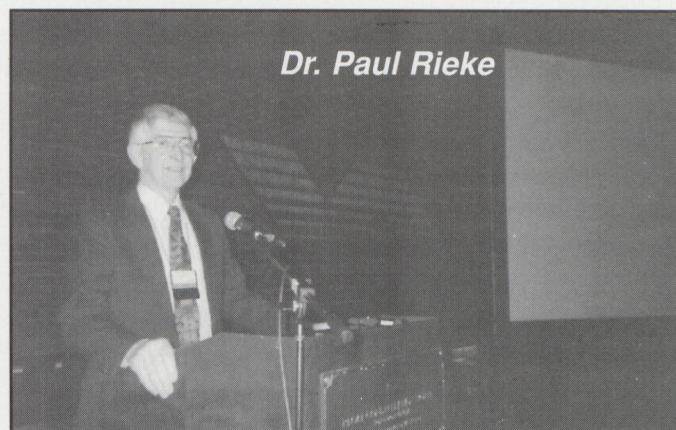
The previous symposia were held at the University of Guelph campus. As a result of changes to the academic calendar it was impossible for us to stay at the campus. In many ways this may have been a blessing in disguise. The venue at the Regal Constellation was very well received by the symposium delegates. Many expressed their pleasure in having the event all "under one roof".

In conversations with attendees at the symposium and through the evaluations it was clear to see that the attendees rated the quality of the speakers and the topics as good to excellent in the majority of cases. The best speakers were those that got their message across and added in a touch



James Watson

The future success of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium rests with our ability to put together a well balanced, stimulating speaker program with dynamic speakers. Those of us on the Executive Committee rely on your association to make suggestions of what and who you want to hear at the next symposium. If you have any ideas please submit them to John Taylor of Alex Labelle, who are both representing your association on the Ontario Turfgrass Executive Committee. After all this is your show. Get involved!



Dr. Paul Rieke

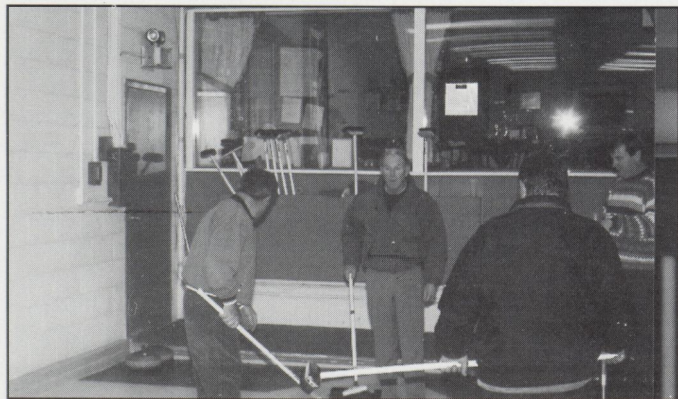
Alan Beeney's Annual Curling Day Meeting

by Alex La Belle C.G.C.S

The place: North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The event: Alan Beeney's Annual Curling Day Meeting on Friday March 22.

The situation: Down one in the final end of the championship game.

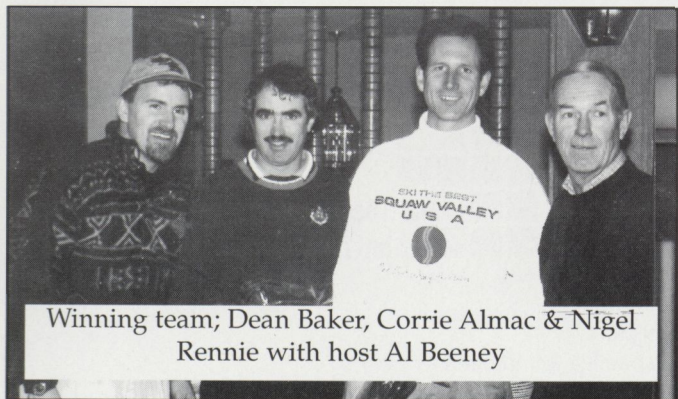


Crouching in the hack he coolly stares down the sheet studying in his mind the perilous path the rock must negotiate. It must weave its way through an army of guards, to draw up to the opponent's rock, in his attempt to sit on the button and force a carry over. The sweepers fidget, nervously dancing from one foot to the other, unconsciously twirling their brooms in anxious anticipation. Suddenly, the skip stands in the hack and motions a change in the position of the target. The front end look down the ice in shocked disbelief at the boldness of the skip's new battle plan. A long angle raise through the frost to drive the opponent's guard onto his own rock, sitting as third shot. Then this rock, knocking out the first and second shot rocks, must stay inside the four foot to count two and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. With a deep breath and a look of steeled determination the skip slides the rock back... upwards... and then blasts out of the hack, low to the ice guiding the rock to the hog line. The release... and the rock thunders its way down the sheet behind the furiously busy brooms of the front end. Commands screaming from either end of the sheet control the sweepers guidance of the

projectile. At the moment of ear shattering impact their arms fly into the air in joyous rapture at the realization that the ultimate gamble has paid off!



Although the final game really didn't happen as described, everyone felt that way at one time or another. It was a marvelous, fun filled day that brought together a bunch of curling beginners, amateurs, and veterans to gear up for the new golf season, quickly approaching. After a week of wonderful weather, that primed everyone for an early beginning to the golf season, we were dumped on with 10 to 20 cm. of heavy, wet snow. This event gave us a chance to keep our spirits up and exchange information regarding our thoughts on the approaching season's maintenance plans, new products and techniques. Any time a group of superintendents and associates get together, shop talk is a result. We can't seem to put our courses out of our minds. Not that there's anything wrong with that!



Winning team; Dean Baker, Corrie Almac & Nigel Rennie with host Al Beeney

Alan was the perfect host and the ice conditions were ideal! Thank-you Alan. Next year the event will begin at 10 a.m. to allow us a more leisurely approach to the day's different segments. You do not have to know how to curl to attend and participate!

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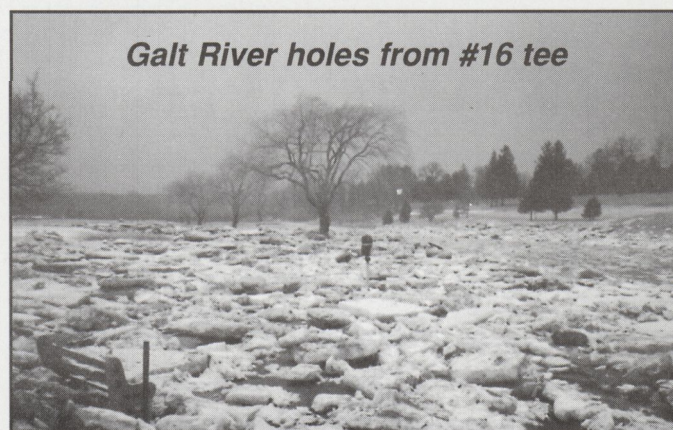
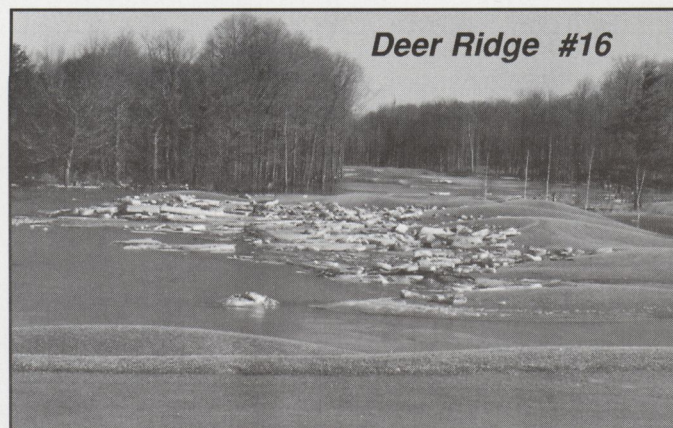
Spring Can't Come Soon Enough!

by Mark Piccolo

The Grand River once again showed its power during a late February thaw, as ice jams caused localized flooding, forcing the river and its contents over the banks of the Deer Ridge Golf and Country Club in Kitchener, and the Galt Country Club in Cambridge. Greg Aljoe, superintendent of Deer Ridge, experienced flooding levels greater than the 100 year flood level set out by the G.R.C.A. Approximately 8 holes were under water at Deer Ridge, irrigation satellites and bridges were destroyed, but it is still too early to determine the amount of scaring and sediments left behind from the water.

The Galt Country Club had dikes constructed along its 15th and 16th holes to divert the flowing ice away from the course. This has been very successful but water levels rose above the dike and ice came across. At this point in time only tee sign posts and benches have been destroyed. Only the spring thaw can reveal whats underneath.

We ask that Superintendents submit photographs of unique and interesting happenings at their golf courses, with a short description to the O.G.S.A.



47th Annual C.G.S.A. Turfgrass Conference

The C.G.S.A. 47th annual conference was held in Vancouver in early March. Close to 1500 golf superintendents and assistants were in attendance. During the outstanding educational portion of the conference, a number of internationally known speakers addressed the superintendents and others in attendance. Noted among them were keynote speaker Bobby Gee, Winning the Image Game; Dr. James Beard, How to Improve the Image of Turf; Dr. L. Turgeon, Turfgrass Growth Media; Dr. Lee Burpee, Positive and Negative Non-target Effects on Turfgrass Fungicides; Richard Psolla, Mis-interpretations of Soil Reports; Jim Leask, Pond Management; and James Skorulski of the U.S.G.A., Using Washed Sod. Superintendent Dave Whitell from Calgary, Alberta spoke about the facts and figures from the Country Club of the Hamptons.

The C.G.S.A. also saluted it's John B. Steel

Distinguished Award winner, Dr. Jack L. Eggens. Dr. Eggens was cited for his outstanding contributions to the development of turfgrass education and his support for golf superintendents throughout his career.



O.G.S.A. F

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GTI Update

What's happening in 1996 at the GTI? The Research Field day is moving from a once-every-two-years to annual event. The 1996 opportunity to tour the plots and meet the researchers is scheduled for Monday, August 19th. The OGSA is holding a golf event later in the day at Galt Country Club. An earlier start to the field day may be announced to accommodate the extra travel time to get from the GTI to the golf course.

One of the highlights of the GTI winter was the offering of two turf managers' short courses. An overwhelming response to the announcement of the February course resulted in the creation of an additional course in January. Both courses were filled by January. We had limited success in attempts to organize a late February seminar series for superintendents and staff. We hope to offer a similar program after this season at a time that conflicts less with the many conferences held in late winter.

The GTI Advisor, the new technical advisory bulletin published the GTI, is now in full swing. Published every two weeks from April to October, The GTI Advisor provides current seasonal information to aid in the management of landscape plantings with a special emphasis on turfgrass. Subscriptions are still available by calling (519)767-5009.

Like the preparations on a golf course, most of the current activity at the GTI revolves around preparation for the summer research season. Faculty and technical staff are planning experiments and applying for funding. Research Superintendent Norman McCollum and his staff are reorganizing the equipment building after renovations were completed in late winter. The renovations will allow us to use the building for equipment and irrigation technical training programs.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about GTI programs and services, please contact me at (519)824-4120 extension 6886 or by fax (519)766-1704. I would also welcome the opportunity to attend any events regional groups are holding this year. Any opportunity to meet with superintendents and discuss the research and education issues that are important to them is greatly appreciated.

- Rob Witherspoon, GTI Director

BULLETIN

1996 OGSA GOLF & MEETINGS

BORDER CITIES:

Monday April 22, 1996
Beach Grove Golf & Country Club

PRO/SUPERINTENDENT:

Friday May 10, 1996
Glenn Abbey Golf Club

PRESIDENT/GREENS CHAIRMAN SUPERINTENDENT/DIRECTOR:

Monday July 22, 1996
Angus Glen Golf Club

GTI SUMMER FIELD:

Monday August 19, 1996
Galt Country Club

1996 WOGSA GOLF & MEETINGS

May 6, 1996
FontHill Golf Club

June 3, 1996
Rockway Glen

July 15, 1996
Beaverdale Golf Club

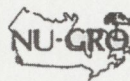
August TBA
Twenty Valley Golf Club

Sept 24, 1996
Brantford Golf & Country Club

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Short Course Scholarship Winners

Bruce Clark and Brad Jennings



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O.G.S.A/Hutcheson Ski Day

by Angelo Capannelli

As we all anxiously await the arrival of spring, there is a significant amount of others who don't want the snow and all its activities to leave.

On February 21st, those "significant others" gathered at Osler Bluff Ski Hill in Collingwood, On., for the annual Hutcheson/OGSA Ski Day.

The weather report for the day was mild temperatures with a chance of light drizzle and the intense fog was to dissipate as the day moved on. That forecast certainly didn't discourage the Steve Podborski's and the Alberto Tomba's of the world. Upon arrival at the official host cabin, skiers were greeted with a generous cup of coffee and freshly baked muffins, and asked if they would like to participate in the annual slalom race.

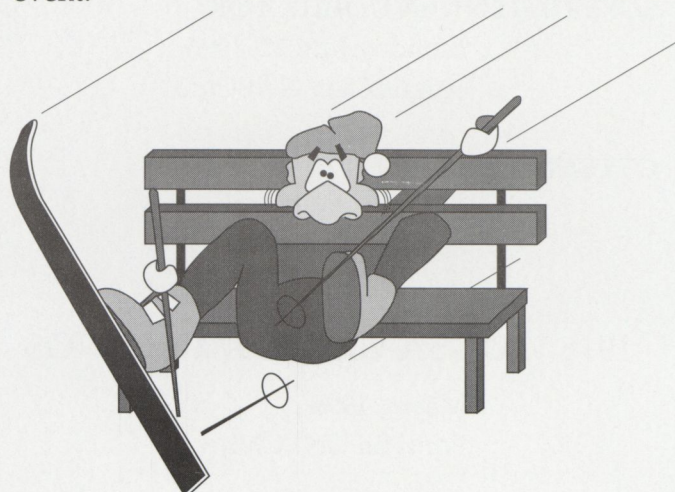
With skis thrown over shoulders and goggles firmly planted on their touques, the participants made the short trek over the main lodge area to collect their ski passes and begin the day's skiing activities. It wasn't long after that, they were racing down the hills. The snow was wet and the visibility was less than favorable, but with a few adjustments (no goggles) everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

The fog lifted just in time for lunch, when everybody gathered in the "Brown Bag" for a hearty bowl of soup, a sandwich, and a warm beverage. A few stories and a full stomach and then, it was out for some afternoon skiing. Unfortunately, Osler Bluffs and the ski day organizers felt that the visibility on the hills was too poor to run the slalom

race, so, it was rescheduled for the next years ski day. The afternoon ski seemed to be fairly exhausting as most of the skiers decided to retire early and head for the warmth and comfort of the ski cabin.

Back at the cabin people enjoyed a light dinner which consisted of sausages and hamburgers cooked on the barbeque and assorted salads. After some coffee and a little dessert with one last "Peak" at the Osler Bluffs, most of the guests bid a farewell and they were off.

The snow was challenging, the food was great and the company was excellent. Thanks to everyone who participated. A special thank you to the staff at Hutchesons and Cindi Charters for organizing the event.



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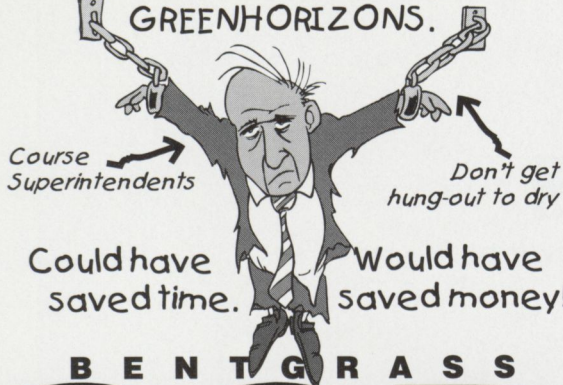
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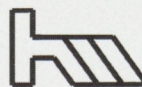
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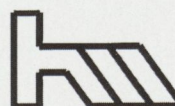
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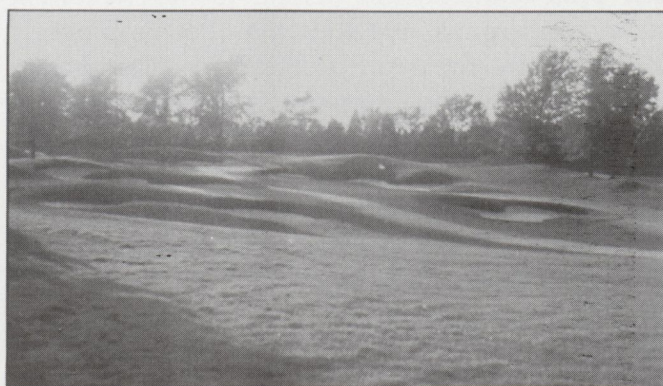
Nu-Gro Corporation is *GROWING!*

The Nu-Gro Corporation, based in Woodstock, Ontario, has announced it has purchased the business of Omnicology Inc. from Hudson Industries of New Jersey. Omnicology Inc. manufactures controlled-release methylene-urea nitrogen fertilizers including Proform™ and proleme™, which are sold world-wide. Nu-Gro is Canada's largest producer of specialty slow-release turf and ornamental fertilizers including the C-I-L brand, and is the leading producer of horticultural soil products, pesticides and cat litter. The acquisition strengthens NU-Gro's position in the slow-release nitrogen market in Canada and presents significant growth opportunities in the United States, Europe, and the Pacific rim.

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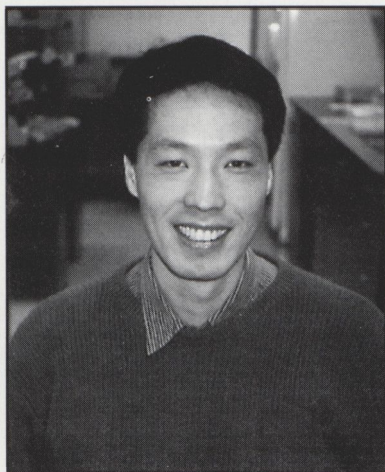


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Distinguishing pink and grey snow mould diseases

by Tom Hsiang



We Canadians are known for our great white north, and because of this beautiful snowcover, we also experience snow mould diseases right across the country. In fact, snow mould disease control probably accounts for a good half of

our fungicide use for turfgrass diseases. This article will discuss the reasons for needing to know and the actual differences between the two major snow mould diseases.

The first important reason to know the difference between snow moulds is that as we move away from the heavy metal protectant fungicides (e.g. Calo-clor, PMAS, Scotts Broad Spectrum Fungicide), turf managers need to be able to properly identify diseases to target their fungicide applications. The newer fungicides tend to be more specific and less persistent, and thus may not give broad spectrum control against all snow mould diseases. The fungi which cause grey snow mould and pink snow mould belong to very different taxonomic groups, and thus may not be properly controlled by the same fungicides. The second reason to know the difference is that the organism which causes pink snow mould can also cause Fusarium patch. If there is a heavy incidence of Fusarium patch as you go into winter, you may expect to see many patches of pink snow mould after snowmelt. Conversely, if you have heavy infection by pink snow mould, then you may expect the development of Fusarium patch if cool wet weather persists after snow melt.

Grey snow mould is also known as Typhula Blight, Snow Scald or Winter Scald. The American spelling of the disease is Gray Snow Mold. This disease is caused Typhula ishkariensis or Typhula incarnata, which can attack all cool season turfgrasses, particularly creeping bentgrass, annual bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass. The Typhula fungi are members of the taxonomic class

Basidiomycetes. This differs from pink snow mould which is caused by an Ascomycete fungus, and this difference is the source of some of the variation in disease control by different fungicides. The causal agent of Pink snow mould is Fusarium nivale (now more accurately known as Microdochium nivale). As mentioned earlier, this is the same pathogen which causes Fusarium patch. This disease also has the same turfgrass hosts as grey snow mould.

The conditions favouring the diseases also share similarities. Both diseases develop best under snow at -1 C to 4 C. Snow cover can be replaced by leaves, straw mulch and greens covers for disease development. Other conditions that favour the two diseases are: snowfall on unfrozen turf that has not been hardened by frost; high moisture, especially under melting snow or under snow on unfrozen ground; and high nitrogen, especially in fall prior to dormancy, providing succulent tissues.

The major difference in conditions favouring the development of the two snow mould diseases lies with the extent of snow cover: grey snow mould generally requires over 3 months of continuous snow cover whereas pink snow mould requires just a few weeks.

From a distance, the symptoms of the two snow mould diseases are similar. On low-cut turf, there are generally round patches of diseased turf up to 25 cm across. Under very good conditions for disease development, parts of the patches may merge and cause massive blighting. On long cut turf, there may be general blighting rather than distinct patches.

Grey snow mould patches often have a scalded or bleached appearance ranging in size and often merging under severe disease conditions. Greyish-white mycelium can frequently be seen on the outer margin of the patch, up to several days after snow melt.

Pink snow mould patches are orange to red-brown ranging in size from 10-20 cm but often overlap to form large irregular patches. White to pink mycelium can frequently be seen on outer margin of patch up to several days after snow melt but not as abundantly as with Grey Snow Mould. Sometimes salmon-coloured masses of spores may

Distinguishing pink and grey snow mould diseases

be found on leaf blades. As matted areas dry, leaves become pink to reddish brown margin, whereas the entire area may be reddish-brown for creeping bentgrass and perennial ryegrass. The major difference between the two, however, is the presence of sclerotia of grey snow mould. Sclerotia are small dark compact masses of fungal tissue that allows survival through adverse conditions. For grey snow mould, after snow melt, small swollen sclerotia can be seen, as large as 1/2 cm and visible to the naked eye. These large ones are pinkish-brown to a dark-red-brown resembling small mouse droppings, and they darken and harden as they dry. In areas with even longer snow cover, there may be much smaller pin-head sized (1/2 mm) sclerotia that are brown to black. As the sclerotia dry up and drop into the thatch, they are no longer visible, and become dormant throughout the summer. There are no sclerotia associated with pink snow mould.

When the two snow moulds appear together, grey snow mould generally causes more damage than pink snow mould. In some situations, crowns may be killed by grey snow mould whereas pink snow mould causes more of a foliar blighting. Whether or not you need to renovate depends on the extent of turf kill. The recommendation is to take a cup-cutter plug of diseased turf, place it in a plastic bag, bring it indoors, and keep under warm, well-lit conditions. If less than 50% of the crowns sprout new green tissue, then you may have to take action quickly.

The snow mould diseases tend to return to the same spots where they were in previous years because the favourable conditions for their establishment remained in those locations. Proper cultural treatments may reduce the incidence and severity of snow moulds even without fungicide control. But the first step is to be able to properly distinguish the two snow mould diseases.

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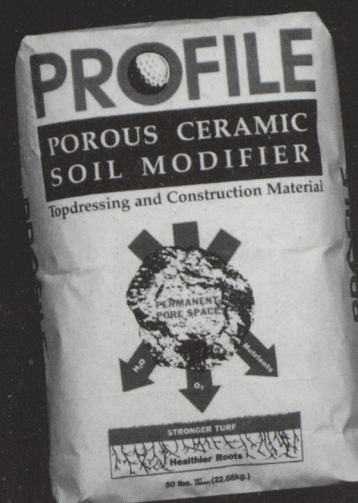
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THE RE-GRASSING PROJECT AT LOOKOUT POINT COUNTRY CLUB OR HOW TO INTRODUCE BENTGRASS FAIRWAYS IN EIGHT EASY WEEKS

BY ALDO BORTOLON, COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

As course superintendent at Lookout Point Country Club, I knew we had fairways with a predominance of Poa. The spring of 1993 was revolutionary for us because it made the Board of Directors and the membership aware of our weak turf. Only they could make the decision to budget the funds to address the problem. The overwhelming evidence of Poa under stress that spring made the problem of managing a Poa course a situation we had to rectify.

Certainly the politics of the situation had to be addressed by the Green Committee, Board of Directors and the membership. With the Green Chairman, I explored alternatives and worked on the steps involved in re-grassing our fairways. The program was approved and it became my task to undertake during the 1994 season.

Once the re-grassing project was approved, our first step was to look at our tournament and playing schedule for the next year. We notified our outside tournament organizers and told them what our playing conditions would be like during August and September 1994. At the time we felt we would close the course for four days to complete the job and keep all players off the fairways for four to six weeks after we renovated. Some internal and external tournaments were rescheduled or postponed.

We initiated the project in the spring of 1994. We felt that if we were going to re-seed the fairways to bentgrass they should be properly contoured. We had been working with the course architect, Mr. Thomas McBroom, so we brought his associate in and re-contoured the fairways in early spring.

As we started mowing fairways, we cut out the areas which were once rough and were now going to be fairways. We also let some existing fairway areas grow up to what would be the rough. We had to be sure before spraying with Roundup that everything was alive and green for the chemical to work effectively.

We decided to contract the seeding to Gord Dol of Dol Seeding. I met with him in the fall of 1993 and again in the spring of 1994 to discuss the program. I decided to seed with Penncross bentgrass because I felt it had a healthy history and a proven record. It also has a rapid germination rate. We have a total of 24 acres of fairways and we thought we would overseed in three directions at a 1/2lb./1,000 rate.

We purchased a new spray attachment for our Cushman. To get the proper handling of the sprayer

in some tough corners, we made sample runs with water in the new equipment during the week before the project. We knew we had to be very careful with the application of the Roundup.

A few days before the application of the Roundup, I painted guidelines in front of the greens, staying six feet away. We also had to be concerned with spray drift and tracking of the Roundup (by the wheels of the sprayer) onto other areas. To prevent tracking, we doubled and sewed together heavy filter cloth to cover the front portions of the greens and aprons, using the cloth as runways to move from fairway to fairway.

To make a clean edge along the outside of the fairways, we attached a plastic shield to prevent drifting of the chemical into the rough. On Tuesday, August 2, 1994, the course was closed to golfers and the project was to begin, but I faced a decision. As I drove to work there was a threat of rain and I wondered if I should start spraying or hold off. It did rain, but after a few hours it cleared, and I said, "Let's go!"

We used a blue dye in the tank mix at a 25 ounces/acre rate along with a surfactant at 20 ounces/acre. The dye was essential, and it worked well, showing exactly the sprayed areas. We used Roundup at 31 litres/acre in 25 gallons of water/acre. As the day went on we had many members watching from the first tee which sits atop the Niagara Escarpment. Most said it did not look too bad, but they were looking at blue dye. What they did not realize was that it would take at least a week for the fairways to turn yellow, then brown, and finally die. Spraying was completed the first day.

I told my staff to stay off the fairways we sprayed that day, but gave them the OK to cross at 90 degrees the second day, after the Roundup dried. I later realized that the last fairway we sprayed had not dried completely because the dew fell shortly after we sprayed. The following day we crossed the fairway thinking nothing of it, but a week later we noticed tire tracks streaking into the rough from the tires of some of our vehicles. **Lesson One:** make sure the Roundup dries completely before the dew falls.

As Gord Dol rolled up the driveway with his two large seeding units, we began the second stage of the project - seeding. Gord calibrated his seeder and made test runs across portions of one fairway. This revealed our next problem - the discs on one seeder could not consistently penetrate our thatch layer.

THE RE-GRASSING PROJECT AT LOOKOUT POINT CONTINUED:

Lesson Two: never underestimate your thatch layer. It was not that it was a thick layer, probably no more than 5/8" but it was like old shoe leather in some places. However, the other seeder worked quite well. To get them both working properly we tried extra weights, more adjustments and wet turf but nothing worked. Gord decided he needed to install new sharper cutting discs.

A few hours later Gord's staff returned with the new discs but they were no sharper than the ones already on the machine and in fact did not fit it properly. A stand-up meeting on the shop floor led to a decision to use our Foley reel grinder to re-sharpen all the discs from the seeder. This took all night and into the early morning. The discs were put back on the seeder in the morning and with their razor sharp edges they worked fine - the thatch was no longer a problem.

More tests were done, and we found that after making three passes, the turf was tearing up too much due to the weak roots. We decided to pass the slit seeders in two directions making a seed adjustment to 3/4lb/1,000 in each direction. This definitely saved us time. Thursday was going well, then came heavy rains late in the afternoon - an unwelcome interruption.

Friday was the day we had hoped to be finished, but we were still seeding. The good weather held and we seeded all day, and on into Saturday. Nine holes were made available to the anxious golfers Saturday and the entire course was reopened Sunday.

Our seeding rate and calculations were right on. We used about 1,800 lbs. of seed in total, seeding in two directions.

There was an added benefit to having the course closed for four and a half day. We got a chance to double slit and top-dress our greens and aerate and top-dress our tees. The greens never looked better after taking them out of play for four and half days in early August.

With the seeding completed, we began watering lightly for five to 10 minutes, three to four times per day. As the old turf started to finally turn yellow, then brown, the members realized what was happening. However they were quite careful about lifting balls from the fairways and continued to play from a first cut that we had widened for their play.

Each day I looked for seed growth. After four days, seed was popping, and every day after that I saw increased growth. After two or three weeks, just when I thought this project was proceeding

perfectly, I noticed areas that were not growing. We tried to give it more time and exercise a little patience. Gord Dol was brought back to look, and he suggested we wait another week, promising to touch up any bare areas.

In fact we did do additional seeding, both with Gord Dol's equipment and with our own aerifier and seeder. I was satisfied that the work was done but the daily inspections continued. John Gall of St. George's was right - you can go crazy watching grass grow. In fact, I thought I was going crazy when it appeared we were losing our new grass. I discovered a bad case of sod webworm. They were eating the new seedlings in some areas as quickly as it came up. I decided to apply granular Diazinon and it worked very effectively. We had never had problems with fairway insects prior to this, but I now believe they were in the turf and became a problem with the new grass. However, the Diazinon did the job.

Our first fertilizer was a starter, applied one week prior to seeding. After six weeks I used a high nitrogen fertilizer at 1/2lbN/1,000. Two weeks after the fertilizer application, the fairways filled in tremendously and were ready for play. We reopened to the golfers on October 1.

Fertilizer applications to the end of the season were as follows: 0-0-50 in early October then 31-0-0 (50% SCU) and 21-0-0 Ammonium Sulphate at 3/4lb/1,000 each in early November as my dormant. I also decided to spray PMA-10 at 1 1/4 ounce/1,000 during the third week of November and another 3/4 ounce on December 26. We had so much rain in November, I thought we had lost some of the value of the first application.

The fairways had never looked better going into the winter. Over the winter I was hoping we would weather well and I am sure that my Green Chairman was hoping the same thing. Spring finally came, and everyone was pleased to see spotless fairways. Today, I feel we have approximately 60-70% bentgrass in our fairways. In the following years I think we will need to touch-up in some areas, but I am convinced that the project was successful.

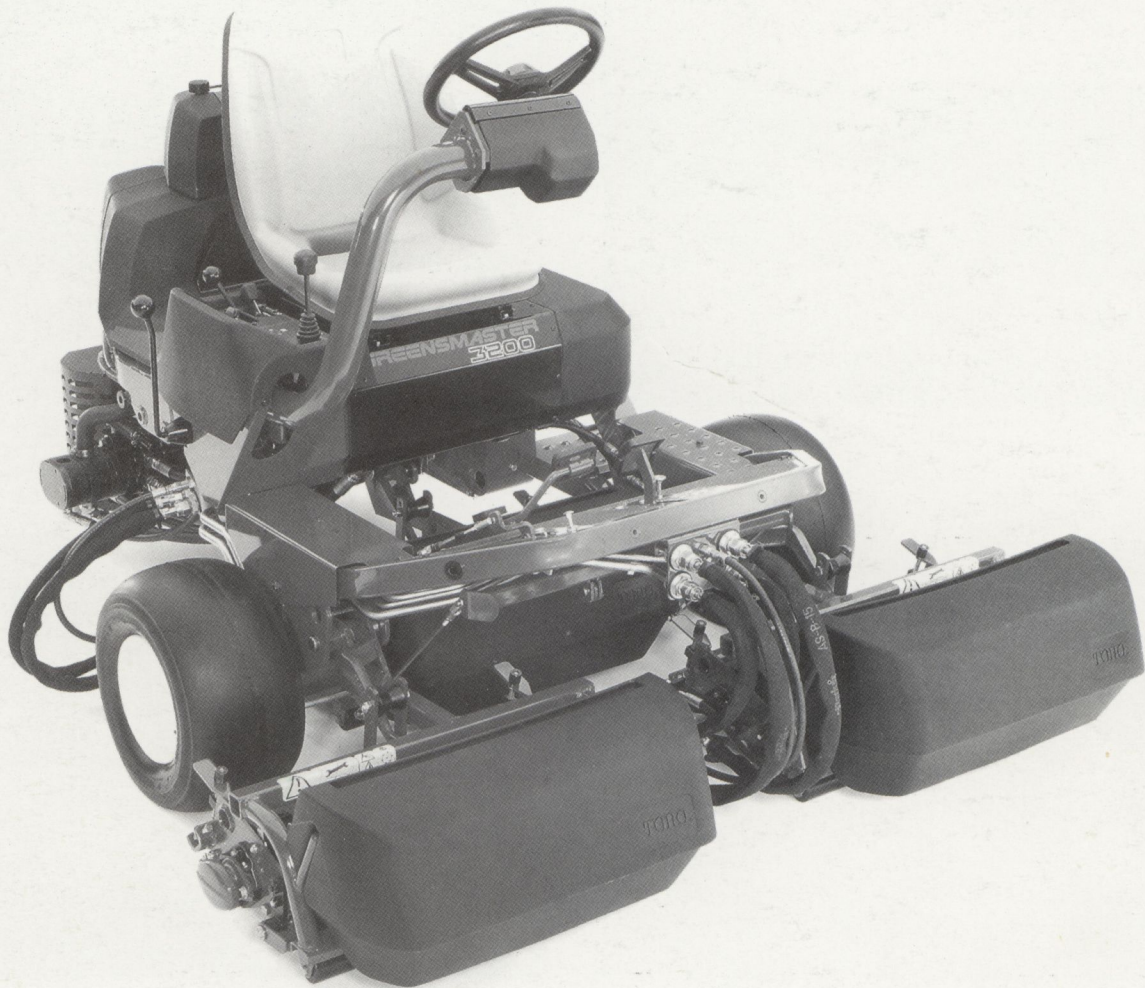
We learned a lot from others who provided encouragement and facts at times when they were needed. Similarly we would be pleased to share our experience with anyone who wants to undertake a re-grassing project.

Watch for Part 2 of this article in the next issue of Green is Beautiful

The Regrassing of Lookout Pointe Golf Club



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