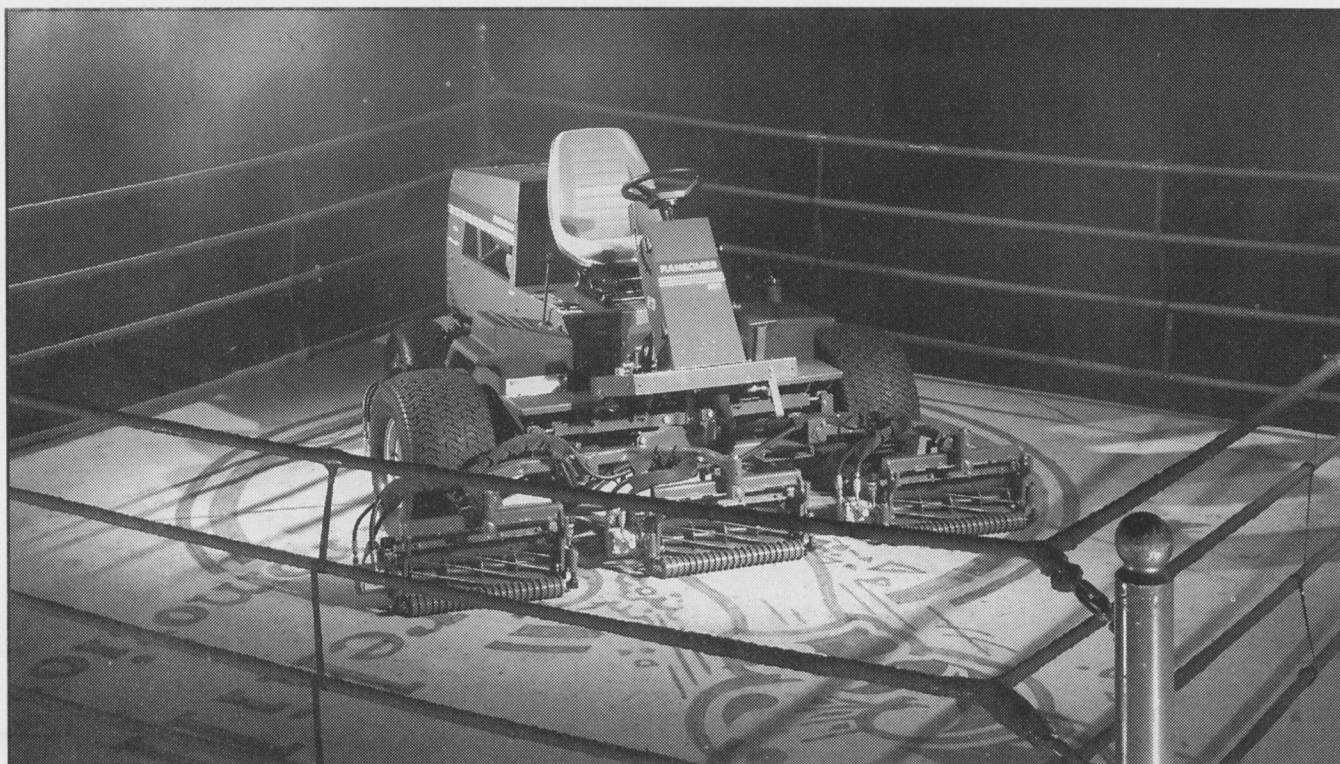


Green is Beautiful

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ONTARIO SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATIONS



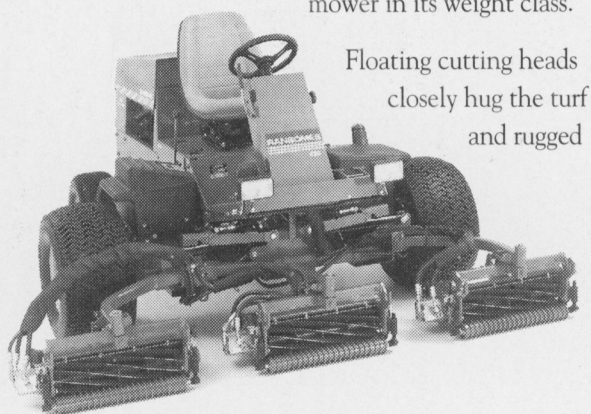
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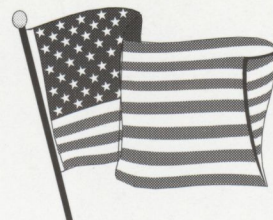
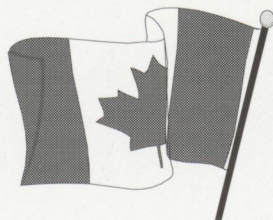
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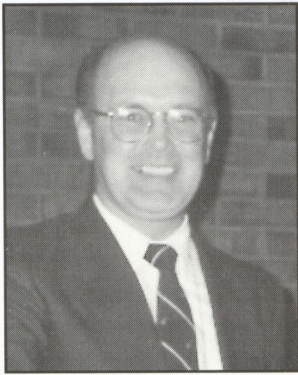
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Cover: OGSA Headquarters; Guelph Turfgrass Institute



President's Message...

By Alex La Belle CGCS

Another season winds its way to an end and we begin to think of the new year almost as soon as the old one finishes; dedication! Certainly we have had a better finish

than last year. No one was going to get caught short this time. I was talking to many people at the OSC/Nutrite Seminars and that was the general consensus going around. We are getting the reputation in this province of providing exceptional opportunities for education through our association and industry associates. It is a reputation of which we should be very proud. Many of you will be reading this magazine for the first time at the renowned Ontario Turfgrass Symposium; another credit to our association and our long time partner the University of Guelph. Membership applications are available at the OGSA Booth. We request that you either apply or renew your membership so that your name and contact numbers are included in this year's membership roster. There is a break from past procedures with regards to the payment of dues and inclusion in the roster. Should your dues not be received by February 28th, your name will not be included in the roster. We do not wish to delay with the production and mailing of roster and dues invoices have been in the mail since October 1st. Next year we are looking at sending the invoices out September 1st so that clubs which close early will have more notice of the membership renewal.

It has been a pleasure to have been able to serve this association for the past eight years and to see it grow in numbers, strength and quality. We can be very proud of our level of professionalism. Certainly the educational standards have risen and the quality of programs such as the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium are something we have had a direct impact upon. We have grown as Superintendents. We have always sought to know more; to know why; to know how. There is one thing for certain; this thing we do will continue to be as versatile as nature itself. That variable alone will continue to be the driving force that creates a genesis of new technology and procedure. We must remember, though, that technology is a means to an end. Technological advances cannot be at the expense of nature but rather a servant of nature. Our adoption of programs such as the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, Soil Stewardship Programs, Remote Aerial

Sensing, Integrated Pest Management, Weather Monitoring and the new Pesticide Regulations are essential. They help us to understand and work with, and within, our environment for the responsible care of a shrinking world. These programs and regulations allow us to demonstrate our sincere understanding of the fragility of all ecosystems and our commitment towards their health.

We are working to redefine our membership classifications, to reflect the serious intent we have towards being accepted, by the general public and our governing bodies, as responsible caretakers. One of the largest associations of its kind in the world, the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, is in the forefront of this movement towards minimum standards for Class "A", "B" and "C" membership status. We are now, and always have been, a partner in this drive towards professionalism. It was our Association which helped to start this trek. The first President of the GCSAA was our own William Sansom. We are now in the process of recommitting ourselves to this common goal of being the leaders in our Green World. You have answered a small survey which asked whether we should re-affiliate ourselves with the GCSAA, requiring minimum standards for OGSA Board participation. The overwhelming response was that we should require that 50% our Directors and all Officers, be members of the GCSAA. The harmonizing of our membership classifications will allow us to participate in the drive towards entry level standards for golf course superintendents. It demonstrates a commitment to excellence. Certification, whether it is through the GCSAA or The Canadian Golf Course Superintendents' Association is another very important step along the way. Everything we can do to demonstrate our intent to be the best that we can possibly be, will help pave the way for those who follow in our footsteps. It will give us the leverage we need to be understood and accepted as dedicated, informed, and up to date professionals. Those things which are the hardest to achieve are the most recognized, appreciated and valued. It is up to all of us, to become even more recognized, appreciated and valued! Your vote in favor of the bylaw amendments at the Annual General Meeting is an affirmation of your dedication to these goals.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of your support for our board members. They have spent many hours and traveled many miles to meet and debate the best options available to promote our image and meet our needs. They have spent much time away from their families and clubs, under sometimes hazardous conditions, to work on your behalf. Some have been doing this for years and others will, hopefully, be doing this for

years and others will be doing it for a few more years. I would encourage everyone to do their part to participate in this very rewarding experience. It gives you a unique understanding of the complexity of our membership and the delicate procedure of balancing everyone's needs. It will provide you the opportunity to learn, to work in team situations and to take a hand in shaping your own future. There

have been times of exhilaration and times of disappointment. I appreciate all of the times I have experienced and the opportunities to have worked with the exceptional people who make up this Great Association.

Best Wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Golf and Meetings Schedule of Events 1997

by Ian Bowen

Pro/Superintendent Event : Glen Abbey Golf Club - May 13th, 1997

Host : Dean Baker

Glen Abbey's unique Swinging Monk symbol has an interesting history. Glen Abbey was originally a large country estate and when its owner passed away, he bequeathed the property to some Jesuit priests for use as a retreat. After several years, the priests moved on as the estate was too large for them to care for. However, their stay left its mark and The Abbey is reported to be haunted by the ghost of a friendly monk.

A group of Oakville businessmen purchased the property and turned it into Upper Canada Golf and Country Club. It subsequently became the Clearstream Golf and Country Club, and finally Glen Abbey. This course was the first public golf club in Canada to be specifically designed for major tournaments with the spectator in mind. The Abbey, designed by Jack Nicklaus, serves as the annual host to the Canadian Open Golf Championship and more than 100 corporate golfing events. Course Superintendent Dean Baker is no stranger to Glen Abbey. Dean has worked on the greens staff since it's opening in 1977. After graduating from the University of Guelph in 1985, he worked his way up the ladder obtaining the Head Superintendent position in 1989. Dean has enjoyed 16 years at Glen Abbey, taking part in 15 Canadian Opens and numerous corporate events each year. In 1994, the Nicklaus organization recognized Dean by naming him their Superintendent of the year, a rare honour that encompasses all superintendents working within the Nicklaus organization.

President/Greens Chairman/Director Event: The Park Country Club of Buffalo - June 16th, 1997

Host: Scott Dodson

The Park Country Club, founded in 1903, has a rich history as the second oldest existing golf organization in the Buffalo district.

The original clubhouse and grounds were located on the site of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, on the Middlesex Road across from the

Buffalo Historical Society. The golf course consisted of nine holes until the Club's merger with the adjacent Buffalo Golf Club, which also had a nine hole course.

The prosperity of the 1920's and the growing problems of a city location led the board to acquire a site in Williamsville. The internationally known golf course architects Colt and Allison were engaged to design the new layout. To this day, it remains one of the few courses authored by them in the country.

The Park Club was the site of the 1934 P.G.A. Championship won by Paul Runyan who defeated Craig Wood in a playoff. Located just 30 minutes from the border, this course, it's fine conditioning and great hospitality will be a treat for all who will attend.

Summer Field Day and GTI Event: The Cutten Club - August 11th, 1997

Host: Richard Creed

The Cutten Club was named in honour of Arthur W. Cutten, a Guelph boy who went to Chicago towards the end of the 19th century, where he made a fortune in wheat. He never forgot his hometown, and in 1928 decided to build an 18 hole golf course in Guelph. The course was laid out by Charles (Chick) Evans, a well-known golf architect in Chicago and former U.S. champion. During the depression in 1931, the club started solely as a pay-as-you play course. When Arthur W. Cutten died in 1936, advertisements to sell the club were placed in newspapers throughout North America. However, it wasn't until 1939 that the course was purchased by Stanley Thompson of Toronto, a prominent golf architect and ardent golfer. During World War II, the clubhouse was occupied by the Royal Canadian Air Force while the course remained in play. After the death of Mr. Thompson in 1953, the property was about to be purchased for land development, however, a group of local industries purchased all of the outstanding shares in order to preserve the golf course. Today, the Cutten Club stands as an outstanding test of golf. The club has served as host to a number of O.G.A. events over the years.

O.G.S.A CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS

KEITH BARTLETT - DIRECTOR, OGSA
THORNHILL COUNTRY CLUB

I have found it to be very rewarding while serving on the OGSA Board of Directors. I have held the portfolio of Public Relations and Golf Committee member during that time. The goal of the Public Relations Committee is to better promote the association to the golfing community and the membership. More importantly, we have strived to welcome new members into the association and inform them of the many advantages associated with becoming a member of the OGSA. There is still much to be accomplished in this area along with the many other exiting activities in the OGSA. I would like to continue to serve and would appreciate your support.

Thank You,
Keith Bartlett

LAMONT ANDERSON - DIRECTOR, OGSA
POINTE WEST GOLF CLUB

I have had over 25 years experience in golf course construction and maintenance of both public and private golf courses. This year marks the twenty-fifth year I have been a member of the OGSA and the CGSA. I am also a member of the GCSAA, the OTRF and the Kent-Essex Greenskeeper Society (KEGS). I am a graduate of the University of Guelph. I have been married for twenty-five years and have two grown daughters. I feel I understand the needs of today's superintendent and wish to help the OGSA serve these needs.

Thank You,
Lamont Anderson

IAN BOWEN - DIRECTOR, OGSA
OSHAWA GOLF CLUB

I have been the Superintendent at the Oshawa Golf Club since 1992. Previously, I was the Superintendent at Lakeview Golf Club. I have been a member of the Association for nine years and

have served on the Board of Directors since 1992. I currently serve as the OGSA's Treasurer and as Chairman of the Golf and Meetings Committee. I am also a member of the CGSA and the GCSAA. It has been my distinct honor to serve as the Associations' Secretary and Treasurer over the past two years. I have had the opportunity to work with the Executive Committee of the OGSA. I feel very good about our current position and our future within the golf industry. I am honored to have my name placed in the nomination for the office of Vice President of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association.

Thank You,
Ian Bowen

BOB HERON - DIRECTOR, OGSA
BEACON HALL GOLF CLUB

I am looking forward to another term as Director of the OGSA. There are many new and exciting possibilities for the OGSA as we look forward to a much closer relationship with the GCSAA. Being involved with the "young lions" on the Board, certainly is a stimulating experience.

Thank You,
Bob Heron

SIMON GEORGE - DIRECTOR, OGSA
OAKVILLE GOLF CLUB

Greetings, My name is Simon George. I am currently working as Golf Course Superintendent at the Oakville Golf Club, a position I have held for the last nine years. I have been involved with the OGSA Board of Directors for seven years, managing seven different portfolios. I am now serving as Vice President. I certainly enjoy my involvement with the Association and would like to continue as president in 1997. I am up for re-election this year and with your support will be President in 1997.

Thank You,
Simon George

ONTARIO TURFGRASS SYMPOSIUM - 1997

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Ron MacLean, CBC Sports

Ron MacLean's broadcasting career began in 1978 when he took over a 16 month part-time position at a radio station in Red Deer, Alberta. During grade 12, he assumed the midnight newscaster job on Sunday nights, was promoted to disc jockey, and then became the program manager. He was then asked to be a weatherman on the sister television station.

One night in 1984, a producer from Molstar Communications saw him doing his ad-lib forecast and hired him to host the Calgary Flames telecast on Calgary 7, an independent TV station in Calgary. He then became the sports anchor on the local evening news.

In 1986, MacLean's first love, hockey, took him to Toronto and the CBC's Molson Hockey Night in Canada. His professional duties were expanded to include hosting CBC's coverage of the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul and the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville. He also co-hosted CBC's coverage of the 1994 Commonwealth Games from Victoria B.C.

In what little free time he has MacLean is a level 5 referee for the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and plays in numerous charity golf tournaments across the country.

In his keynote address Ron MacLean will speak to you about his experience in the world of sports including his recent work at the Atlanta Olympics.

OTS 1997 SCHEDULE IN BRIEF

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1997

- 8:00 am Registration desk opens - lower level
foyer Trade Show Opens -
Constellation and Galaxy Ballrooms
and Foyers
- 10:00 am Opening Ceremonies
Rhod Trainor, Chair OTS 1997

Afternoon - Industry Specific Seminars - Golf Course

- 2:30 - 3:00 Protective covers for greens Dr. Yves
Desjardins, Laval University
- 3:00 - 3:30 Use of Porous Ceramic in Golf
Green Construction Ken Mrock,
Head Groundskeeper for the
Chicago Bears
- 3:45 - 4:15 Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
System of Canada Update
Cooperative Sanctuary System Rep.
- 4:15 - 4:45 GTI Research Update - Dr. Ken
Carey, Brenda Walsh, Wayne, Barton

New!! OTS Social Event

5:00 P.M. - snacks served and cash bar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1997

- 8:00 am Registration desk opens and Trade
Show opens
- 9:00 - 12 noon Concurrent Seminars
1. Adding Competitive Value with Effective
Customer Relations - Peter Barrow
 2. Optimizing Weed Control on Turf -
Dr. Chris Hall
 3. Integrated Pest Management - The Latest -
Dr. Linda Gilkeson
 4. The Magic of Greenkeeping - Michael
Bavier and Gord Witteveen

Afternoon - Seminars - Golf Course

- 2:30 - 3:00 Insect Control Strategies Which
Minimize Non-Target Effects Dr. Mike
Villani, Cornell University
- 3:00 - 3:30 Anthracnose Crown Rot Dr. Joe
Vargas, Michigan State University
- 3:45 - 4:15 Computer Simulation of Landscape
Shade Manipulation for Disease
Management Dr. Terry Gillespie, GTI
- 4:15 - 4:45 Mapping the Sun on Greens Scott
Robinson, Arborist's Tree Service

Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association Annual General Meeting - 5:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1997

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Annual General Meeting - 8:00 A.M.


- 8:30 am Registration Desk Opens
- 9:00 - 12:00 Concurrent Seminars
1. Grub Workshop - Dr. Mike Villani
 2. Solving Turf Management Problems
- A Case Study Approach
- Dr. Jack Eggens
 3. Turf Rootzone Construction and
Drainage Principles
- Dr. Steve Baker
 4. Understanding the Human
Element - Dr. John Watson

Afternoon - Seminars - Golf Course

- 1:00 - 2:00 Innovative Superintendents
- Installing an Irrigation System in
Eight Short Years, Jerry Richard
- Rising from the Dead, Ian
Chapman
- A Different Method for Greens
Construction, Alex La Belle
- Renovating Nine Holes; The Saga
Continues, Paul Scenna
- 2:00 - 2:30 Collegiate Challenge - Teams from
Penn State, University of Guelph
and Seneca College go head to
head to test their turf management
knowledge, Alumni Team
Captains are Thom Charters, John
Taylor and Gord Witteveen



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Gordon Witteveen, Golf Course Superintendent

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OSC/NUTRITE SEMINARS A HUGE SUCCESS!

by Alex La Belle CGCS

Wednesday, November 20 saw the arrival of the eighth annual OSC/NUTRITE Seminar Program. This popular annual event was attended by close to two hundred keenly interested individuals who showed up at the Burlington Golf & Country Club to take in the latest information on turfgrass management. The host superintendent Pelino Scenna assisted in putting on a classy affair providing us with a comfortable setting.

The speakers included:

- David Oatis of the USGA,
- Dr. Norman Hummel, Hummel & Co. Inc.,
- Jack Austin of Canadian Irrigation Consultants,
- Pam Charbonneau and Rob Witherspoon of OMAFRA and the GTI,
- Tim Lacy of Purcell Industries,
- Craig Holden, President of Sustain Corporation,
- John Gravett, superintendent of Credit Valley Golf Club and President of Turfec.



Back row: David Oatis, Norm Hummel, Craig Holden, Rob Witherspoon, and John Gravett,
Front row: Pam Charbonneau, Tim Lacy, Jack Austin

The morning started off with Mr. Oatis updating us on the latest feedback on the USGA revised recommendations for putting green construction. As many people are aware these types of greens have been a constant source of controversy amongst members since their inception. The recommendations have become more flexible in light of the great diversity of materials, or scarcity of specific materials, across North America. Perhaps the two biggest changes are the variances in drainage stone size/shape and the possible incorporation of small amounts of



topsoil in the growing medium. The topsoil is an attempt to add some biology to the equation without sacrificing the physical properties of the mix. At this time the USGA is not recommending the use of any other physical amendments to the growing medium. The use of angular stone has been accepted for increased stability, but as before the stone must be clean. Also, the size must be matched very closely with the particle sizes of the top mix if the choker layer is to be omitted. The subgrade does not have to conform the exact shape of the finished grade but the surface of the stone layer should closely match the finished product. As before the USGA does not recommend the use of geotextile materials between the growing medium and the gravel blanket. The information available would keep me writing for hours so you'll just have to catch the act the next time its in town.

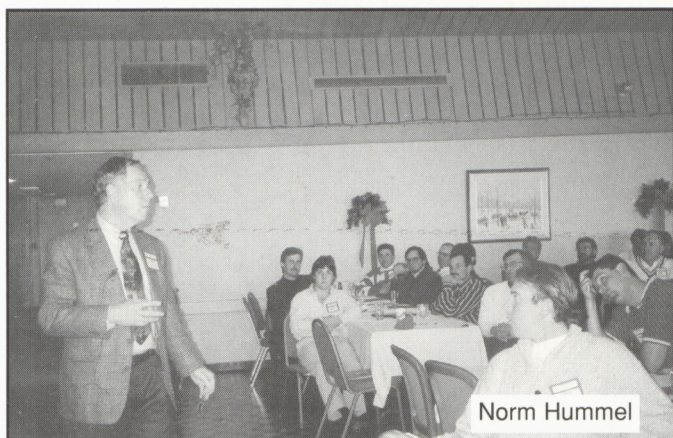
Pam Charbonneau and Rob Witherspoon gave an update on the research being carried on at the GTI. Pam reported on the encouraging success of the IMP program offered last year to courses in the neighborhood of the GTI. The Ministry has given approval for its continuation next season, however it is not fully funded. The value of having a talented labor pool of research people touring your course several times a year cataloguing and tracking insects and other pests cannot be overstated.

The cost to become involved in this very interesting and helpful program is only \$500 per year and the results are tangible. You could save that amount just through the judicious use of pesticides and labour in one season! Give Pam a call. She is looking for courses in the Kitchener,

In the future the scope of the project may expand.

Rob Witherspoon is in the process of working with the OGSA and allied associations to develop a series of interactive displays for use at industry trade shows to familiarize the public with the benefits of turfgrass in the environment. One such display involves the use of heat lamps in a covered case with turfgrass on one side and a hard reflective surface (asphalt) on the other. After a time participants can place their hands on the surfaces to experience the difference in the cooling potential between the two surfaces.

The displays will be made by interested students at the University of Guelph. The OGSA is looking at a contribution along with our peers in the green industry to cover costs of materials. The first showing will take place this March at the Ontario Blooms Show in Toronto. Our Association will be identified as one of the participants of this public education event.

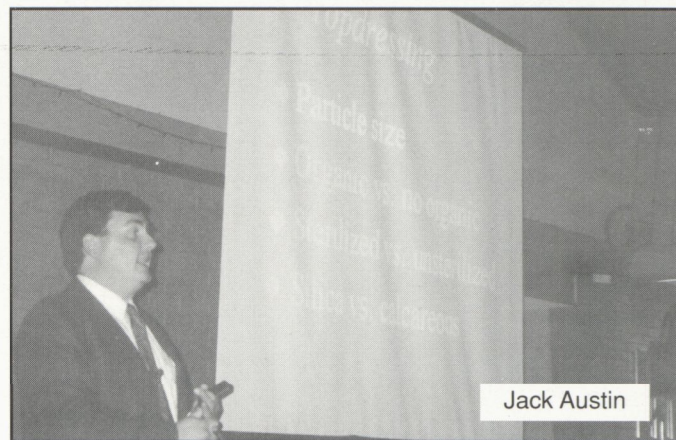


Norm Hummel

Jack Austin is an independent irrigation specialist who has been practicing design and installation since 1970. He has worked with virtually every product on the market from nozzles to the most sophisticated computer operated pump stations in the world. As an independent, Jack was able to give us an unbiased view into the strengths and weaknesses of several products from many different companies. The good news is that there are a great many more strengths than weaknesses out there. The quality of water distribution from today's sprinklers make our gems of the recent past look like watering cans! We are approaching the goal of flat line distribution from head to head thanks to the ongoing research and comparisons available through computer analysis. This has been backed

up very precisely by field tests. Irrigation pipe has never been better and the quality of installation is improving steadily. A couple of cautions: avoid half sizes in piping (i.e. 2 1/2 & 3 1/2 inch for example) and if you are going to install a decoder system you had better install the best lightning protection you can. One tip is to extend your ground rods horizontally about two inches below tine depth in irrigated areas. This will better facilitate the grounding of lightning strikes but, even that may not be enough!

Many of you may recall Dr. Hummel visiting us last year with Dr. Michael Hurdzan as a part of the GCSAA Seminars. Dr. Hummel was instrumental in assisting the USGA in the development of the new recommendations for putting green construction. He also co-authored the new recommendation for soil testing protocols. It has been a source of confusion in the past when different soil labs would return very different results. The testing methods were not standardized until now thanks to Dr. Hummel and the USGA. I believe a list of companies using these defined procedures is available from the USGA. Dr. Hummel's presentation had to do with the impact of topdressing and deep tine aerification on putting



Jack Austin

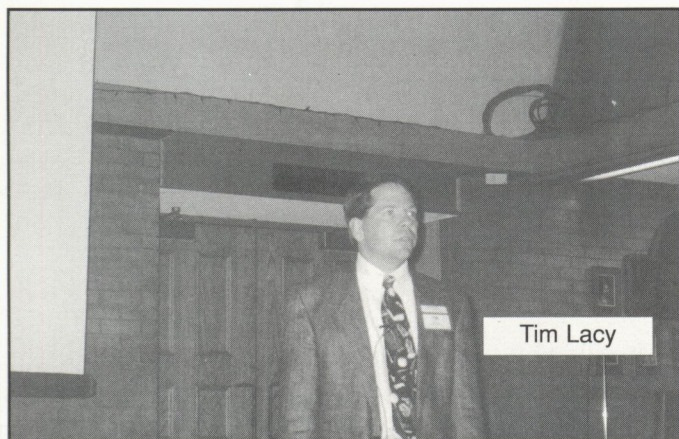
green physical properties. Some of the highlights were:

- unless deep tining penetrates to a permeable subsurface layer it may be doing nothing more than creating a deeper reservoir for standing water.
- it appears that the real culprit in localized dry spots is the hydrophobic film created on sand particles as a result of the organic matter.
- frequency of topdressing should be closely matched to the rate of growth of the turfgrass

- which is directly affected by fertilizer practices and seasonal growth rates
- thatch/topdressing layers are every bit as damaging as layers created by differing types of top dressing.

There was a great deal more to all these presentations and obviously attendance is much more advantageous than second hand news.

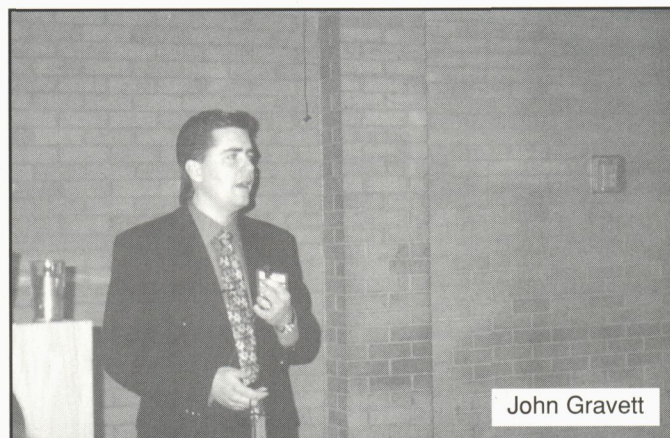
Craig Holden, of Sustain Corporation, had some very interesting revelations on the effectiveness of microbial additives to assist in the control of thatch. Perhaps these products in combination with carefully managed topdressing could serve to provide our members with better putting surfaces.



Tim Lacy

Tim Lacy of Purcell Industries gave a eye opening presentation into their very precise coating process which has finally introduced to Canada, a slow release potassium, which should be very helpful in maintaining this extremely important nutrient in the rooting zone of highly permeable growing mediums. The coating is a flexible polymer which osmotically releases the nutrient through the coating. The rate of release is a factor of the thickness of the coating and temperature. Just as the molecules in a pot of boiling water react at a faster rate than a pot of frozen water, the release of nutrient through the polymer coat is a factor of temperature. Purcell has become very sophisticated in the development of its product. To the point where average temperatures for every region of the world have been calculated. Coating thickness' for various products are matched to the specific location in the world where the product is bound. This allows the release rate of the product to be matched to the areas temperature.

Our own John Gravett wound up the talks



John Gravett

with a summary of all the work that has been going on with regards to the new attempts at pesticide regulation. John has worked very hard on our behalf to assist the Ministry in developing realistic guidelines for re-licensing and education. A report on this very important topic was carried in the last issue of Green Is Beautiful.

The day wound up with a hilarious round of giggles thanks to the humor of Yuk Yuk's comedian Steven J. Daniels, billed as "The Superintendent of Canadian Comedy". All in all, a terrific experience and one that should go on your calendar for next year. The quality of these annual seminars has initiated a drive to have them accredited by the GCSAA for continuing education units that may be applied to the re-certification requirements for certified golf course superintendents. We'll keep you posted.

In closing OSC/NUTRITE would like to thank the following companies for their support in making this day possible:

**Agrisorbents Products Ltd.,
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ISK Biosciences,
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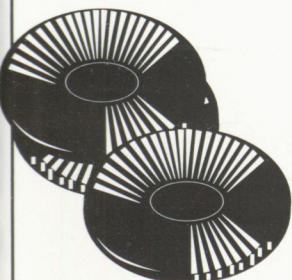
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An Interactive Seminar on Water Quality and Conservation. As a follow-up to the "Partners in Action" workshop held last March, a second one on water quality and conservation issues will be hosted by the Lake Simcoe Region, Metro Region, and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities and Barbara Allan-Shaw (Audubon volunteer and grad student) on Wednesday, February 26, 1997. The intent is to provide an understanding of what is involved in water management, introduce local resource persons, illustrate what programs the Conservation Authorities can offer, and explain how new irrigation technologies, "add-ons", weather data, etc. may be used to meet the needs of the respective Audubon categories and responsible water management in general.

For further information and application forms call:

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Brantford Golf & Country Clubs Oak Savannah & Prairie Grass Restoration by Rick Piccolo

(This article is taken from a presentation made at the environmental stewardship workshop on Nov 13/96.)

This all came about back in 1992, one day while making my usual rounds I noticed a group of people looking through the grass, behind my 18th green. Naturally I went up to them and inquired who they were, and what were they doing on the golf course. That's when a man stepped out, holding a clip board, sporting a camera, and binoculars around his neck and identified himself as Donald Kirk, natural heritage specialist, with the ministry of natural resources, and these other people were students from the university on a field trip.



At this point I became very curious on what they were doing, and the only reply I could get from Don was, do you know what you have here. Talk about being puzzled now! They then proceeded to tell me about how they were out surveying the north banks along the Grand river, which ran adjacent to my property, checking plant materials and habitats when they stumbled across these areas in the middle of the golf course. Anyone not understanding (like myself) and hearing the excitement generated by this group would quite frankly think they were nuts, but as I listened more closely I became more interested in what they had to say.

They soon explained to me that the golf course was housing a very rare prairie and oak

savannah habitat, and only after questioning me about how we have been maintaining it, they were equally surprised to find out that nothing has been Don to these hills for about 10 years. I explained that prior to a ban on burning 10 years ago, we burned the hills for probably 20 years, and during this time they were burned every spring to get rid of all the leaf debris. The only other maintenance they received were mowing every 4 weeks during the growing season.



As long as I have been at the club, which is now 23 years there has never been any fertilizer, chemicals, or water applied to these areas that I can recall, and they were left pretty much natural. Don figures the burning kept the grasses rejuvenated and the mowing kept the weeds under control, and these two factors helped in preserving the habitat. He then proceeded to ask me if I thought the club would be willing to work with them to restore and preserve these areas. I explained it would have to go before my board of directors and everything would have to be explained on paper.

The rest of the summer I kind of forgot about this first meeting and it wasn't until the late spring of 93 that I was contacted again, and by this time I had board approval to go ahead with the preliminary work and get a plan on paper.

The project began by grinding and marking all plant materials on the 2.5 hectare site. A University of Guelph student came out through out the summer and recorded all this information, and by summers end a game plan started to come into place. Late that fall I met with senior fire officer Jack Chapman to talk about the hows, and whens and what ifs, pertaining to the burn. As with any project

a long list of variables had to be dealt with. First of all the City of Brantford had to be asked, if they would make amendments to their no burning by-law, and grant us permission for a yearly springtime burn on this savannah. I guess the M.N.R. has strange powers and quickly our wishes were granted, but only after meeting with the local fire department and a hearing to understand their demands.



The next step involved a sit down meeting with the club's directors and any interested members, to explain in detail what was going to take place, and answer any questions. My club welcomed this restoration plan with open arms as long as I would take charge on behalf of the club, and oversee the procedures and progress. The only concern the club expressed was on the issue of tree removal. Over the years, the club had planted various pine varieties to help hide these hills, and now they were asked to remove them, so the area can be restored properly. Apparently, pine trees are not natural to this kind of habitat and to obtain the full look and restoration they would have to be removed.

Don did suggest this and after a quick backlash I explained that trees were a very political issue, at this course, and to leave this issue in my hands. Over the course of that winter and with a lot of P.R. work on my part, my members became excited to see the big burn. Also during that winter, the proper paperwork was signed and the plan finalized. The burn would take place before green-up in order to reduce the presence of non-native cool season grasses, which are fire intolerant and

encourage the establishment of warm season prairie grasses. A spring burn is most effective in controlling the presence of white sweet clover, a species that has become a major invader on the open prairie meadows. The fire will consist of a low to moderate intensity with a minimum of 70% coverage, and it should all be ignited in about one hour. Weeks prior to the burn in early spring, a weather station was set up on the golf course, and I recorded daily readings of wind speed, relative humidity, and air temperature. The burn would not be feasible if all the variables were not met. We needed a total burn, hot enough to kill off all the unwanted woody invaders, such as Autumn Olive, Tartarian Honeysuckle, as well as controlling weedy invaders such as White Sweet Clover. As mother nature would have it, we had record rainfall that spring which kept pushing back the burn date more and more.



The only variable on our side, was the unusually low springtime temperatures, which slowed grass green-up. This enabled us to buy more time hoping for a few dry days which we eventually got. A few days prior to the predicted burn date, news letters went out to all residents 1/2 mile around the golf course explaining what we were doing and don't be alarmed. The local press was also contacted for some media coverage the day of the burn. The day of the burn came and there was a total of 6 people plus Don and myself. There was one person who was designated safety officer who's duties involved weather patterns, maps, media, fire department and communication. Two people were designated ignition crew, who's main

job was igniting the fire and making sure it burned. Two other people carried water and helped in making sure the fire did not spread too quickly, and Jack Chapman oversaw the entire burn. I also had three of my staff available to clear any fire around trees that we did not want to harm. Don, Kirk and myself cheered on when ever a unwanted pine tree was engulfed in flames, and answered any questions spectators had during the burn. The hill ignited quite well, but it seemed to burn more quickly than we would have liked, and due to the excessive ground moisture, we experienced a little more smoke than we anticipated. The total burn took 3 hours from start to final inspection. For myself this was a great burn due to the fact, I got rid of about 10 years of leaf debris, and all weeds were burned off, giving this area a fresh new look. The hills only remained blackened for about two weeks, and grass and flower species quickly began to rejuvenate. Within a month you could not even tell the area was burnt. I think its safe to say we had about a 70% burn. The fire burned woody invaders under 1/2 inch in diameter but anything over this size was left unharmed, probably due to the fact there was a lot of moisture prior to the burn, and the fire did not get hot enough, for long enough. Later that summer I had my staff go through the area and manually cut all unwanted plant material that was left. This might have been the wrong call on my part due to the fact many plants suckered later that year and now I will leave them alone until my next burn. I did notice an improvement of about 10 to 20% prairie grasses after that first burn, but here definitely was a disapointment with the wild flower show. Don informed me that the flowers usually take 2 years after a burn and to give them time. Quite a few evergreens did receive damage either by total engulfing of flames, or by lower branches burning, this was OK since I now knew which trees we had to remove first. Our next burn at the club was scheduled for spring of 96, but due to circumstances beyond my control it had to be postponed. Hopefully spring of 97 looks like our next tentative burn date, and maybe

mother nature will be more on our side, and allow us a closer target of 100% burn, this would be nice and there might not be any need for follow-up burns in the immediate future.

In closing I would like to add that before all this talk about rare oak trees and prairie grasses began at my course, I really never gave naturalizing a second thought. Maybe it was due to the fact I was brought into the business believing all areas must be manicured and polished to perfection at any cost. Since then as I became familiar with this concept, I have come to realize that we all have these areas within the properties we manage and with a little effort, some P.R. work and virtually no cost we all can develop these special areas to enjoy. This might not be the route for everyone, and believe me I have no plans to convert my entire rough, into natural area, but I feel I'm contributing in a small way back to the earth in what the earth has given me; a golf course.!



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The Soil Stewardship Program: The Latest in Soil Nutrient Mapping

by Steve Hewgill

A great deal of time and money is spent ensuring that turf is properly fertilized. Now, the Soil Stewardship Program provides maps and expertise that can help the superintendent make management decisions according to the available nutrients for the turf.

There are areas on the golf course where the soil and nutrient levels differ considerably. This normally shows up as an area with poor stress and disease tolerance, or poor turf vigor. Site specific soil mapping will assist the superintendent in identifying these areas. It will aid in the correction of the soil's nutrient levels which can and do affect turfgrass quality.

The most important aspect to any map is accuracy. An accurate soil map provides management answers for today and long term management strategies. Accurate positioning allows the superintendent to target areas precisely, to return over and over again to the same trouble spot and assess improvement strategies. The site specific nutrient maps, made by the Soil Stewardship Program, allow the superintendent to compare turfgrass nutritional status with other geographic information such as:

- OMAFRA soil maps
- Drainage maps
- Bunker maps
- Greens and tees
- Trees and shrubs
- Irrigation maps

By employing the latest technology, we locate each soil sample on the surface of the earth with pin point accuracy. The locating technology used is called Real Time Differential Global Positioning Systems. State of the art computer mapping software, named Geographic Information Systems, translates location and nutrient levels. It then summarizes the information in meaningful ways that makes the superintendent's management choices clear. The maps give information on:

- Organic matter
- pH
- Percent base saturation
- Cation exchange capacity
- Full range of micro and macronutrients
- Nematodes (optional)
- Elevation (optional)
- Top soil depth (optional)

As you can see by the accompanying maps, topography and nutrient levels can be compared. The example shown is for the nutrient "magnesium". The color coding (gray scaled in this black and white presentation) lets you see where the levels are in need of improvement. With the assistance of a trained agronomist, the superintendent can correct the deficiencies over time without making blanket applications over areas that have acceptable levels. This saves time and money and provides the most accurate records available. Individual maps for each nutrient of concern for each hole or area of the golf course can be produced and kept in a catalogue for quick, easy reference.



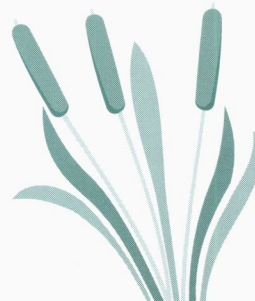
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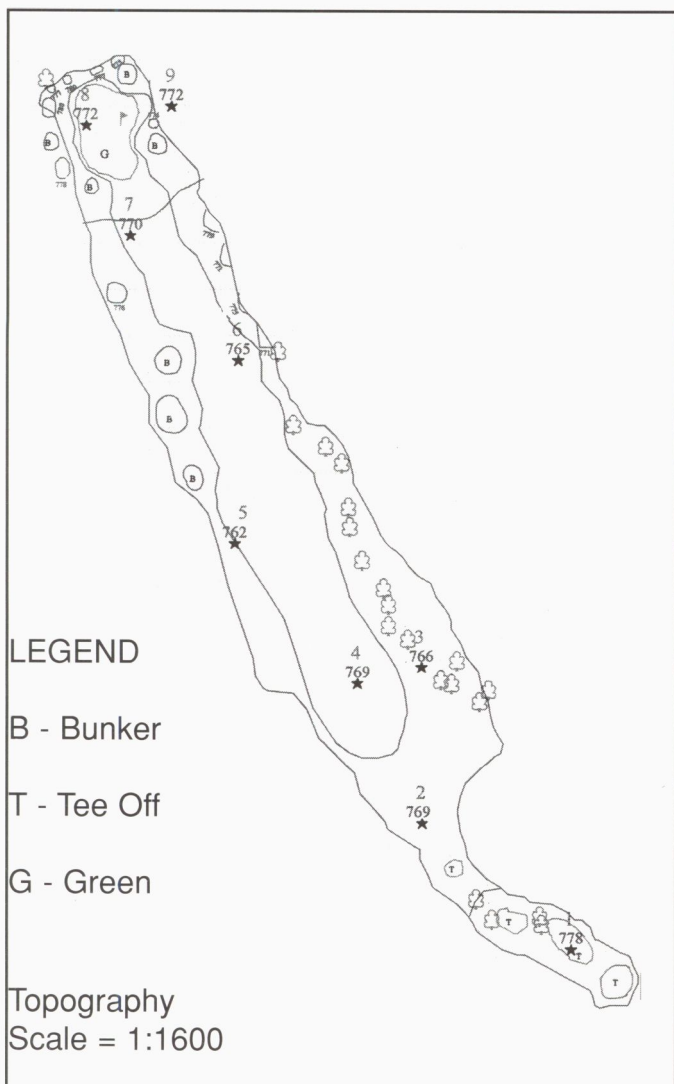


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Member / Public Participation through an Audubon Speaker Series by Mark Piccolo

Last year, to introduce the members and community to the Audubon Program and our efforts in environmental management, we hosted an Audubon Speaker Series. I introduced the series with a talk and video of the Audubon Program, itself. Later topics and presenters included: Feeding Birds in Winter (owner of the local Wild Birds Unlimited), Nestbox Requirements of various cavity nesting species (retired MNR ornithologist), Naturalizing Landscapes and Backyards (Canadian Wildflower Society), Pond Restoration (Metro Toronto Zoo), Images of Wild Canada (professional photographer), and BMPs and Lawn Care (our superintendent). Because we felt there was too much happening in December, we skipped from November to January, and we ended in May before the golf season and cottaging took over.

The follow-ups to a couple of programs led to significant rewards for both the implementation of our work on the Audubon program and public awareness and involvement in what we were trying to accomplish. On a cold winter Saturday after the Nestbox talk, we held a Nestbox-building workshop. The lumber and much of the fixings were donated by local suppliers, and members built about three dozen bluebird and tree swallow boxes that were put up on the course this summer. The success in fledging bluebirds, in particular, brought the attention and help of the local Bluebird Society, and the local Conservation Authority has offered to donate and help install wood duck boxes this winter. In the winter, we installed a glitzy bird feeder outside the dining room for member's enjoyment. The feeder has a remote sensing device and both members and staff delighted in hearing the "chatter". Several at first thought the birds had somehow gotten inside and this led to greater amusement. This summer, we participated in the Royal Ontario Museums monitoring program (they have an important program that we just plugged into - no reinventing the wheel here!). Golfers who saw the boxes during the season volunteered to build more for this winter, members helped monitor both nestboxes and sightings of species on the course and so helped build our inventory, and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time watching the birds all summer!

Another spin-off was that some members

volunteered to grow native wildflowers from seed we supplied for planting in buffer zones. As I was aware from having done a research paper on the topic this past year, this is not as simple a process as the first; but since everyone understood it was rather experimental, the inevitable setbacks were taken in stride. Again, golfers became more aware of flowers in naturalized areas, and the concept of no-cut areas became more acceptable. One relatively in-play mound was left at members' request because it was covered with gallardia. Naturalizing with wildflowers should, however, be seen as a long-term project, and will be discussed more in later articles. If you are interested in organizing a similar speaker series, local resources you could contact might be the Horticulture Society, Naturalists Groups, Photography Club, MNR or Conservation Authority naturalists, landscape companies or nurseries, and many others.

People seem to come out of the woodwork both with ideas of what they'd like to hear, and suggestions for speakers. Guests were pleased to speak, and really interesting question-and-answer periods usually followed. The work in arranging such a series was surprisingly minimal, and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting both the speakers and attendees.

This was the first of many programs for Member/Public Involvement. Not only did the talks inform our golf members and others from the community of what we were trying to do, it also gave them tools to apply to their own backyards. Furthermore, it made effective use of local expertise, and introduced me to people I might not have met – who I can now call for advice. Last but not least, it is important to our goals to develop good will with organizations who in the past may have cast a jaundiced eye on golf course management – by letting them know we were actively making an effort to enhance wildlife habitat and to manage the golf course in an environmentally responsible manner.

Next issue: Names and addresses of existing programs (no time spent re-inventing the wheel, or searching for information, please!) that significantly contribute to your Audubon or environmental management goals.

for more information call:

Barbara Allan-Shaw,
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program volunteer
14650 Bathurst St.,
King, Ontario, L7B 1K5
e-mail: es051117@orion.yorku.ca

CROP PROTECTION INSTITUTE

New Brochure for Golf Course Superintendents
Discusses Issues Surrounding Pesticide Use

A new brochure is now available from the Crop Protection Institute discussing the use of pesticides on golf courses in Canada.

"Keeping Our Golf Courses Green" takes an informative and easy-to-read approach to the most commonly asked questions about the role and use of pesticides.

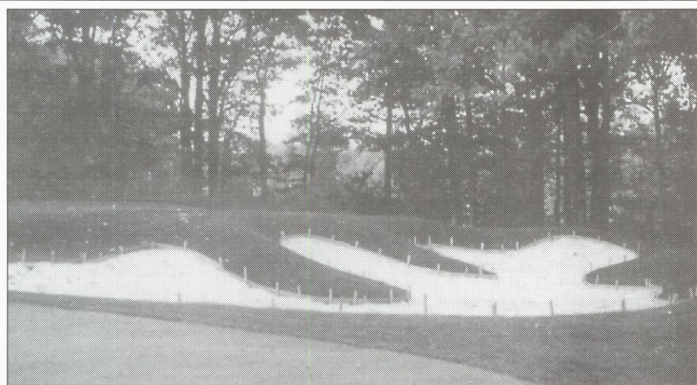
Available to both English and French, the brochure explains how pesticides are an effective management tool, and play an important role in integrated pest management programs at golf courses. The brochure also examines such issues as golf course personnel pesticide training, government regulations, and safety procedures to ensure the protection of applicators, the community and the environment.

"Keeping Our Golf Courses Green" is available through the institute at a cost of 15 cents per copy plus 7% G.S.T. (Minimum order 100)

The Crop Protection Institute is the national trade association representing the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of crop protection products in Canada. Olt is involved in all aspects of industry-wide and public communications, legislation and regulation appropriate to protecting Canada's crops and green spaces.

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ONTARIO SEED COMPANY LTD.

Ontario Seed Company Ltd. was founded in the early 1890's in Waterloo, Ontario as a producer and seller of vegetable and forage seeds. Before this time almost all seed used in Canada was grown in Europe. Ontario Seed was one of the pioneering seed growing firms in North America, producing and growing some first varieties of radish, mangles, beets and cabbage on this continent. The Uffelman family has owned Ontario Seed for four generations.

The philosophy of the Ontario Seed Company for the past 100 years has been to offer all customers the best quality products and services available as expediently and as reasonably as possible. With the dawning of the new millennium only moments away, Ontario Seed enters their second century of business intending to exceed the expectations in quality and service for products in the future. The old world ethic and dedication of both the past and present staff make this attainable. Ontario Seed remains very involved in the flower and vegetable seed industry. Over 500 varieties of seed are currently being packaged and distributed to retail centres across Canada. The company contracts production and imports seed from over 40 countries around the world. Hybrid cucumber is produced in Japan. Beans are imported from Tanzania in Africa and begonia seed comes from Costa Rica. Most of the pea seed comes from Alberta and Southern B.C. Ontario Seed is one of the largest seed companies of its type in North America, and is committed to helping develop new and improved varieties of seed.

It was a natural transition for OSC to become involved in the turfgrass and golf business because of their long association with vegetable and forage seeds. Initially, the grass seeds used to develop lawns were alsike, clover and timothy. These species were followed by common types of fescue, ryes and bluegrass. One of the old popular blends of seed that is still marketed by OSC is "Victoria Park". This is a combination of Kentucky Bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass and is named after the popular Kitchener park where it was first used in 1910.

There has been much progress in the development of new types of turf seed cultivars in the past 20 years. OSC works with the best breeders of improved varieties and is committed to providing golf courses with these as soon as they are proven. We look forward to the development and distribution of new, quality products.

Ontario Seed now has agents, distributors and retail accounts across Canada, in the U.S.A., and the Caribbean. This year golf course supplies were sent as far as Moosenee and Labrador. To simplify,

and to be less controversial, the company name is being changed to OSC.

OSC operates five distinct but harmonious divisions in its' business:

RETAIL DIVISION - three retail stores specializing in garden supplies and hardware in Hamilton and Waterloo. The largest store is 25,000 square ft. and employs 80 people.

MAIL ORDER DIVISION - over 100,000 catalogues featuring flower, vegetable seed and garden accessories are published and mailed throughout North America. Many Canadian embassies around the world order seed for their staff that they cannot obtain in their local market. Sweet corn is a favourite.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEED DISTRIBUTION - millions of packets of flower and vegetable seeds are packaged and marketed to over 5,000 retail outlets throughout Canada, including the North-West Territories. Seed is also supplied to some commercial growers.

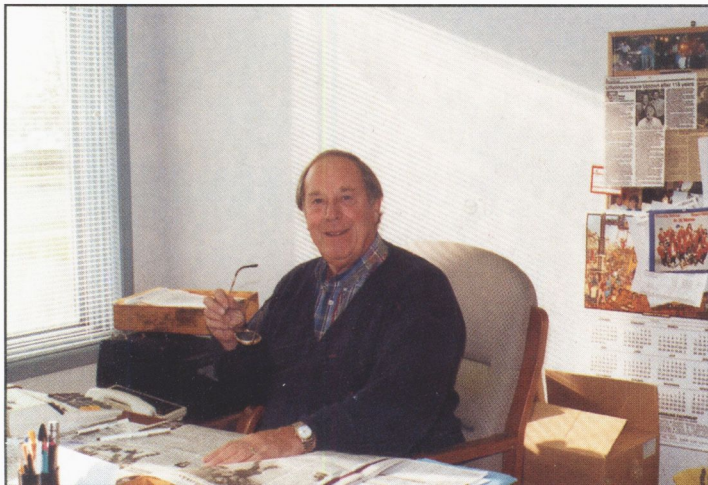
DISTRIBUTION BUSINESS - OSC also supplies many garden centres, hardware and grocery stores as well as mass merchandisers with bird and lawn seed, pesticides and gardening accessories.

TURF DIVISION - almost 500 golf courses throughout Ontario are supplied with turfgrass seed, including Coated Penncross Bentgrass by OSC. They also supply Bayco accessories such as ballwashers, sand trap rakes, flag poles, signs etc., pesticides from all major manufacturers such as Green Cross, ISK, Sanex, Rhone Poulenc etc., and fertilizers from Plant Products and Nutrite Inc. The turf division also sells and consults municipalities, parks and cemeteries.

OSC operates out of their head office and 60,000 square ft. packaging plant at 330 Phillip Street in Waterloo that was purchased in 1981. The former office and warehouse was on Regina St. and is now part of the new Waterloo City Hall complex. The only part remaining is the old Waterloo train station, which was used for years as a seed storage warehouse. OSC is very proud of its' new 100,000 square ft. distribution centre located in Kitchener and the renovated warehouse and outlet in Hamilton. Besides these locations there is also a 150-acre trial farm located on the outskirts of Waterloo used for seed testing purposes. Several Landscape Ontario field days have also been held at the farm.

People do make the difference and at OSC over 120 are currently involved in the operation of this thriving and "growing" business. OSC is looking at new ventures, new products and new areas to expand their existing operation. An ability to adapt to continual changes, and a dedication to satisfying our customer's present and future needs is one of the many keys to the success of OSC.

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