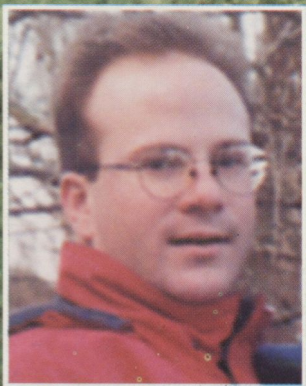
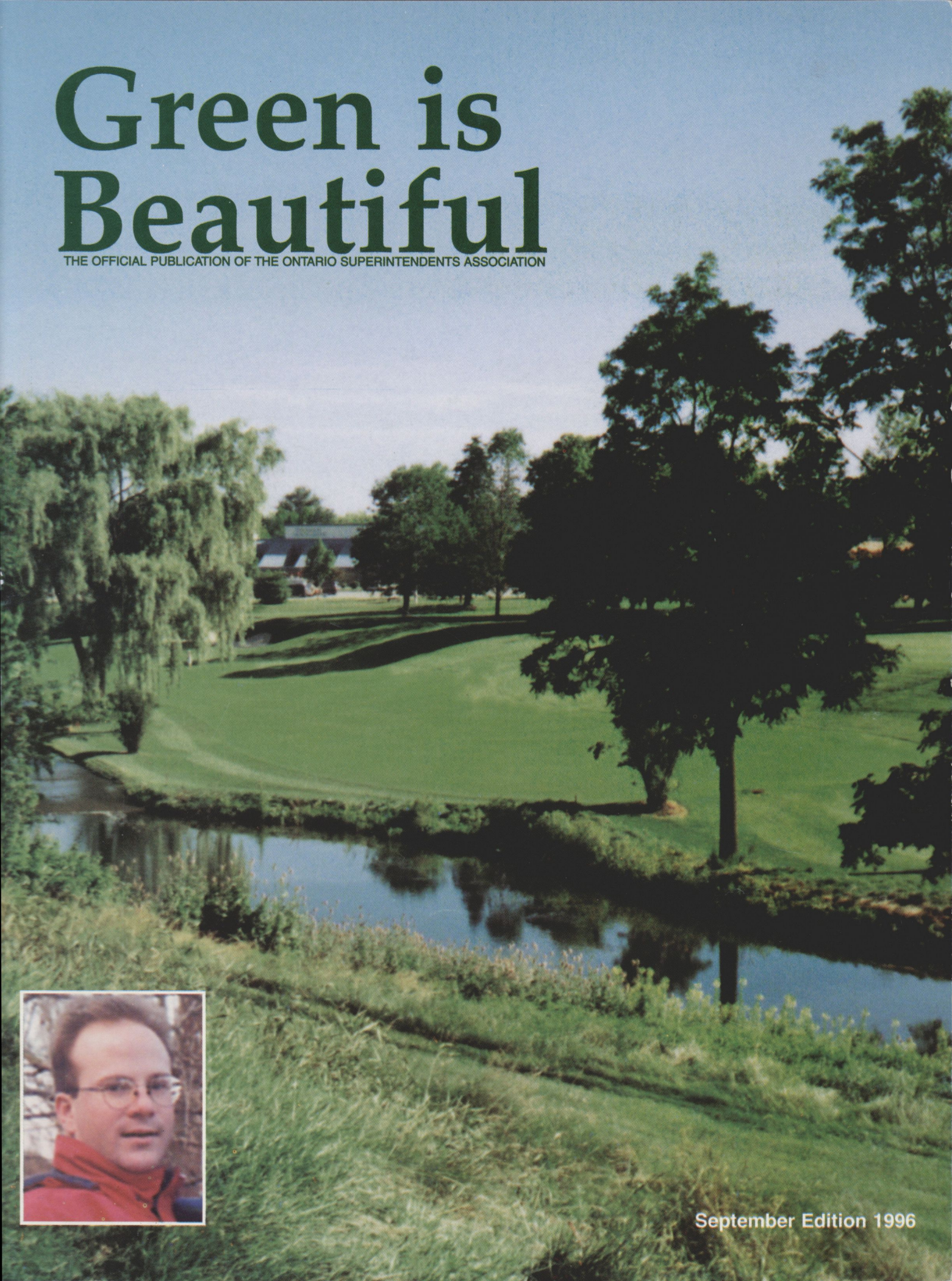


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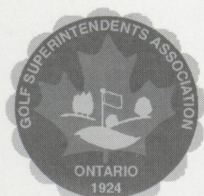
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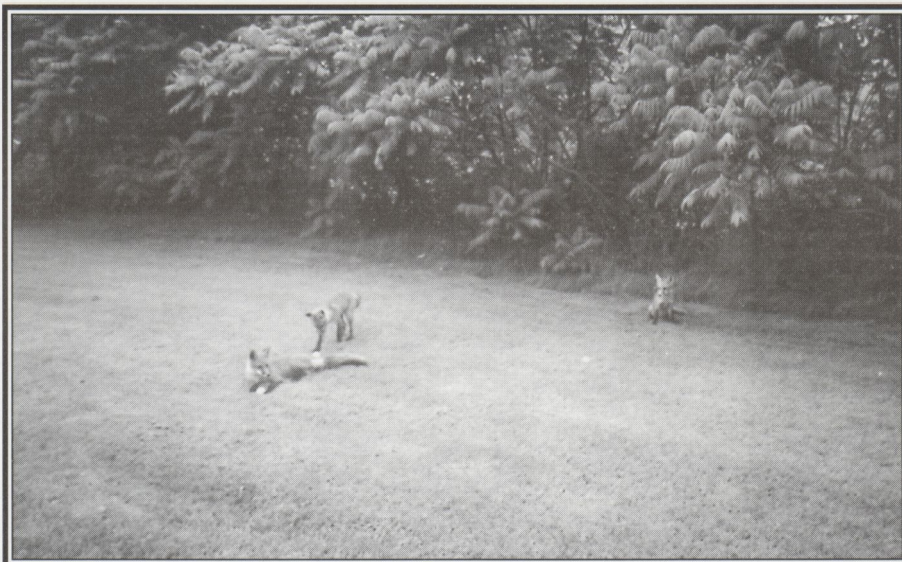
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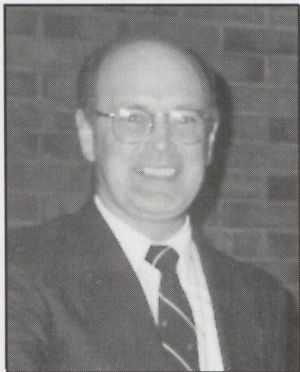
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Cover: Galt Country Club, Superintendent Mark Piccolo



President Message...

By Alex La Belle CGCS

Hello again. I never quite know how to start these messages off but somehow

I end up with a page of information when it's all over with. This time though I promise to use spell check. My apologies for the last news letter and its many errors in two articles penned by me.

We've had a busy calendar of late. The President /Green Chairperson's Tournament was well attended and actually oversubscribed. This lead to some misunderstandings that I shall try to address. It has been the case in years past to put any teams that didn't make the draw onto the top of the list for the next year. All that is required is that the applications are post marked on the specified date. This avoids a club being passed over two years in a row. Last year at the annual general meeting a motion from the floor received approval that changed the event to a Superintendent/Green Chairperson event. By dropping the other two positions we had a field that was under subscribed basically absorbing the waiting list. This left us in the unenviable task of having to start a new list. Another problem is that, depending upon where you mail your letter, the time taken to received letters post marked on the same day varies. Some letters arrived after the draw was made. Next year the event will be held at one of New York State's finest clubs; the Park Club in Buffalo where Scott Dodson will be our host. We will be mailing the application forms earlier so that the mail situation will not be a factor. We are examining the possibility of increasing the field so that all may attend. This decision is more or less in the hands of the club. We are also looking at changing the format to a scramble to speed up play. We would appreciate any other ideas that may satisfy a greater number of people.

The GTI/OGSA/OMAFRA Research Field Day and Golf Tournament (how's that for a handle) was well attended. It is a pleasure to see that the plots are continually improving under the meticulous care of Norm McCollum. Rob Witherspoon opened the day with the dedication of

Red Oak marked by a plaque on a stone from the OGSA to Dr. Clayton M. Switzer. Rob Witherspoon's stewardship of the facility has increased the GTI's profile and its use. Rob is trying to get a one or two day seminar/workshop started sometime in the late fall. Please call your local director to express your opinion of this idea. The golf day was excellent and Mark Piccolo had the course in terrific shape. Our thanks to the many sponsors who help to make this event a success.

Perhaps some of you don't know this but the OGSA was one of the original chapters of the GCSAA. This year marks a renewal of our affiliation with the GCSAA. In order to facilitate inter-association business we are attempting to harmonize our bylaws to avoid confusion. An example of this can be found in the classification of memberships. Our classification for assistants is designated by the letter "F" whereas the GCSAA's designation is "C". Most of the changes are minor alterations such as this. One significant change we will be asking you to approve is the introduction of proxy voting. Under the present bylaws we do not allow voting by our membership unless they attend the Annual General Meeting. While this may not have been a serious issue when the association was small and concentrated in a central location, it does raise some question of propriety now that we have expanded to areas as far apart as Windsor, Ottawa and Sudbury. It is unfair to say to every member from the far reaches of this province, that unless they are in Toronto, at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in January, that their opinion does not count. They pay the same dues as everyone else and should be able to exercise the same rights without incurring excessive expenses. We currently allow approval of memberships without attesting should the applicant be "geographically isolated". If we expect to expand this membership and it's benefits; if we wish to truly call ourselves a provincial association, then we must ensure equity to all members regardless of geographical situation. These bylaw changes are being worked over by Monte Anderson and will be submitted to you at least thirty days prior to the AGM. Keith Bartlett will be heading down to Lawrence, Kansas to meet with GCSAA representatives to ensure that our re-affiliation procedures are acceptable. Now, without further ado: the magazine...

Developing a Tree Care Program

by James Skorulski from UGSA Green Section Record

Trees are very important parts of most golf courses. Many golfers will protect trees with a zeal matches only by their love for the game itself. The blind affection for trees can result in poor judgment or misguided priorities in tree planting and maintenance programs. Proper planning and maintenance often become secondary as the emphasis is placed on planting more and more trees. This philosophy often leads to hasty decisions with new plantings, resulting in poorly positioned trees that consist of species that may not be well suited for the golf course or the particular planting site. This can create immediate maintenance headaches with the trees and will likely lead to future agronomic problems with the turf. The lack of a good preventive maintenance program also is apparent at such golf courses, as many of the existing trees have structural problems or poor growth form and appearance.

Golf courses with good reputations for their tree plantings realized long ago the value of a comprehensive program to care for existing trees and properly plan for new tree plantings when and where they become necessary. Those efforts have paid off handsomely with balanced age classes of healthy, well-formed tree species and a minimum of tree-related agronomic problems. This article will examine strategies that can be used to develop the foundation for a good tree maintenance program, and examine specific pruning practices that can be used to maintain healthier, more attractive trees and help rectify agronomic problems.

Program Organization

There are several ways to develop a tree care program. Golf courses that choose to complete the majority of work with their own staff will employ a full-time arborist or tree specialist who has both the

knowledge and experience to help develop and complete the practices. The extent of the work completed will vary depending on experience, available equipment, and the amount of liability the golf course is willing to assume. In many instances the arborist/tree specialist will complete smaller scale pruning, tree removal, and pest management work, and have the larger spray operations, climbing/bucket work, and major tree removals completed by outside contractors.

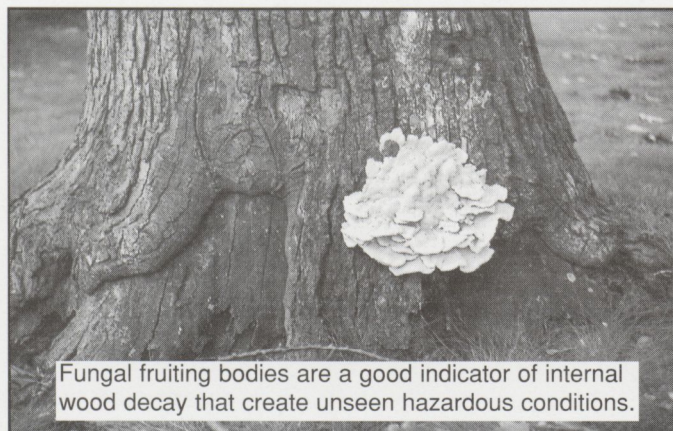
A large number of colleges and universities offer degree programs in forest and shade tree management and arbor culture. Graduates from such programs would be well suited for the position. Students might

also be available for summer placement jobs on the golf course and eventually work into a full-time position as they gain experience. The position requires overall knowledge of trees and their specific requirements, including pruning, fertility, irrigation, and pest management needs. Tree pruning and removal skills are a must, as is the ability to properly identify and evaluate hazardous trees.

This is not to say that good tree maintenance program cannot be developed without first hiring an experienced arborist. The golf course superintendent may have the necessary background to develop and oversee a relatively good program if he is fortunate enough to possess the skills mentioned above and have the necessary time. An even larger amount would probably be completed by outside contractors with a program organized in this way.

Tree Inventory

A tree inventory is beneficial for any level of tree maintenance completed on the golf course. You have to know the tree species, its specific



Fungal fruiting bodies are a good indicator of internal wood decay that create unseen hazardous conditions.

Working on the Audubon Program

So, you have joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Congratulations! If new to the program, a Resource Inventory list is probably sitting on your desk. You may possibly need help even at this stage, and are encouraged to call the New York Audubon for assistance at anytime.

Once the Resource Inventory has been completed, however, and when the Audubon has made suggestions as to your course's potential, you will most certainly need local support, information, expertise, assistance, etc. This is where the Resource Committee comes in. When I started, I had no idea how much help was available in the community, but I ended up with a Who's Who of participating members. You can, too.

Obviously, the place to begin is with management (owner, golf pro). Discuss what the program is about, assuring them though course maintenance is still the first priority, there is potential for a richer golf environment resulting in excellent PR, and that in all likelihood there will be a net cost savings from

better management practices. Then, offer to give a short presentation to the greens committee, men's and ladies' section meetings. Though much of the Audubon program can be accomplished behind the scenes, it makes implementation much easier if you have support from at least these two groups. To assist in this, the Audubon Society of New York, now Audubon International, has a slide series and a video available. Though I haven't seen the slides, I regularly use the video and recommend it highly.

Beyond this, however, you need some real expertise. First, find out which Conservation Authority you are under, and contact the Manager of Environmental Services or equivalent. I have found them to be not only very supportive, but they are excellent resources for habitat enhancement, water quality and water conservation. The local representative for the Irrigation Association will also be helpful regarding water conservation. For information on IPM, another valuable resource is the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. In addition to excellent seminars, they have a turfgrass hotline for current conditions and problems.

The most visible category, and the one likely to develop public/member enthusiasm, is that of wildlife habitat enhancement. In this area, I again urge you to contact your Conservation Authority; but there is a wealth of additional Ontario programs that support this category. Instead of reinventing the wheel each time, all you need do is plug in! For example:

- The Royal Ontario Museum needs information on nest box use on your course (the cards they send are simple and can be filled in by any layperson).
- The Long Point Bird Observatory works with Cornell University on Project Feeder Watch (similar to the Audubon one, so you are only collecting one set of data; but this one contributes to Ontario records).
- If interested in pond habitats, contact the Metro Toronto Zoo's Adopt-a-Pond program.

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Working on the Audubon Program

As well as advice on specific questions, they have an excellent tape of amphibian calls to aid in identification, a poster, and an outstanding book on how to rehabilitate/enhance your ponds.

- If your local university or community college has environmental programs, contact them for advice and possible student help. Seneca College, Sir Sandford Fleming, Humber College and now Georgian College all offer Golf Course Technician courses and may have suggestions.

- Regarding native plantings - whether flowers, grasses, or trees - the Canadian Wildflower Society, the local Horticultural Society, and Naturalist groups can advise on what plants are local, desirable (and undesirable), and can suggest sources of plants and seeds. They may even help with inventorying.

- For representative lists of Ontario birds, animals, and plants, contact the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.

Obviously, space is too limited to list names, addresses, and phone numbers. If you are interested in more information, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and I will be happy to forward the information. Furthermore, if you need information on something not mentioned above - or if you have found help in another area - please let me know so I can add it to my resource list; thereby making the information available to others. Furthermore, the Audubon now has various resource lists available for each province.

Developing the Resource Committee seemed overwhelming at first, but it turned out to be simply a matter of finding phone numbers and making the calls. This was also the first major step in enlisting member/public participation.

Next issue: Designing an Audubon Speaker Series, hosting a nest-box building workshop, and other ideas for public/member participation projects.

Barbara Allan-Shaw, Audubon Cooperative

Sanctuary Volunteer.

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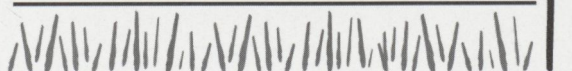
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Thirty Years Ago To-day

by Barry Endicott

Nobletone Lakes Golf Club

In 1966, the OGSA board of directors were as follows: Keith Nisbet (pres.), Bob Moote (vice.), Dave Gourlay (sec.), Whitey Jones (treas.), George Darou (past pres.), Dave Moote, Larry Smithson, Carl Sellers, Ian Williamson and Gordon Witteveen. The Greensmaster was the official publication of the OGSA and the editors were Gordon Witteveen, Bill Hynd and Norm McKenna.

A monthly meeting was held at the 3 year old Brampton Golf Club. The host superintendent

was Roy Cornfield. Roy had been the assistant for seven years to Harry McBride, at the old Brampton Country Club. Mr. Leo Cleary, from the W.A. Cleary chemical firm, was the guest speaker.

Larry Smithson, who was Superintendent at the Municipal courses in Metro Toronto, was recently promoted to Parks Superintendent.

The Credit Valley Club, near Toronto, had just completed one of the most modern, expensive, fool proof elevators in the area. Now there was talk that the course will be sold for subdividing.

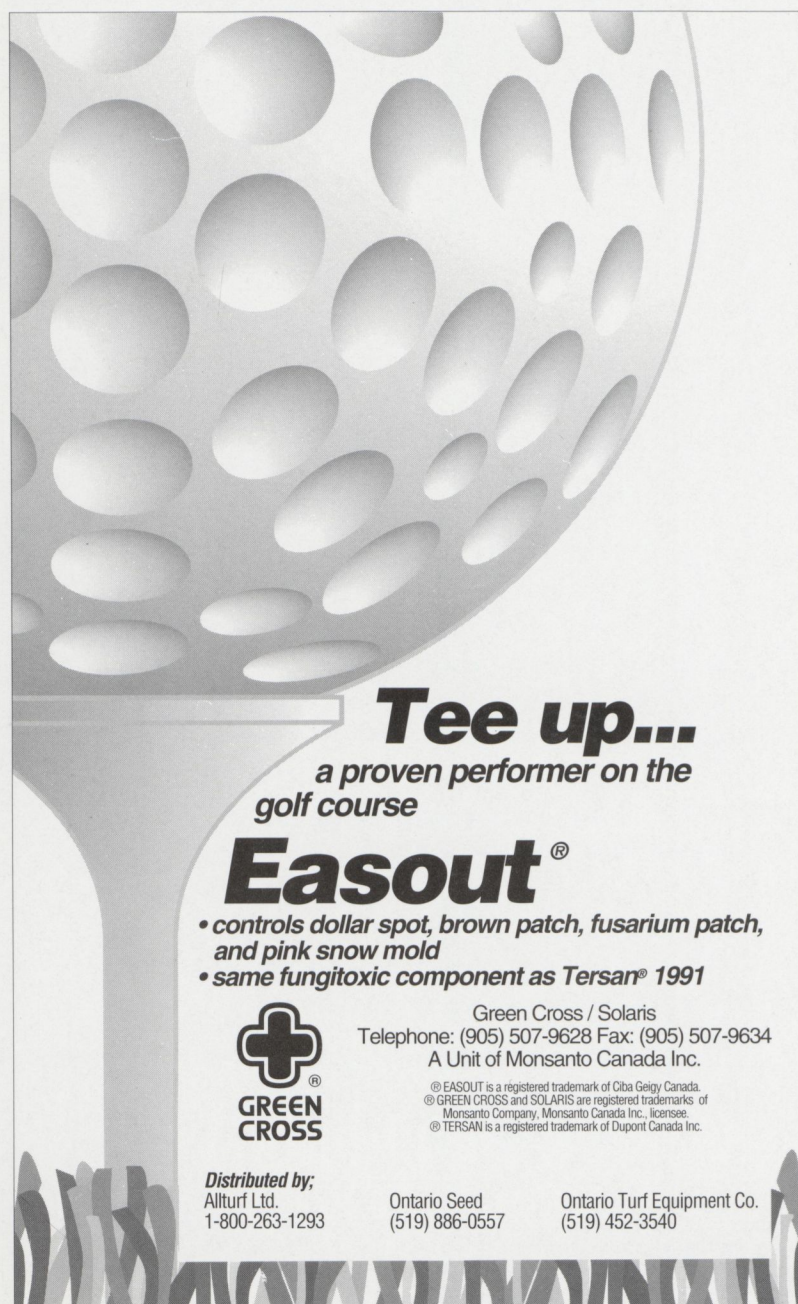
Tom Styles died in mid-October in St. Catharines where he was Superintendent at the St. Catharines Country Club for more than 40 years.

The Alex McClumpha Tournament was held at Glen Eagles Golf Club hosted by Bill Calhoun. Dale Butler, from Malton Golf Club, won it with a 74 and Whitey Jones was low net.

Bill Bowen, Superintendent at the Peterborough C.C., won the Willie Park Trophy at the Weston Golf Club with a 71.

A meeting and golf day was held on September 13th at Upper Canada Golf Club hosted by Tom Unsworth. At that meeting, it was decided that Keith Nisbet would run for director of the GCSAA in the coming national elections in Washington. Gord Witteveen was appointed voting delegate.


On May 12, John Arends hosted a meeting at Hawthorn Valley. John received his early training as assistant to Ralph Tucker when Ralph was building the Beverley Golf Club. Whitey Jones was low net and Keith Nisbet was low gross. At this meeting, a change in the by-laws to have a separate membership class for assistants was turned down. A motion to accept pro superintendents and



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Environment Stewardship Workshop this Fall

The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association and the Greater London Area Golf Superintendents Association are cosponsoring an environmental stewardship workshop focusing on golf course issues. A similar workshop was conducted by Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association and the Severn Sound Remedial Action Plan last November and it was well received with the superintendents. The workshop entitled "Environmental Stewardship "A Golf Course Perspective" will take place on Wed. Nov 13, 1996 at the Craigowen Golf Course. This one day workshop will provide the superintendents with the following:

- an introduction to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

- information on the use of native species to enhance wildlife habitats and

- reduce maintenance costs

- increased awareness of environmental resource people in your community
- results from the pest monitoring pilot project conducted on golf courses

- a case study of an ecologically sound golf course development project at River Road Golf Course.

For information on registration please telephone Pam Charbonneau at (519) 824-4120 ext. 2597.

Thirty Years Ago To-day

manager superintendents ,who are not members of the PGA and the Managers Association, was carried.

The Dominion Golf Club was the site for an April meeting hosted by Danny Uzelac and his wife Dorothy.

On March 8th, Joe Roberts, of the Oshawa Country Club, hosted over 50 members. The guest speakers were Mr. James Lent and Mr. Art Drysdale. Some of the members at this meeting were: George Darou, Richmond Hill; Joe Peters, Strathroy (both Darou and Peters were one time superintendents at Oshawa); Tom Unsworth, Upper Canada Golf Club; Ted Charman, Toronto Ladies; Ernie Allen, Toronto Hunt Club and Norm McKenna, Summit Golf Club.

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Developing a Tree Care Program *continued*

Applying Round-up to control grasses at the base of trees can be a tricky process.



requirements, and the life expectancy in order to plan and prioritize pruning work and other maintenance and planting programs. This information is critical even if the primary maintenance work is completed by outside contractors. The inventory should identify tree species, map their locations, estimate approximate age class and tree condition, provide site characteristics, and any other pertinent notes. The tree's estimated intrinsic and monetary values might also be included in the inventory. Computer software, such as the Trims Tree Management Program, can be helpful in producing the inventory. Identifying the various tree species may be the most intimidating hurdle in completing the inventory. The services of an arborist or employee with training in tree identification are definitely recommended, especially if a superintendent's dendrology skills have faded. The inventory might serve as a good project for a summer placement student with knowledge in tree identification. There are also many good books and keys available to aid in the identification process. University specialists, extension agents, or local nursery personnel can also provide assistance if the challenge is too great. Estimating monetary values is more complex and should be left to an experienced arborist.

Tree Evaluation

The tree plantings should be thoroughly inspected on an annual basis to evaluate their condition and establish maintenance priorities. The inspection would determine where tree pruning

work, individual tree removals, stand thinning and new tree plantings may be required. Fertility, pest management, and other maintenance programs should be developed based on the results of the evaluation. Information from the evaluation and tree inventory, together with input from the superintendent, golf professional and tree committee members should be used to target sites where trees affect turf quality or negatively influence play.

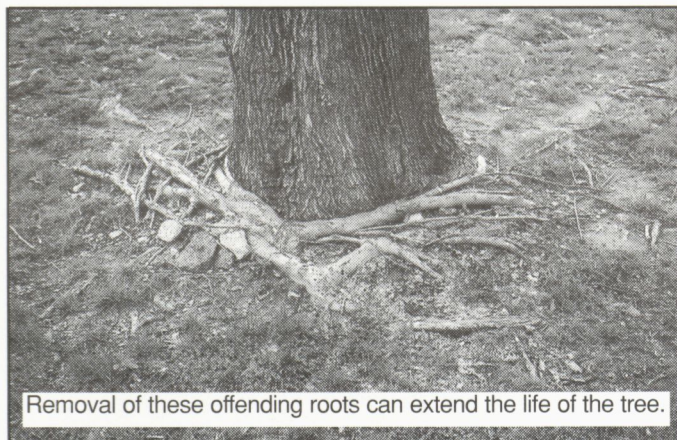
Pruning Techniques

Pruning work is a primary part of tree maintenance programs. Unfortunately, the work is not fully utilized in many golf course tree care programs. Pruning is used to enhance or modify a tree's natural growth form. Remedial pruning is completed regularly to remove diseased, damaged, poorly attached, or crowded branches to improve a tree's structure and appearance. Tree size can be maintained to a certain extent with pruning. Pruning is also used to help train young trees. Pruning can stimulate flowering in ornamental trees and vigour in stressed or stagnated trees. Selective pruning is frequently completed on golf courses to increase light penetration and air flow to the tree and surrounding areas. Tree canopies are also raised from the ground to gain more air movement and access below the tree. Finally, root pruning is used to remove girdling roots from the base of tree trunks and where tree roots aggressively completing with the turf.

The impact of the pruning work on the tree can be minimized by properly positioning and completing the cut. The old standard flush cut is no longer recommended except for adventitious water sprouts or sucker branches. Branches should instead be cut along the outside edge or branch bark ridge (shoulder rings) and collar to minimize the wound's size and allow the tree to callous over the cut more quickly. There are several techniques followed to make a proper cut, depending on branch size. Smaller branches are often cut with hand shears or hand saws, while large hand saws or chain saws are used for larger cuts. Larger branches require a series of cuts to prevent the bark and wood from tearing and splitting back into the tree. The first cut is made on the lower side of the branch, usually 1 to 2 feet from the crotch. The cut

Developing a Tree Care Program

continued



is made upward about a quarter of the diameter or until the saw begins to bind. The second cut is completed on top of the branch and placed outside the first cut by 1 or 2 inches. The second cut allows the branch to break cleanly off the tree. The final cut is then made at the crotch, as recommended above. Heavier branch stubs may need to be undercut and/or supported during the final cut to avoid tearing the bark.

Applying wound dressings is no longer recommended. The dressings may actually delay the process by which the tree recovers from the wound. Paints are sometimes used to mask or improve a wound's appearance, but those too will have no other beneficial effects. Trees naturally isolate the wounds by developing a chemical barrier in a process termed compartmentalization. The barrier prevents most decay fungi and bacteria from entering surrounding wood as the tree produces callus tissue that in time will cover the wound.

The timing of the pruning operations depends on the purpose of the pruning work, the type of tree and its condition. Minor or light pruning work can be completed at any time of the year. Dead, diseased, weak or heavily shaded branches can also be removed at any time with little negative effect on the tree. Plant development will be affected least if the pruning work is completed prior to the period of most rapid growth. The majority of deciduous trees can therefore be pruned during winter dormancy and until spring growth resumes to correct structural problems. Evergreen trees should be pruned just prior to spring growth

to minimize the chance of cold temperature injury around the wounds. Trees such as maples, birch and elm can bleed heavily if pruned in early spring. The bleeding can be minimized if pruning is completed in very late fall, early winter or mid-spring. Heavy bleeding can create unsightly stains and delay the onset of callus tissue formation.

Reducing the tree's rate of growth and size is accomplished most effectively if pruning work is completed after the season's growth flush has occurred. Pruning work should be scheduled in spring to midsummer for this purpose. Keep this in mind when thinning tree canopies to gain additional light and air flow. Late summer and fall pruning work is least favorable, as larger wounds recover more slowly and are more susceptible to the decay fungi that sporulate in fall. Callusing is most rapid if pruning work is completed prior to or soon after tree growth resumes in spring. Use even more care when completing pruning cuts during and immediately following the rapid spring growth period, as the bark is particularly tender and is easily torn.

Pruning Young Trees

Nursery stock should have relatively good growth form. Do not accept planting material if the structural branches are not uniformly spaced, are too close together, or are poorly attached. However, even good quality nursery stock will likely require some pruning work as the trees mature to maintain good structure and branching. Pruning should be minimal at the time the tree is planted. Broken or damaged branches can be removed, as can adventitious shoots. It is best to complete major pruning work during the tree's early establishment period, as pruning wounds are smaller and work easier to complete. Large-scale corrective pruning should be spread over several years to avoid excessive stress on younger trees.

Training very young trees is a complex matter requiring knowledge of the tree's growth form and function on the golf course. Young trees should be inspected for uniformly spaced vertical and radial branching and sound branch attachments along the main leader. Remember, these young branches serve as the main scaffold

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FALL FIELD DAY: October 4

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ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

October 7, 1996

Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

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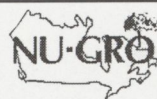
WESTERN ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION AND

THE GREATER LONDON AREA GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Environmental Stewardship - A Golf Course Perspective"

Wed. Nov. 13, 1996

- 30 Coffee and registration
- 15 Welcome - Jerry Richard, Craigowen Golf Course
Introduction to the Workshop - Best Colman and Dan Schaefer, Stewardship Coordinators Elgin and Middlesex
- 0:15 **The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program** - Greg Williams, Golf Course Superintendent and Teri Yamada, Royal Canadian Golf Association
- 10:40 Coffee Break and Draw
- 11:10 **Fish and Wildlife Habitat, A Wildlife Habitat Council Perspective**, John Young
- 1:40 **Creating an Environmentally Friendly Golf Course**, Pud Hunter, Biologist, Ministry of Natural Resources
- 2:00 **Ecologically Sound Golf Course Development**, River Road Golf Course, Tom Young, Dillon Consultants
- :00 Lunch and Draw
- 45 **Results of the OMAFRA Golf Course Pest Monitoring Pilot Project**, Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA and Jim Moore, Puslinch Lake Golf Club
- 15 **Opportunity for Native Species**, Mary Gartshore, Pterophylla
- :00 **Oak Savannah Restoration at the Brantford Golf Club**, Don Kirk, Ministry of Natural Resources,
Prescribed Burn from a Superintendents Point of View, Rick Piccolo, Brantford Golf Club
- 5 **Wrap-up**, Dan Schaefer and Bret Colman, Stewardship Coordinators



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G.T.I. Field Day

WINNERS:

Ladies: Low Net	Tammy Packham
Low Net	Daisy Moore
Mens: 1st Low Net	Bob Moore
2nd Low Net	Rod Trainor
1st Low Gross	Dave Schmelefske
2nd Low Gross	Greg Salvian
Longest Drive:	Dave Suab
	Nigel Rennie
Closest to Pin:	Chuck Egleston
	Paul Romahn
	John Bladon
	Ron Schiedel
	Angello Capannelli



Editor's Report

by Mark Piccolo

As the year is winding down for superintendents, I keep hearing of success stories from people on how well courses have been rebounding from a stressful winter. You all should be commended. I have taken the reins of the newsletter from Alex Le Belle. The format of the newsletter seems to be working well. Our biggest concern seems to be the lack of material we have to put into the newsletter. We currently do not have any articles on file and are scrambling at the last minute to put something together reducing the amount of time for proofing and spell checking which have not been as consistent as we would like it to be.

Feedback from our survey taken last winter suggested that more articles be published pertaining to superintendents and practices used on their courses. We have decided to create an informal writing contest where superintendents and assistants may submit articles not to exceed 1000 words or two pages (pictures can be used to take up space) to be published in the Green is Beautiful. The top three articles will receive OGSA apparel as a token. Hopefully we can develop a file of articles to use in the newsletter. Nothing is too insignificant to write about. We are asking you to take the initiative and provide us with the material to be published in your newsletter.

Slow Pitch Tournament

July 20th, McCracken Golf Supplies and Nugro Corp. annual Sol-Pitch tournament was held at Globe Park in Hamilton. 32 teams competed for the Superintendent Cup. The competition was excellent and the weather was just perfect. In the semi finals on the A side Royal Woodbine 11 - Brampton 9, Dundee 12 - Lionhead 5. In the B semi finals Weston 17 - Suppliers 10, Parkview beat Foxwood. the new champions arose from the dust



New Dundee "A" Champions

to be crowned champions this year. Dundee defeated Royal Woodbine 6-4 in an exciting A final (champion), and Weston prevailed over Parkview 19-12 in a slug fest for the B championship. See You next year...



Weston "B" Champions



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Developing a Tree Care Program *continued*

branches as the tree matures. Larger growing trees should have wider spaced main or scaffold branching along the trunk for optimum strength, while smaller growing trees should have more closely spaced branching. The lateral branches should not be larger than the trunk or main leader, as they compete for dominance and result in a weak attachment. Horizontal branching and wider angle branch attachments usually result in stronger connections, which are more desirable.

Pruning Mature Trees

Corrective pruning measures required for mature plantings generally are more severe and costly to complete, especially if the trees received little care in the past. Inspect the tree canopy and specifically look at scaffold or main branching to make sure the tree's canopy is well formed and in balance. Poor quality branches, or those that are diseased, dead or interfering with each other should be removed. This process is often referred to as dead wooding. Tree canopies that create excessive shade, block air movement, affect play or crowd each other can be addressed through crown reduction or crown thinning. Raising the crown is the term used for pruning work completed to raise the tree canopy off the ground to increase light penetration and air movement.

Dead wooding is especially important for older trees that contain hazardous branching or decayed wood. Such wood should be removed, along with any vines or foreign material. This type of pruning is often completed prior to initiating crown thinning or reduction work. Removing the weaker branches and dead wood makes it easier to determine the additional pruning work required. Dead wooding also is an excellent tool used to manage certain pests. However, diseases such as fire blight and other canker-forming disorders can be spread through pruning wounds, making it necessary to disinfect pruning tools following each cut.

Crown thinning is completed to highlight a tree's branching and to increase light penetration and air movement through

the canopy. Trees with overly dense canopies benefit from opening the canopy. The additional light promotes stronger growth of the remaining branches, encourages lateral branch development, and increases branch tapering to make the tree less susceptible to storm damage. Wind resistance can also be reduced by selective thinning work. Crown thinning can result in the removal of a third or more of the tree's canopy, which should not affect vigorous deciduous trees. However beech, birch, hornbeam, eucalyptus, walnut and most conifer

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FAIRY RING

by Tom Hsiang, Pathologist, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

Fairy Ring disease is found throughout Canada. The name, however, has a far older origin, and refers to the superstition that small mythological creatures used to dance in small

rings on grass, leading to compacted circular bare zones and the mysterious production of mushrooms virtually overnight. We now know that there are several types of fairy rings (dead rings, stimulated green rings, and mushroom rings), and they are caused by soil and thatch inhabiting fungi. In this issue, we will discuss the cause of Fairy Ring and suggest some ways of dealing with it.

Pathogen: *Marasmius oreades*, *Psalliota campestris* and other mushroom species. The killing ring may be visible at various times of the year.

Host Plants: All turfgrasses.

Season of Occurrence: Mushrooms are usually produced in the fall, but sometimes may occur in the spring. Other symptoms such as the killing ring or the stimulated ring may be visible at various times of the year.

Conditions Favoring Disease:

- There is more disease on sites with higher organic matter, such as thatchy lawns.
- Long dry periods particularly during summer after a wet spring.
- Mushroom rings can occur on lawns or grass swards where tree stumps or other large pieces of woody organic matter have been buried.

Symptoms:

- There are three types of fairy ring: 1) killing ring; 2) stimulated ring; 3) ring or arc of mushrooms.
- The killing ring found in meadows and pastures in Europe, has been found to be kilometres in diameter and centuries old. Dying turf at the edge of the killing rings may have a purplish wilted appearance due to interference with root function. Advance of the ring will be halted when the fungus encounters obstructions such as trees, building, or even other rings, and this leads to arcs which grow outward. The interior of the ring recovers as the fungus grows outward giving a frog-eye appearance. There also may be enhanced growth just inside the dead ring or to the outside of the dead ring.
- The stimulated ring can achieve several metres in

diameter. It is more prominent in areas of low nitrogen fertility. This is the most common type of fairy ring seen on putting greens in Ontario. The rings may reappear in the same location year after year, and outward ring expansion is several mm per year. Symptoms can be masked by applying iron.

- The arc or ring of mushrooms is found in areas of infrequent mowing. The fungus starts as a spore or mycelium growing on organic matter such as a buried stump. The fungus grows outward to colonize new organic matter, but may die in the outer margins due to competition and lack of nutrition. This fungus dieback allows a release of Nitrogen which causes stimulated turf growth. There may also be a dead zone due to mycelial growth preventing water penetration (not common in Eastern Canada). In late summer or early fall, mushrooms may be produced.

Life Cycle: The fungus survives as mycelium in soil thatch living off dead organic matter. (One way to diagnose fairy ring is to slice into the affected turf and look for the presence of abundant white mycelium in the thatch and upper soil area). Mushrooms may be found in spring or fall that produce millions of spores.

Cultural Control:

- Reduce thatch.
- Aerify to allow increased moisture penetration into soil.
- Irrigate excessively to cause saturated conditions for 4-6 weeks. This creates an environment which favours bacteria and other microbial antagonists.
- A drastic alternative is to remove infested soil and replace with clean new soil. Note that the fungal mycelium may be up to 0.5 m outside of the ring and as far down into the soil as the grass roots.
- Another alternative is to cultivate infested soil, which breaks up the fungal mycelium and allows competition. This is commonly done on home lawns on the Prairies, and after reseeding or resodding, problems were still not observed after 10 years.

Chemical Control: No registered fungicides. The ones registered on turf are not known to be effective. Soil fumigants will kill off Fairy Ring fungus (but will kill many other things also).

Resistant Turfgrasses: None of the northern turfgrasses are resistant.

Developing a Tree Care Program *continued*

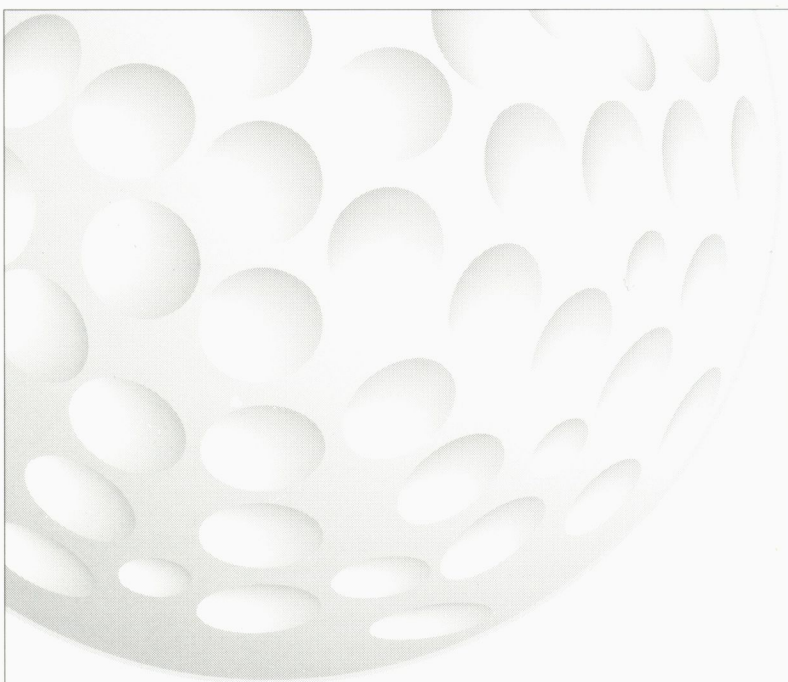
trees are less tolerant of sever pruning and therefore should have less of the canopy removed at any one time.

Crown reduction is also a relatively common procedure used to keep trees within size requirements. This type of pruning is often used to overcome earlier mistakes in planting judgment. Tree size can be controlled most effectively if pruning is initiated before the tree reaches the desired size. Pruning cuts will be smaller and the tree's appearance less affected. Trees that require frequent crown reduction work probably should be replaced as their natural appearance will be altered. Crown reduction also can be an effective means to address overcrowded tree stands. The canopies of the smaller and less desirable trees should be severely pruned, allowing the surrounding trees to develop properly. The pruned trees eventually will be removed as the preferred trees develop.

Thinning-out, heading and pollarding are pruning techniques used in crown reduction. Thinning-out is the preferred technique when the tree's natural growth form is to be maintained. It involves pruning branches back to lower laterals (drop-crouching) that are at least a third the diameter of the branch being removed. Heading is used to drastically reduce canopy size. It involves pruning the main branches back to stubs. This form of pruning can leave very large wounds that may never callus, thus providing sites for decay. It also results in very dense, upright and vigorous branching immediately below the cut. The resulting branching is unnatural in appearance, poorly attached and generally not safe. It is not a recommended technique for most situations. Pollarding is a type of heading operation used in more formal landscape situations to keep larger growing trees under size control. This technique is rarely used on golf courses.

Raising the crown is often completed on conifer trees whose lower branch whorls affect maintenance or play, or block sun and

air flow. This is completed by removing lower branches completely or pruning them back to the next largest, upright lateral branch to reduce weight. Similar work is completed on deciduous trees during the growing season when the branches are in full leaf. This operation is often objectionable to many people, who dislike the unnatural appearance it can create. It is possible to raise the canopy height and still maintain a somewhat natural appearance if the work is done carefully and extended over several seasons.



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Developing a Tree Care Program

continued

on golf courses where tree root competition reduces turf quality. Individual tree roots may also have to be pruned manually if they begin to girdle the tree. Tree roots are severed at a 12 to 20 inch depth using a power trencher, vibratory plow, backhoe or root cutting saw. Standard recommendations are to provide one foot of distance between the pruning trench and tree; per inch of tree diameter at chest height. Recent studies indicate, however, that pruning along one side of moderately sized, healthy trees can be completed at distances of three feet and closer without seriously affecting the tree's growth rate or survival as long as the remaining root

system is intact and unrestricted. Larger and slower growing trees might show more severe effects from such close pruning. The study also demonstrated that the negative effects of severe single and multiple side root pruning could be reduced by thinning the tree's crown following the operation. Pruning more than one side of a tree in a given year will cause more stress and could leave the tree less stable.

Trees will continue to be a very important part of most golf courses. Hopefully, this article has changed the way you look at trees and tree care programs at your golf course. It is important to remember that the passion reserved for trees does

not have to be devoted entirely to new planting programs. Institute a new philosophy for trees that addressed maintenance needs equally with new planting programs. Develop a tree inventory and, if possible, add a tree specialist to your staff, or become more familiar with trees yourself to better develop and implement pruning and other maintenance programs. The existing trees will definitely benefit, as will new plantings, which will be made with more scrutiny. Turf and trees can coexist nicely, especially if we do not allow blind affection to get in the way of reality.

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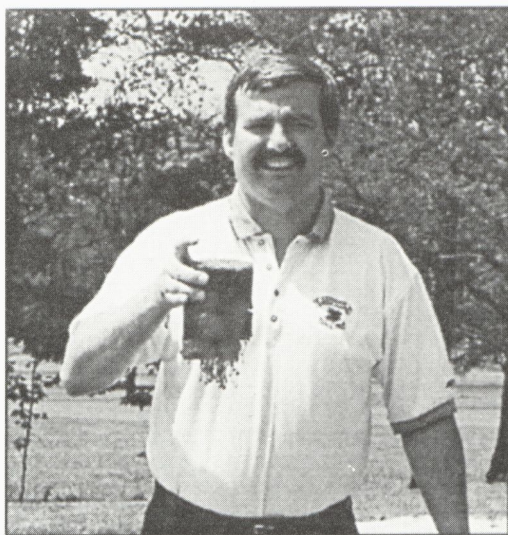
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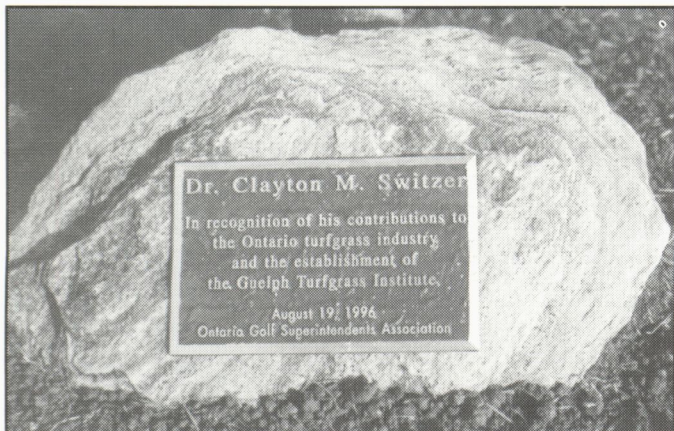
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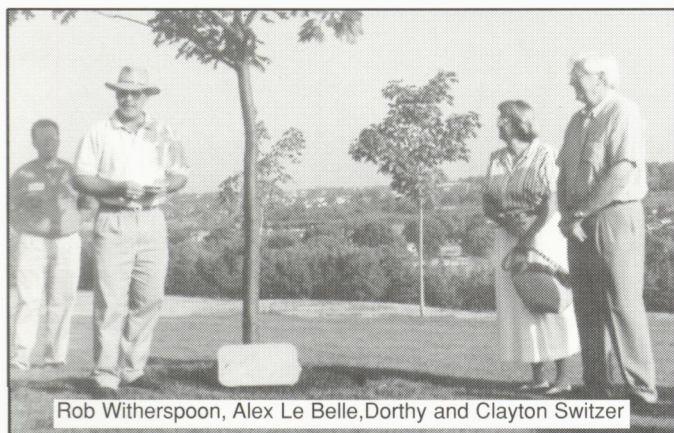
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GTI Field Day



The GTI-OTRF 1996 Research Field Day held on Monday, August 19 was a resounding success with over 200 participants. The group was treated to a bright and sunny day. The day began with a tribute by the OGSA to Dr. Clayton Switzer. A plaque was unveiled by OGSA President Alex La Belle in recognition of Dr. Switzer's contributions to the turfgrass industry and the creation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. The plaque is mounted on a stone at the foot of a red oak tree which, according to Dr. Switzer, had special meaning for those people in the crowd who knew me before my hair went gray.

Following welcoming messages from GTI Director Rob Witherspoon and Chair of Turfgrass Research, Dr. Chris Hall, the group headed out to tour the turfgrass, toxicology, environmental and nursery research projects. Norman McCollum and his crew had the GTI grounds in excellent condition for this year's event. Those who had visited the GTI



Rob Witherspoon, Alex Le Belle, Dorothy and Clayton Switzer

site prior to the move from Cambridge commented how far the site has come in only a few years.

After lunch, most of the OGSA members headed off to Galt for the golf portion of the day. A few stayed at the GTI for a turf management clinic with Pam Charbonneau and Dr. Jack Eggens. Pam and Jack were overwhelmed by the tremendous number of turf professionals who participated. No doubt the clinic will become a regular part of the field day.

The researchers and staff of the GTI thank those who joined us for the field day. We invite you to use the library and demonstration/teaching areas of the GTI for the benefit of yourself and your staff at any time. The gates of the GTI are always open to members of the turfgrass industry.



The Golf portion of the G.T.I. Field Day was held at the Galt Country Club in Cambridge. Host Superintendent Mark Piccolo and Assistant Gary Tate had the course in fine condition. Approximately 81 Golfers enjoyed golf course and additional 10 people indulged in a finely prepared steak dinner.

Special thanks go out to Keith Bartlett and Cindy Charters for organizing the event, and all of the distributors for supplying additional prizes. Additional thanks to Pam Charbanneace, Rob Whitherspoon and Norm McCallum for a smoothly run day at the G.T.I. Looking forward to the Cutlarn Club next year.



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Golf Courses and the Environment

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The use of pesticides, the impact on water and soil quality, and irrigation water usage are often cited as public concerns about the golf industry. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is leading the golf community in working to correct this public misconception through a comprehensive effort combining research, education and communication. These inaccuracies, if not corrected, could pose a serious threat to the vitality and integrity of the game of golf.

Sound Environmental Practices on Golf Courses

University and government studies indicate that, when properly applied, pesticides and fertilizers do not leach into groundwater in any appreciable amounts.

Modern turfgrass management practices greatly reduce the potential for leaching or runoff into water supplies.

Pesticides and fertilizers are used only on certain portions of the golf course. The rest of the property often consists of natural areas not maintained with turf care products. These areas can provide a home for wildlife, and include a diverse variety of native plants and trees.

Golf course superintendents are among the best-educated and most conscientious users of chemical management tools. Today, most superintendents have two or four year university degrees in agronomy, horticulture or other related fields.

Many superintendents enter the profession because of a love of nature and the outdoors and are strongly committed to conservation. A recent survey shows superintendents give extremely high priority to maintenance practices that do not have a negative impact on the environment.

Most golf courses compost grass clippings and leaves, which reduces the amount of waste in landfills. Composting is a growing and recommended practice for golf course operations.

Turf Related Benefits of Golf Courses

The water used on golf courses can be an excellent investment in both economic and environmental terms. Irrigated golf courses generate millions of tourist and property tax dollars for state economies. Many courses now use recycled water as part of their irrigation practices. When effectively irrigated, healthy turf provides numerous environmental benefits. Properly maintained turfgrass:

- produces oxygen (carbon dioxide exchange) and cools the atmosphere
- prevents soil erosion
- filters natural and synthetic contaminant's from rainfall and irrigation
- recharges critical groundwater supplies
- provides crucial "greenspace" in urban settings

As a result of computerized irrigation systems and improved turfgrass varieties, courses can now use less water more efficiently to achieve the same level of conditioning. Continuing research will provide even more "low-water" turfgrass varieties in the future.

Ecological and Community Benefits of Golf Courses

In addition to turf-related benefits, courses provide other important ecological and community assets. Golf courses are:

- key sanctuaries for birds and other wildlife
- disposal and treatment sites for (effluent) wastewater
- attractive and environmentally sound "covers" for closed landfills and other ecologically damaged sites
- recreational places for non-golf activities, such as jogging, walking and bird-watching
- businesses that provide hundreds of thousands of skilled and semi-skilled jobs
- places for social interaction and community events
- civic benefactors that give major contributions to charities
- community improvements that add value to land, thus increasing local tax bases
- wetlands preservation areas

Angus Glen Golf Club Hosts President, Greens Chairman, Board of Director and Superintendent Event

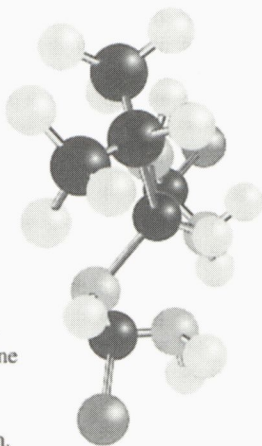
Angus Glen Golf Club were gracious hosts of this year's event on Monday July 22, 1996. Earnie Amsler, Superintendent of the new Carrick design, had the course in superb condition, a treat for the 36 teams who participated. A beautiful meal was served outside under the tent following the round of golf. Both the maintenance staff, clubhouse and proshop staff should be commended on the organization and service we enjoyed.

Terri Yamada our guest speaker updated us on the progress of the Audobine Co-Operative Sanctuary Program and how we as turf managers can use the program in our relations with our members and public.

The team representing the Weston Golf & Country Club captured the trophy. Next year we look forward to travelling over the border to Buffalo, New York, as Scott Dodson and The Park Country Club will be our hosts.

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Weston Golf & Country Club

Weston Golf & Country Club received recognition as score magazines best condition course when their bi-annual Canadian course ranking were announced earlier this summer. Jeff Burgess course superintendent credits the membership for Weston's success.

"They hire educated professionals' and allow them to do their job, they take great pride in their golf course and are wonderful to work for". Jeff also credits a technically sound & experienced maintenance crew who also share the same pride in the golf course as the members do.

Jeff Burgess was born in Windsor, Ont and began his career cadding at the Essex Golf & Country Club. He then spent 5 years working on Essex's maintenance crew under the supervision of Bill Falk, course superintendent at the time. Jeff completed both the University of Guelph short course program and Michigan University's turf grass managers program. While attending Michigan he worked at the Birmingham Golf Country Club for 2 years as the second assistant.

In 1991, Jeff became assistant superintendent at the Westmount Golf & Country Club in Kitchener where Hugh Kirkpatrick prepared Jeff for the move to Weston in 1995. Jeff and his wife Carrie and two children Shane & Kyle are very happy to be associated with Weston.

CONGRATULATIONS....

Golf Courses and the Environment

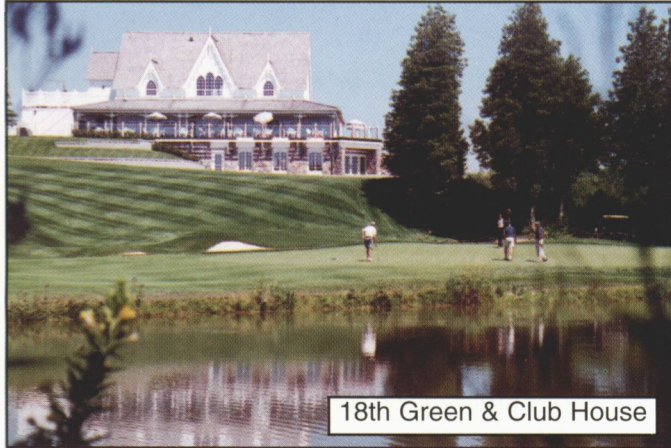
Moving Ahead

On golf's behalf, GCSAA has built strong and cooperative relationships with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other major regulatory groups. Through governmental affairs, professional education and public information, the association strives to make environmental responsibility a basic precept for its members.

The golf community has the willingness, the resources and the motivation to address the environmental issues that exist on the golf courses of today. It is hoped that through these efforts golf will be perceived as a model environmental industry for the 1990s.

For more information please contact the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS, 66049-3859, telephone 913/841-2240.

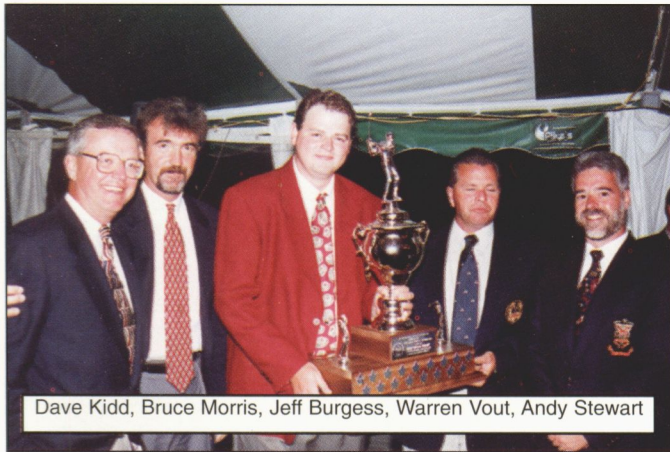
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18th Green & Club House



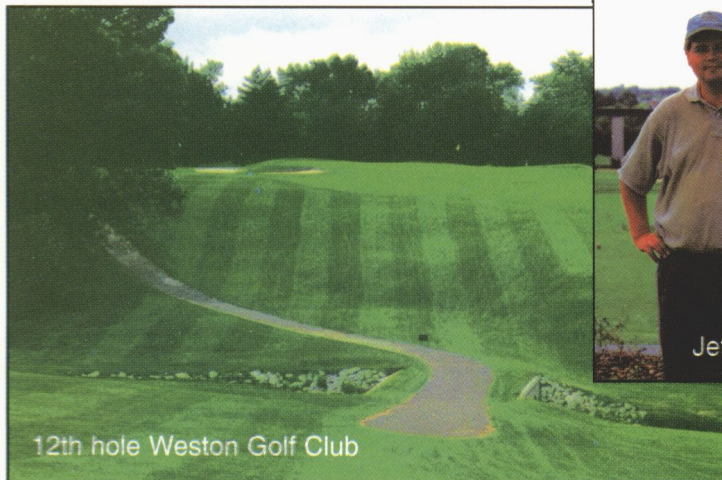
Terri Yamada/Ian Bowen



Dave Kidd, Bruce Morris, Jeff Burgess, Warren Vout, Andy Stewart



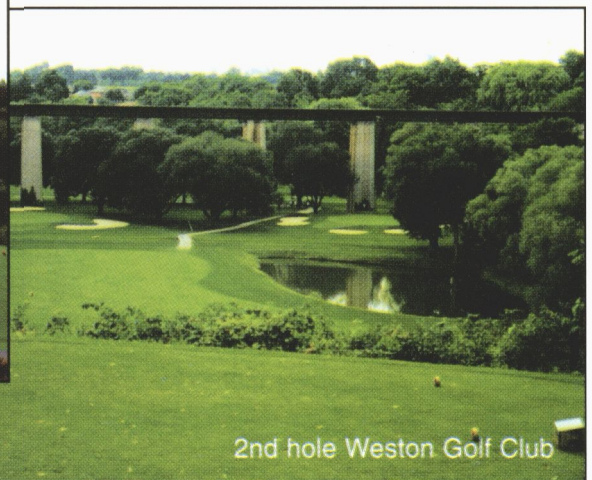
Ernie Amsler



12th hole Weston Golf Club



Jeff Burgess

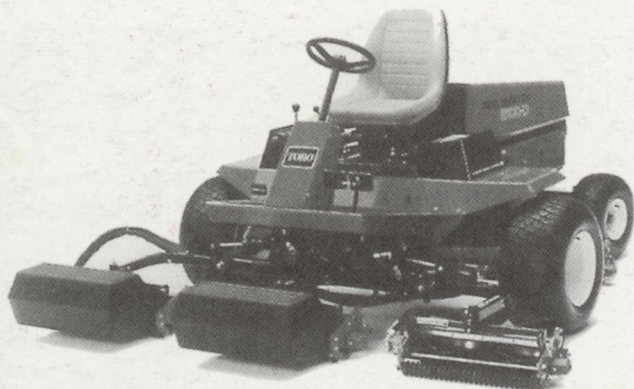


2nd hole Weston Golf Club

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