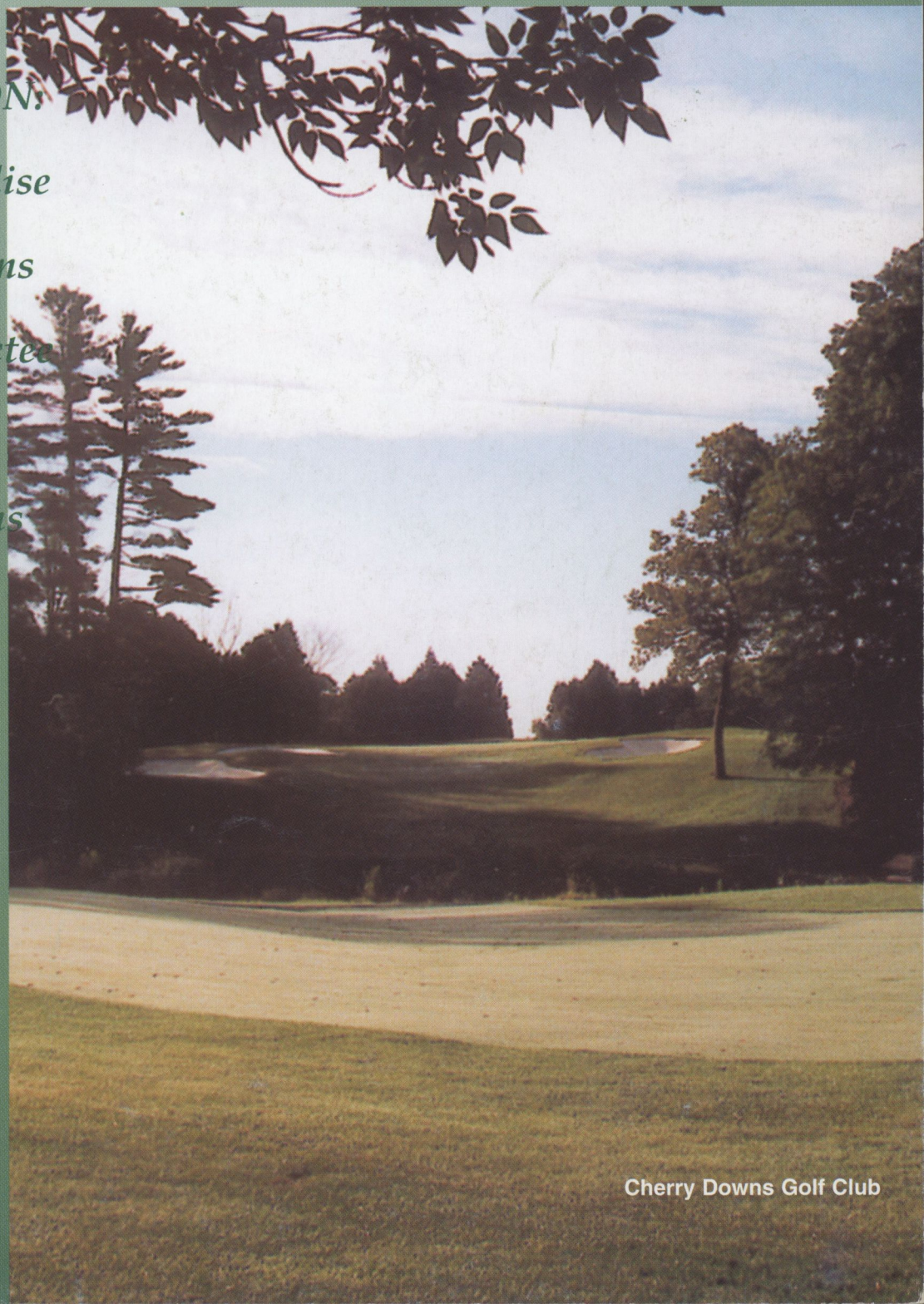


Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

INFORMATION ON:

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- *Core Cultivation*
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

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AUGUST EDITION 1998

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editor's comments



In this issue of Green is Beautiful, we've tried to gather as much information on events that have occurred in the past month or two as we could. Nu-Gro Corporation and Duke Lawn Equipment have both put on appreciation days. Our contributing editors Gordon Witteveen and Doug Breene will once again enlighten us and Bill McAllister Superintendent at Cherry Downs Golf Club will educate us on their bunker renovation project. Dr. Clay Switzer has been inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and Rob Witherspoon will advise us of some new activities at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute this summer.

In this issue we will be sending out a small questionnaire for suppliers and members on how we can better Green is Beautiful. Changes are in the works but we need your input to finely tune our final decisions. Please fax them back to Dorothy Hill O.G.S.A. Office Manager at 1-519-766-1704, before August 30th, 1998.

Mark Piccolo
Newsletter Editor

Green is Beautiful 1998

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president's message

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important. Taking the time to improve our image will pay many benefits to you as an individual and to our Club. Self image is not only how you present yourself, but also how you communicate your professionalism to others. Writing a column in our Club's monthly newsletter, taking the time to stop and answer members questions and being visible, all contribute to being professional. Dressing for success, is only half of the equation, how you present our profession is the other half.

Remember, the worth of a management team is the worth of the individuals composing it.

O.G.S.A. President
Ian Bowen

customer appreciation day

By Rob Field
Sales & Marketing Manager, NU-GRO Corp.

NU-GRO'S 8th Annual Appreciation Day was held on June 22nd, 1998 at Heron Point Golf Links. The intense heat had no effect on Singapore's Daniel Chan as his foursome won the event. Daniel experiences that type of weather year round.

Our guest speaker this year was Patrick Differ of Sport Turf Inc. Pat's talk featured the benefits of tissue sampling in Golf Course Management. The Ninth Annual Golf Day will see us return to Heron Point on June 23, 1999.

**Canadian Society of Club Managers Event
Southwestern Ontario Branch**
By Jeff Germond, Manager St. Thomas Golf Club

On Thursday June 25, 1998, the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club played host to the 10th Annual Club Manager, Club Superintendent, Club Professional, and Club President - sponsored by the Canadian Society of Club Managers, of the Southwestern Ontario Branch. This was attended by 21 clubs from across Ontario from Windsor to Toronto. The weather, golf, food and beverage were first class with the foursome from Craigowan winning this modified scramble - best ball. A unique variation to this event had each Club picking the pin placements to their assigned green on the course - which led to some mighty difficult pin placements! Ryan Beauchamp, greens superintendent at St. Thomas, as usual, had the golf course in wonderful condition.

St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, commonly known as Union, is located 25 minutes south of London and will celebrate it's 100 year anniversary in 1999.

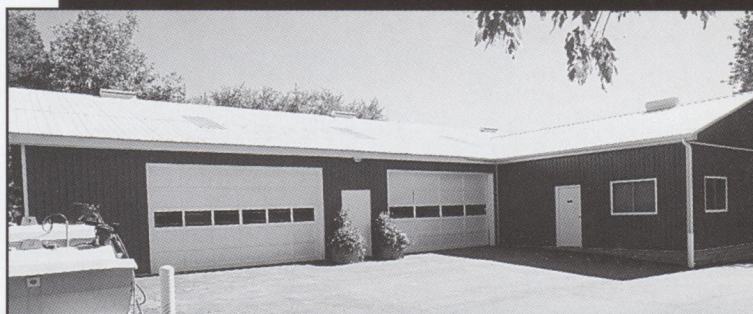
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slo-pitch tournament

McCracken Golf Supplies & Nu-Gro Slo-Pitch Tournament

For 5 consecutive years we've had perfect weather for the McCracken & Nu-Gro baseball Tournament. Unfortunately the 4th of July, 1998 turned out to be a rainy day but this is not dampen the spirit of the tournament.

After an one hour rain delay all teams persevered and the tournament continued. Some teams made the best of it, running and sliding through the mud enjoying the day with their fellow superintendents and staff. Pelino Scenna Sr. brought picnic baskets full of food, that were shared by many (excellent chicken, by the way.)

There were 36 teams competing for the bragging rights of the 1998 tournament, at Turner Park in Hamilton. The semi finals saw the National from Woodbridge defeat Maple City from Chatham 9-8 in a hard fought affair. The other semi-final saw Kings Forest from Hamilton defeat Lakeview from Mississauga 12-5.

The National pulled away from Kings Forest 12-6 to take the A - Championship. In the B - finals, Maple City defeated Lakeview 7-0. Thanks to all the teams that participated for their sportsmanship. Hope to see everyone in 1999.



question of the issue

"Why is it important for golf course superintendents to have administrative assistants?"

Answered by: Armand LeSage, White Beeches Golf and Country Club, Haworth, N.J

I have a part time administrative assistant to help me with the large amount of paper work that has to be done. Sixty-five to 70 percent of my time is spent away from the turf. I got to the point where I wasn't even getting out to the golf course every day. The golf course is actually a business, just like the clubhouse. You need the same type of support as the clubhouse.

If you have 180 acres of land and 18 people to take care of it, you have paperwork when they are hired; when they are dismissed; for disciplinary or evaluation purposes; and for purchase orders and other administrative work. Employers are very reluctant to accept the idea of a superintendent having an administrative assistant. It's easier to sell the idea when you are first starting a job. You can ask for that in the beginning. Because having an administrative assistant is more efficient, it will save employers money. Administrative assistants don't cost money, they save money.

Employers need to answer the question, "Why am I paying a superintendent to be behind the desk when he or she should be out there on the golf course?" The best bang for your buck is to keep your superintendent on the golf course where the pulse of the members' interests lies."

GCSAA - Leader Board

July/August 1998 - Vol 4 No. 4

time/money

Computers Save Your Course Time/Money

Computers are making superintendents more efficient. How: Although computer technology has been used for irrigation control for many years, savvy superintendents are taking it one step further. By using PC Anywhere software, the irrigation control system can be accessed via modem from home or on the road. Significance Up-to-the-minute decisions and changes can be made based on weather conditions, eliminating the need for trips back to the golf course. The irrigation program can also be checked by modem to ensure that the pumps are running and that the program is operating as scheduled.

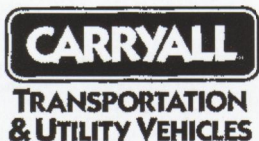
Computers are also helping superintendents be more efficient in producing payroll. How: Employees punch in and out by swiping a plastic card through a system called "time in a box." The time swipes are downloaded to a computer, which keeps a total of the time worked, overtime, vacation and sick leave for each employee. At the end of each pay period the information is transferred by modem to the payroll office where checks are generated. Result: This system ensures accuracy, eliminates paperwork and greatly reduces the time spent figuring payroll each pay period.

Source: Jerry Matthews, CGCS,
Highland Creek Golf Club, Charlotte, N.C.



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a bit of history

By Gordon Witteveen
Board of Trade Golf Club

Last fall, Jim Wyllie's wife Fran, rummaged through some boxes in a closet of their home in Brampton. Among file folders, old papers and magazines, she found a beat up and torn minute book with neatly hand written notes on the lined pages. It turned out to be the long lost minute book of the Golf Greenkeepers Association of Ontario. The first entry in the book pertains to a meeting attended by ten greenkeepers at the Royal York Hotel on January 12, 1937. The last entry is of a meeting on January 14, 1958. In between these dates lies the carefully recorded history of a 20 year period of our Association.

The first meeting of the Association was held in September 1924 at the Weston GC. A photograph of those in attendance has been preserved. On Dec. 31, 1924 the directors of the Greenkeepers Association under the leadership of President William John Sansom applied for incorporation under the provisions of the Ontario Companies Act. The original application was carefully folded and included with the minute book. It was signed by Sansom, Albert Horne, Charles Robinson, John Cameron, Malcolm Bunting and Bert H. Hawkins, all greenkeepers at Toronto area golf courses. The letters of patent were granted on January 13, 1925. It must have been a mere formality since governments rarely work that fast in this day and age. Fred Hawkins who was greenkeeper/pro at Lakeview GC, is listed as president of the greenkeepers starting in May 1936. Sansom had led the group through its first ten years and then became the first Canadian President of the American group. (GCSAA).

In 1936 John Austin was secretary and retained that position till 1942 when he became president. Dick Homewood (Lambton GC) was secretary during that time. In 1946 there was another change: Homewood is now president and J Lewis of the Islington GC starts as secretary. In 1949 Jack Abbott is listed as president and Wm. Forrester of the Weston GC as secretary. There are no changes for the next three years but in 1952 the association filed its annual return for the last time. In that year Alex McClumpha of Thornhill CC becomes President and Bill Calhoun is the new secretary. In 1954 David Moote of the Rosedale GC becomes secretary and Alex McClumpha stays on as President..

The following year Keith Nisbet replaces David Moote secretary and the latter now becomes treasurer. In 1956 Lloyd Reilly of the Downsview GC becomes president. Lloyd Reilly carries on for another year and then Dave Moote takes over in 1958. Bruce Woolley of St. Georges meanwhile becomes treasurer and Tom Unsworth of the Ladies Club is the new secretary. In 1957 Jim Wyllie, then superintendent at the Guelph Cutten Club becomes a new member of the Association.

The minute book contains many interesting snippets of information about the founding greenkeepers of our Association: Their social lives, their drinking habits, the annual banquet, guest speakers, plans for a short course at the old OAC, etc. etc. In the next issue of Green is Beautiful I will recount some of this information. In the meantime, the list of Past Presidents on page 3 of the OGSA Roster can now be filled in accurately. What puzzles me most is how this valuable document, the old minute book, was hidden in a closet of the Wyllie home in Brampton for such a long time.

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common chemicals infractions

Top 10 Common Chemical Infractions to Avoid

The golf course superintendent manages and maintains the most valuable asset in the game of golf – the golf course.

Remember: The superintendent's role as an environmental steward requires proper knowledge of and training in the chemicals used on the golf course. He or she is crucial to the success of the facility and – more importantly – the health of the environment.

Note: Listed below are 10 common infractions of pesticide laws found by inspectors in one EPA region.

1. Invalid business or applicator license. Your superintendent is responsible for keeping it renewed and accessible.
2. Label violation. The labels for many pesticides have been changed over the past four to five years as a result of the EPA's re-registration program. Consequently, many uses for products, such as diazinon and malathion, have been eliminated. Yet, some applicators may continue to buy and use products on plants (sites) that are no longer on the label.
3. Improper mixing. Problems can come from prohibited tank mixes that cause interactions. There can be plant reactions from combinations of certain classes of pesticides that are applied days – or even weeks – apart.
4. Failure to survey the site before applying a pesticide. For instance, overlooking or forgetting area wetlands.
5. Poor preparation for spills or other emergencies. How many application rigs carry some soap, water, disposable towels and an eyewash kit? Worker protection standards now are very specific about providing decontamination materials. Applicators should be familiar with how to handle spills of pesticides.
6. Drift complaints. Knowledge of product characteristics and attention to environmental conditions such as wind speeds or inversions will reduce the potential for problems. Be aware of sensitive nearby crops or plants.
7. Incomplete or missing records. Private and commercial applicators must keep appropriate record

of pesticide applications.

8. Spray tank not properly cleaned; applicator not familiar with tanks's history. This can also lead to plant damage or illegal residues. When purchasing used spray equipment, determine the type of products that have been applied by the previous owner.

9. Sales representative make erroneous product safety claims. Lack of familiarity with the label may be a major reason for unrealistic claims. Look critically for cautions or warnings, such as sensitivity or effects of specific weather conditions on applications or product efficacy.

10. Failure to use personal protective equipment. Specifications may even require specific types of gloves or spray units. Use quality equipment and keep it clean and functional. Replace it as needed.

Warnings: The penalty for using a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling can include fines up to \$1,000 per offense for private applicators – owners/operators of golf courses. Check your local and state laws and regulations.

Key: Be sure to allocate a budget for your superintendent to provide for ongoing training for applicators.

Sources: Kentucky Pest News

Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Number 762, November 25, 1996 and

North Carolina Turf-grass, Nov/Dec 1997

Why 'Fore'?

Golf related questions keep coming in to the Lawrence Journal-World, the hometown newspaper of GCSAA's headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. A reader recently asked, Why do golfers yell 'fore' when warning of an errant golf shot?"

The expression actually started", the paper replied, "as an English military term. When the troops were in firing lines, the command 'ware before' indicated that it might be prudent for the front line to kneel so that the second line wouldn't blow their heads off. 'Fore' is simply a shortened version of the 'before' in 'ware before.'"

Source: Golf Course Management - June 1998

core cultivation

It's time to re-think a time-honored cultural practice.

Core Cultivation: Too Much of a Good Thing?

By James E. Skorulski, Agronomist

In the Green Sections Northeastern Region

Some issues are probably better left for after-hours round-table discussions in places where the music is a little loud and cigar smoke fills the air. The topic of coring greens may be one of those, but I will take a chance in hopes that this opinion will cause a few to reevaluate their programs or at least stimulate some healthy debate.

I will start by saying that the benefits of conventional core cultivation cannot be denied. Core cultivation is used to alleviate the negative impact of surface compaction, modify poor quality soils, reduce the effects of layering, manage thatch, help overcome the effects of poor quality water, and overseed existing turf. It will continue to be an integral practice at golf courses around the world for those reasons. There are, however, negative aspects associated with core cultivation, the most obvious being the disruption it causes to the playing surface. How often have you heard, "Just when the greens get good you go tearing them up"? I have little sympathy for the golfer in most instances, knowing the benefits of core aerification. However, life would be a little bit easier if we did not have to do battle over this issue each and every summer. Another question to ask is, Does repeated core cultivation create an opportunity for annual bluegrass to invade? The answer is yes, it probably does, especially if the operation is completed at times when the turf is slow to recover. This may be of little concern if *Poa annua* is already your predominant grass species, but it is a point worth considering at new golf courses. There are other reasons why traditional core cultivation is not a popular topic in maintenance facilities around the world, but it is generally accepted that the program is a necessity whose benefits far outweigh the drawbacks.

This is probably the case at most golf courses. But, and be careful here, what if you could reduce traditional core cultivation without jeopardizing the turf and, more importantly, your job? Would you do it? To answer this question, first review the aerification programs in place to determine their effectiveness, and decide whether they remain consistent with your agronomic objectives. For example, when core cultivation is used to modify native-soil, push-up style greens, it is the most effective tool for this purpose. However, what is the role of core aerification after the upper 4 inches of the soil profile has been completely modified with a sandy material? Is surface

compaction still a major concern even after the soils are modified? Hopefully not, but there are other less disruptive aerification tools available for alleviating surface compaction alone. Does core cultivation then become a thatch management and overseeding tool and, if so, can the operation be completed less frequently, with smaller tines, or replaced or supplemented with deep verticutting or some other type of cultivation?

Another consideration involves coring sand-based bentgrass greens. Assume that the greens are properly built with a sand meeting the guidelines developed by the USGA for putting green construction. The primary reason for core cultivation on such greens should be to manage the organic matter that accumulates in the upper profile. However, there are other cultivation tools that may manage the organic material equally well. Have you investigated or experimented with the use of smaller 0.25-inch hollow quadratines, more aggressive vertical mowing or slicing programs? Do you have the ability to topdress as needed throughout the season to minimize thatch buildup and prevent layering? Can the fertility programs be modified to meet the growing needs of the turf without stimulating unnecessary growth? Is it practical to manipulate pH to encourage the decomposition of organic material that already exists? The answers to these questions can only be determined through extensive field evaluation, laboratory testing, and knowledge of the greens' performance and the resources that are available. Core cultivation will likely continue to be an important tool for managing the organic matter and layering problems in sand-based systems. But if we begin utilizing other available cultivation tools and fine-tuning our cultural practices, then perhaps the frequency or aggressiveness of coring can be reduced, minimizing *Poa annua* encroachment and the surface disruption so despised by golfers.

I am not advocating, nor do I ever anticipate, the complete elimination of core cultivation from golf course operations. Even reducing the frequency of core cultivation may not be possible at many golf courses where soil quality is marginal, traffic heavy, the greens small, or the water quality poor. As the golf course superintendent, only you should make the ultimate decisions regarding what, when, and how cultivation programs are carried out. However, re-evaluate the goals of your current core cultivation programs and the new tools that are available with an open mind, and begin asking yourself, "What if . . . ?" You might just surprise yourself.

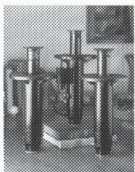
Source: USGA Green Section Record - March/April 1998

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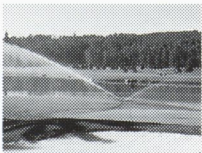
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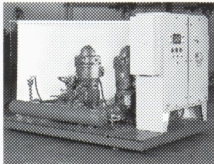
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association..date..event..place

AUGUST	O.G.A.	August 4 - 6th	Junior Match Play..Kedron Dells GC
	O.T.R.F.	August 10th	Bayview GC
	W.O.G.S.A.	August 10th	98 Season Meeting..Rolling Meadow GC
	O.G.A.	August 10 - 12th	Seniors Championship..Oshawa GC
	G.L.A.G.S.	August 20th	Mt. Elgin Golf
	O.G.A.	August 24th	Junior Champion..Cutten Club
	G.B.S.A.	August 25th	Brookles Golf & CC..Marlon Gieseler
	O.T.R.F./G.T.L.	August 25th	Research Field Day & Turf Mgmt Clinics
	O.G.A.	August 27th	Associate Members' - St. Andrews' Valley
	G.T.I. UofG	August 29th	Lawn & Garden Festival (Public Open House)
SEPT.	G.L.A.G.S.	Sept. 10th	Scyence Hill Golf
	R.C.G.A.	Sept. 7 - 13th	Bell Canadian Open..Glen Abbey GC
	O.G.A.	Sept. 14th	George. Lyon Club Team..Weston G & CC,
			Markland Wood GC, Islington GC, Lambton G
	C.P.I.	Sept. 20-23rd	Crop Protection Institute
			46th Conference and Annual Meeting
			Delta Medowvale, Mississauga, ON
			Fall Field Day..The Willows, Saskatoon
			Senior Better Ball..Brampton GC
OCT.			98 Season Meeting..Whirlpool GC
			Horseshoe Resort..John Hughes
	A.McClumpha	Oct. 5th	To Be Announced
	G.B.S.A.	Oct. 13th	Lake Joseph Shotgun..Keith Walton
	G.L.A.G.S.	Oct. 22nd	Forest City National
NOV.	Uof G	Nov. 16 - Dec. 11th	Turf Manager Short Course
JAN.	O.T.C.	Jan. 5-7th, 1999	Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
			Regal Constellation Hotel
			Toronto, ON
	L.O.H.T.A.	Jan. 12-14th, 1999	Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, Trade Show and Conference Congress Centre, Toronto, ON

ontario turfgrass symposium

Brian Williams, CBC Sportscaster, will be the keynote speaker at Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in January 1999. Williams' talk is "Going for Gold".

Considered the dean of Canadian sports commentators, with more than a quarter century of broadcast experience, Brian Williams maintains a youthful exuberance that endears him to fans of every sport he covers.

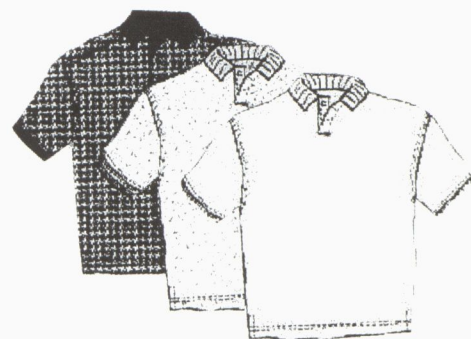
The annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium is Ontario's

premier education and trade show for the turf industry with seminars on topics for golf turf professionals. "The program is shaping up to be one of the best yet," said OMAFRA turf specialist Pam Charbonneau.

Advance program information on the trade show, contact Symposium Manager, Peggy Nagle at the University of Guelph. Call 519-824-4120, Ext. 3814 or email pnagle@open.uoguelph.ca

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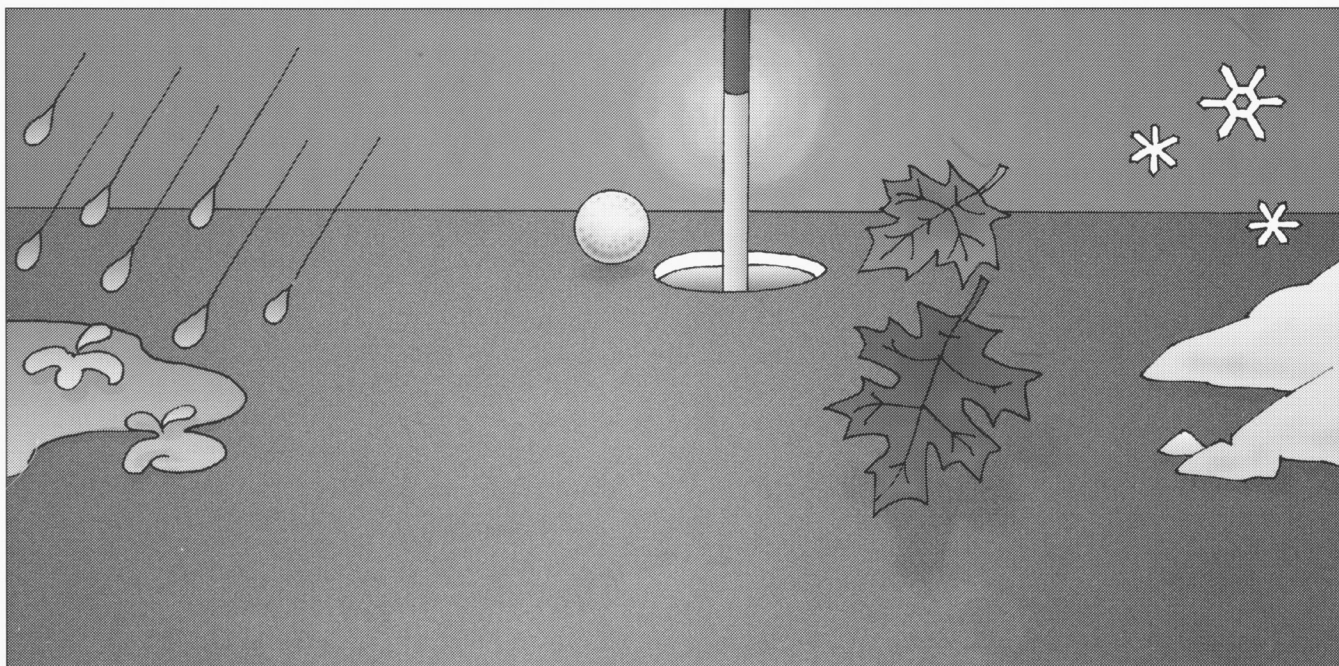
Gear pique Golf Shirt	100% fully combed cotton with 2 button placket, flat knit collar and cuffs Available in solid colours of canvas, navy, red, black Sizes L and XL	\$50.00
Gear Sunwashed Golf Shirt	100% waffle cotton with 3 button placket, flat knit collar and cuffs Available in seagrass only. Sizes L and XL	\$70.00
Gear French Houndstooth	100% preshrunk cotton double knit jersey with contrasting rib knit 3 button placket, collar and cuffs One colour only (combination of khaki and beige) Sizes L and XL	\$75.00
Second Skin Fleece Shirt	100% polyester with contrasting ribbed crew neck, cuffs and waist Available in navy, forest, and black Sizes L and XL	\$60.00
Second Skin Sweatshirt** 6" zip neck & collar	100% preshrunk cotton with flatlock stitching. Ribbed cuff & waist Available in forest only Sizes L and XL	\$45.00
Second Skin Sweatshirt** crew neck	100% preshrunk cotton, with flatlock stitching. Ribbed cuff & waist Available in maroon, grey, forest. Sizes M, L, XL	\$45.00
Syma Wind Shirt	100% crinkle nylon, 2 button placket, knit collar, cuffs and waist, Interesting golf diagonal design on front, back, one sleeve and placket 100% nylon lining Available in navy or black Sizes L and XL	\$60.00
Sunice Shells	100% nylon with ribbed crew neck, cuffs and waist Available in black, red and teal. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL	\$35.00
Second Skin Hats	100% cotton, contrasting crown with adjustable strap Available in black/gold, tan/khaki, navy/tan and wheat/green One size fits most	\$15.00

** These two items sport a very attractive embroidered crest and association name across the front. All other merchandise has an embroidered logo on the left side of garment and hats have a logo on the front.

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turf or consequences



One day, a few years ago, the pro shop staff informed me that there was a horse on the course. They seemed not to actually notice that it was a horse, but were concerned that it hadn't paid its green fees and didn't meet dress code. As the terrified animal was herded from place to place by an odd

collection of wannabe cowboys on golf carts, cushmans and tractors waving rakes, shovels, and ball retrievers, I shouted, "Don't let it on the greens whatever you do!" "Why not," said one of the staff, "It can't possibly do more damage than the golfers."

These words have stuck with me for more than a decade, because its true. No one does more damage to the course than the people who have the most to lose. I've seen a horse, a few deer, the odd cow, and even a small flock of sheep trot across the links, but none of them has ever taken a divot without replacing it, walked over their own ball mark without fixing it, pushed down a barrier rope to walk over it, or my personal favourite - used a divot mix box as a garbage pail.

If you doubt for a moment that golfers, as a group, are not anywhere as clever as any of the aforementioned creatures, go look at the parking lot. Right now, at least one car will be parked sideways, 10% of the lines will be straddled, two vehicles will have their lights on, and you may even see one left running by a golfer in his rush to the first tee - I have.

Once on the course, golfers need to be herded like cattle. I was born and raised on a dairy farm so I can speak with some authority on this subject. As a matter of fact, most cattle are easier to train. A cow will only walk into an electric fence 3 or 4 times before it stops trying and the power can be shut off for the rest of summer. On the other hand, you can rope off a newly seeded or wear area for 10 years and if the rope sags within 15 inches of the ground, 80 carts will drive through the hole in about 6 seconds.

There is a famous experiment where a pike is placed in an aquarium with a sheet of glass dividing it in half. After a week of banging its head against the glass, the divider can be removed and the pike will not go into the other half of the tank for the rest of its life. This fish, with little more than a knot in its spinal cord for a brain, would never drag its pull cart through a bunker - I guarantee it.

Which brings me to the most terrifying combination on earth. The golfer and the golf cart. Otherwise intelligent adults (who by the look of their improperly parked cars have higher paying jobs than me) get this crazed look in their eyes like a 15 year old watching a Shania Twain video when they get behind the wheel of a cart.

What is the obsession with driving a cart at full speed in tight circles? They circle trees, stumps, rocks, and anything else that isn't moving. They drive through bunkers, over

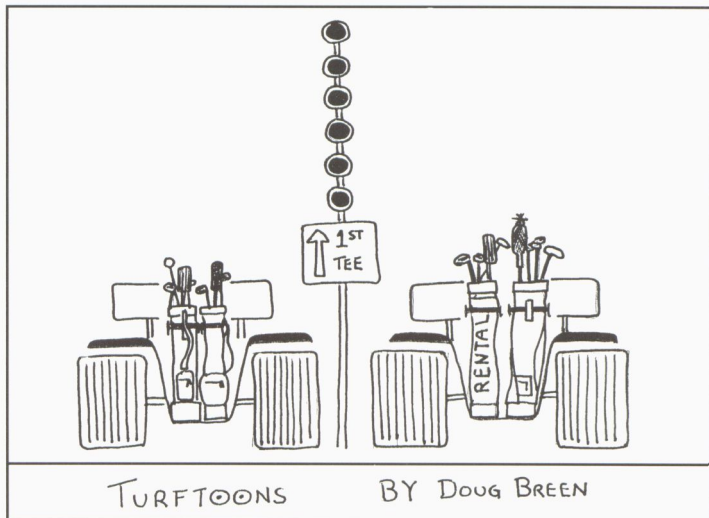
Turf or Consequences

By Doug Breen, Superintendent

greens, over trees, off bridges, into ponds, and into each other. I've heard countless stories involving carts and the Niagara Escarpment, carts leaving the property, and carts on highway on ramps.

And the pro shop staff doesn't help a bit. You would think that the hopped up Barracuda, the case of beer in the golf bags clinking like a Brewer's Retail on the Friday of a long weekend, or the "Lucifer's Boll Weevil's" concert shirt would set off some kind of alarm bell in the pro shop that perhaps these two clowns aren't the ideal candidates for a rented cart. But no, instead of heading off this divot on a green looking for a place to happen, the assistant doofus behind the counter hands them the keys to their own personal "Roundup with a steering wheel" and consequently increased their alcohol carrying capacity and expands exponentially their ability to kill turf, trees, wildlife, and other golfers. Then, he sends one of the back-shop club rats over to you, where you're buried knee deep in an irrigation hole with ice cold water shooting up your boxer shorts as you watch the searing heat turning the course that sickening shade of blue that it always turns 10 seconds after a major irrigation break, and the pimply faced Tiger Woods wannabe looks you in the eye with a straight face and says, "If you're not too busy, could you keep an eye on those two guys. Cause we're pretty sure they're drunk and they just bought two more beers each and I'm pretty sure the one driving is the Anti Christ." So you look up through the water spouting in your face, and sure enough, there's Beelzebub (in soccer cleats) driving at full speed in a circle while his buddy struggles to light his crack pipe and load range balls into his bag at the same time.

So we put up more ropes, improve and expand cart paths, put up more ropes, get more instructional signs, put the ropes back up, get signs with more threatening language, put the ropes back up, hire another ranger, and put the ropes back up. When the day comes that I finally snap and start climbing the clock tower with a high powered rifle, it won't be because of irrigation problems, equipment problems, or even staff problems. It will be because some idiot took three practice swings without replacing any of his divots, circled every tree in the rough at full speed, didn't rake the bunker and parked his cart on the apron.





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fast greens

Fast Greens: For Professional Use Only

During the telecast of major golf championships, attention is often given to the condition of the putting greens. Result: This attention often causes golfers to request the same golf course conditions of the superintendent of their golf facility. But duplicating championship conditions may not be appropriate or technically possible. Examples: To produce championship quality putting greens like those seen at the U.S. Open Championship can require up to five years of intensive maintenance. Using vast resources, the staff entrusted with the care of the course strives to produce firm consistent putting conditions at Stimpmeter readings between 10.5 and 11 feet during the U.S. Open. At Risk: Maintaining these conditions for more than a relatively brief period is not possible because the turf is placed under tremendous physical stress by this procedure. Turfgrass can become more susceptible to diseases and pests, requiring more chemical treatments and increasing the maintenance cost of the golf course.

Remember: To compete on fast putting surfaces that are firm enough to resist ball marks requires a level of skill possessed by professional golfers. Note: Amateur golfers would be tortured by championship putting conditions. In fact, most golfers would complain bitterly about their ball rolling off the back of the greens if the superintendent actually followed through with the requests for championship putting green speed.

Solutions: The remedy to the request for fast greens versus the long-term health of the green is two-fold. First, new grasses are currently being researched and developed that are more tolerant of fast speeds under adverse conditions. Second, golfers should understand and accept the limitations of greens. Advice: The golf course superintendent best knows the parameters of possible and impossible golf course conditions. It is his or her job to manage, nurture and protect the health of the golf course, and he or she should effectively communicate that to green committees and golfers.

Raining Cats and Dogs

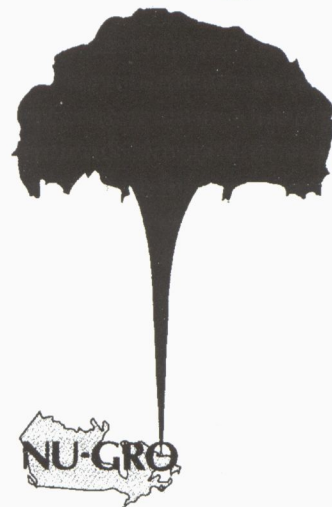
Have you or anyone you know actually ever seen it rain cats and dogs? So where does the expression come from?

The Weather Vane, a newsletter by Lenexa, Kansas based Weather Metrics Inc., reports that in Northern mythology, the cat is supposed to have great influence on the weather. English sailors still say the cat has a gale of wind in her tail. The dog is a signal of wind and along with the wolf, is an attendant of Odin, the storm god.

The old German pictures, the wind is often shown blowing from the head of a dog. From this mythology, the cat may be taken as a symbol of the pouring rain and the dog of the strong winds that sometimes accompany a rainstorm.

Source: Golf course Management - June 1998

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New Activities Planned For Summer Field Day

by Rob Witherspoon

Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

The Summer Research Field Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Registration begins at 8:30 am with plot tours to follow. Some of the new projects to see this year include the new research green, a study of the effects of compost application on pythium and dollarspot, evaluation of compost as a USGA rootzone amendment, environmental fate of nitrogen fertilizers and the 1998 GTI fertilizer performance trials. Updates on continuing projects will also be featured. Test your putting skills while supporting turfgrass research at the OTRF putting contest. After the plot tours, enjoy a BBQ lunch at the Frost Centre building.

A series of new optional half-hour workshops are planned for the afternoon. Workshops will include a turfgrass problem identification session, IPM scouting techniques, disease diagnosis, sprayer calibration and interpreting soil tests. The workshops will run concurrently and participants will be able to choose the three they want to attend on a first come - first serve basis. Space is limited in each session - early registration is recommended.

Another new feature of the Field Day is the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Silent Auction. The auction will feature new and used professional turf equipment, products and services. If you have an old piece of machinery that has been lingering behind your shop, considering donating it in support of turfgrass research in Ontario. Don't miss this opportunity to support turfgrass research and pick up a great bargain in the process.

To donate an item for the auction, or receive more information about the Research Field Day, contact the Guelph Turfgrass Institute by phone (519) 767-5009, fax (519) 766-1704 or electronic mail : info@gti.uoguelph.ca

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Turf Industry Giant to be Inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame

by Rob Witherspoon, Director, Guelph Turfgrass



Dr. Clayton Switzer, avid golfer, scientist, teacher, Dean, Deputy Minister, and strong supporter of the Ontario turfgrass industry, is to be inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame this coming November.

Dr. Switzer, or Clay, as he is known to most in the industry, first came on

the turfgrass scene with his work in weed control at the Ontario Agricultural College. In addition to his research, which included ground breaking work in the development of glyphosate and other important herbicides, Dr. Switzer taught numerous golf superintendents who passed through the halls of the University of Guelph. His independent study course Weed Control in Turf, continues to spread his teaching among turf professionals across Canada and around the world.

At the University of Guelph, he worked his way up the ladder of academia eventually serving as Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC). As President of the International Turfgrass Society he also worked with Dr. Bob Sheard to host the 1981 International Turfgrass Research Conference - the first ever held in Canada. After his final term as OAC Dean, he accepted new challenges with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and was a strong promoter of the turf industry during his tenure as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

After retirement from the Ministry, Clay began the work that will no doubt be his lasting legacy within the turfgrass industry. Working with the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, and utilizing his extensive contacts in industry, university and government, Dr. Switzer guided the campaign that

resulted in the construction of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre and the creation of a permanent home for the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

He continues to work with the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation as a member of the board of directors. Among his many honours and awards, he is an honorary member of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and the 1994 recipient of the CGSA's John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award.

Clay is an active golfing member of the Guelph Country Club and is involved with a number of community service groups and special university committees. He will be inducted into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame on Sunday, November 8, 1998 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

Growing Your Green Committee

One way to meet the challenge of golf course maintenance's fast pace is to divvy up green committee assignments. Idea: Divide your green committee into four different areas of responsibility and assign a committee member to each area.

Example

Area 1- encompasses greens, fairways, tees, roughs and fringes;

Area 2 - covers trees landscaping, bunkers, waste areas and walkways;

Area 3 - includes drainage, irrigation, ponds, cart paths and markers/signage; and,

Area 4 - involves people, finance, materials and equipment.

Result: Using subcommittees for golf course management spreads the work efficiently, provides superintendents with more knowledgeable committee members and grooms committee members for chairmanship.

Sources: Al Johnson, Golf Course Superintendent and Jack Rockey, Green Committee Chairman, DeBordieu Club, Georgetown, S.C

50th anniversary

G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament

G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. held its 50th Anniversary Golf Customer Appreciation Tournament on June 18th at Lionhead Golf Club. The Host Superintendent, Martin Kopp, had Lionhead in excellent and challenging condition. All 144 golfers enjoyed beautiful sunny weather as well as an outstanding golf venue.

Jim Burlington from Loyalist Estates Country Club was the "Low Gross" winner with a superb round of 72. The "Longest Drive" winner was Paul Brown from Islington Golf and Country Club with a drive in excess of 300 yards that would have made Tiger Woods proud. George Julie of Sawmill Golf Club was the "Closest to the Pin" winner and as such was given an opportunity at the end of the tournament to win a \$250,000.00 motor home with a hole-in-one attempt on the 18th hole. Unfortunately, George was somewhat off-line and was forced to drive home in the same vehicle he came in.

The owner of Lionhead Golf Club, Mr. Iggy Kaneff, made time in his busy schedule to participate in the

tournament and to address the entire group before dinner, welcoming everyone to Lionhead. Mr. Kaneff also wished the Duke Company continued success in their next 50 years of operation.

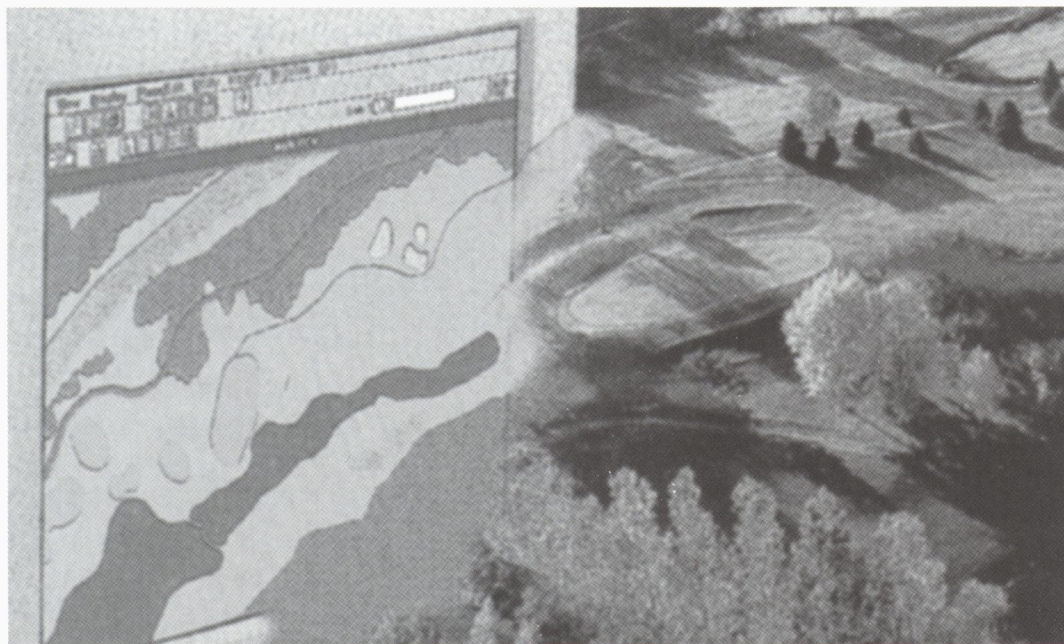
G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. was founded by Clinton Duke under the name of Duke Lawn Equipment in 1948. It originally operated out of a small facility on Plains Road in Burlington. As the business grew, several additions were made to the original building to accommodate increased warehousing, parts and service requirements.

In 1982, Duke Equipment entered the Quebec marketplace and opened a facility under the name of Turfco in the Montreal suburb of St. Laurent. Additionally, Duke operates a separate division out of Campbellford which markets grounds maintenance equipment to airports across Canada.

We at Duke Equipment would like to thank everyone who attended the tournament and hope they had an enjoyable day. We look forward to the challenges of the next 50 years and hope we can continue to provide the type of quality equipment and the after-sales service that the turf industry has come to expect from G.C. Duke Equipment.



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bunker renovations

Bunker Renovations at Cherry Downs Golf Club By Bill McAllister

Hidden on a quiet concession road fifteen minutes north of Hwy. #401 in Pickering, Cherry Downs Golf and Country Club has long been regarded as a great test of golf. The course has typically been known for its challenging greens, however its most glaring drawback has always been the substandard bunkers that littered the property. In order to rectify this, ClubLink Corporation decided to embark on a major renovation of the bunkers at Cherry Downs.

The scope of the project included: an initial architectural design; excavation, shaping, and dishing-out bunkers; removal of old sand, clay lining, drainage; and installation of new sand.

All of the work was performed in-house, with the exception of the architectural design by Paul Takahashi and the Kubota excavator operated by Bruce S. Evans Company operator.

The main goal of the bunker design was to maintain the original style of the course and to not stray from the original vision of the course architect, Howard Watson. A great deal of consideration was placed on surface drainage from the greens and bunker surrounds to ensure that no water would flow into sand faced slopes.

The excavator was chosen with certain specific considerations for this project. A unit had to be chosen that would cause minimal damage to surrounding areas; fit into existing bunkers; and had a wrist-a-twist grade all bucket. Re-shaping of certain green sites was included in addition to the vast bunker excavation.

Once the excavation was complete, it was found that the subgrade consisted of a sandy soil that was not suitable for a base because of the possibility of contamination with the new bunker sand. Therefore, it was necessary to line the bunkers with gray or blue clay.

As an experiment, on some of the particularly steep flashings, a granitic bunker sealant/stabilizer was used. When mixed with water, this product is applied in mortar-like fashion, it was applied at a very specific and consistent depth with a shovel and finished with a hand trowel. The entire face of the bunker was covered and, upon completion of application, the sealant/stabilizer hardened and assumed a sandpaper-like surface consistency. The gritty surface of the sealant/stabilizer will help to keep bunker sand on high flashings.

Installation of proper drainage was the next major part of the project. Drainage was installed in all bunkers that did not already have it. Perforated tile was used and was covered on all sides with peastone. It was decided that the majority of the bunkers would be drained into a sump that was to be dug approximately fifteen feet away from each bunker. The sumps were dug to a depth of 6 feet. The drainage tile from each bunker led into a tuff tile drainage catchall with a separate tile placed vertically down into the sump. This vertical tile will be used to remove water via pump after severe rainfalls that flooded the bunkers and sumps. Sumps were then filled with peastone and the tuff tiles were graded flush to ground level. The main consideration for using the sump-type system was because good drainage already existed for the most part (due to sandy soil) and to avoid excessive trenching throughout the golf course.

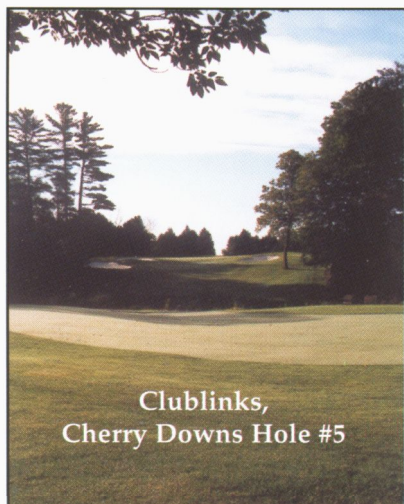
While Temiska bunker sand was chosen for the renovation. It was thought that this white sand would effectively accentuate the high flashings. Upon installation, the sand was carefully measured for proper depth. After the sand was distributed evenly, it was heavily watered with wetting agent. This helped a great deal to aggregate the sand in order to achieve optimal playability.

The project was successful, challenging, and rewarding. It was completed within the budgeted time of 6-8 weeks (specifically 7 weeks). After several heavy rain-falls not one bunker has yet to wash out. A lot of credit must be given to the staff of Cherry Downs. The bunkers have been received very well within ClubLink and, specifically, by Cherry Downs' members.

Superintendents' Compensation on the Rise

Compensation and benefits are increasing for golf course superintendents. Statistics: In 1998, the average base salary for all golf course superintendents rose to \$53,205 from \$49,269 in 1995. Half of all superintendents earn more than \$50,000 annually. The median base salary for a certified superintendent at a daily fee facility is \$52,000 and at a private facility \$69,743 (not inclusive of benefit compensation). Recent Findings The median income of a PGA head professional at a public golf course is \$44,000 and at a private country club \$75,000 (inclusive of benefit compensation). Typical Benefits: Fifty-seven percent receive paid vacation, which averages 17 days plus and additional six paid personal leave days, 10 paid sick leave days and eight paid holidays.

Source: 1998 GCSAA Compensation and Benefits Report



Clublinks,
Cherry Downs Hole #5

BUNKER RENOVATIONS CHERRY DOWNS GOLF CLUB

Photos by Bill McAllister



Hole #4 Before Construction



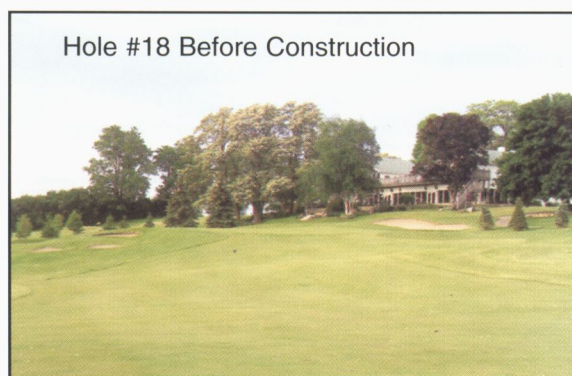
Hole #4 After Construction



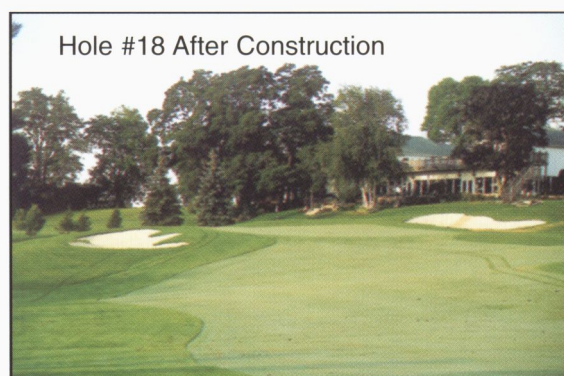
Hole #7 Before Construction



Hole #7 After Construction



Hole #18 Before Construction



Hole #18 After Construction



TURF CARE

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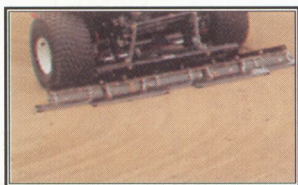


THE SAND PRO 5020 Golf course superintendents find this premium model a perfect match for their most challenging bunkers. The 5020 features an 18-hp engine with enough gusto to tackle aggressive care and repair jobs. Other features include a series/parallel traction system that virtually eliminates spin-outs, 7.5" ground clearance and comfortable seating. Forward and reverse 3-wheel drive is standard.

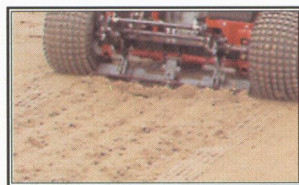
THE SAND PRO 3020 The 3020 is a solid, all-round maintenance machine that offers 3-wheel drive. It provides a 16-hp engine, 6" ground clearance and new acceleration valves for smoother start-ups and fewer spin-outs. As with all Sand Pro models, a hydraulic lift for attachments is standard.

THE SAND PRO 2020 Whether raking, edging, spiking or grading, the 16-hp 2020 model delivers plenty of power and productivity day-in and day-out. This reliable base model comes in 2-wheel drive only. It incorporates the same air filtration system and PTO capability of the 3020 and 5020.

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...



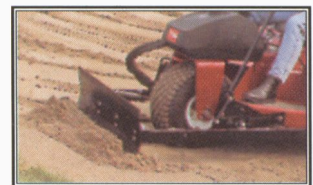
TOOTH RAKE 08812 Ideal for maintaining firm bunkers that have a tendency to crust. Raking depth is adjustable to desired play. Combine with Spring Rake for professional finish.



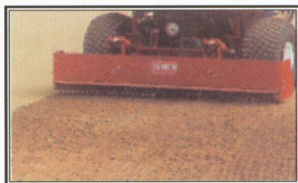
WEEDER/CULTIVATOR 08815 Use with either Tooth Rake or Spring Rake to loosen or weed bunkers before raking. Also levels sand to eliminate bumps or washboarding.



SPRING RAKE 08813 Designed for minimal bunker disturbance, shallow bunkers and/or bunkers with dry silica-type sands. Provides superior surface grooming and floatability. Consider combining with Tooth Rake.



40" DOZER BLADE 08821 Ideal for bunker renovation after washout, landscaping or new construction. Shapes ground with minimal effort. A 60" blade is also available.



FINISH GRADER 08867 Designed for renovation and construction of turf areas.



58" SPIKER 08856 Spikes cleanly without ruffling turf, so greens are immediately playable. Hydraulic down pressure system helps penetrate compacted soil.



CYCLONE™ 1000 DEBRIS BLOWER 08857 PTO attachment uses forcible winds to effectively clean sidewalks, parking lots, tees, greens and fairways. Optional 180° chute allows right or left-side blowing.

SAND PRO 5020, 3020, & 2020

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Ph: (905) 890-6290 Fax: (905) 890-5598

140 Milner Ave., Unit 24
Scarborough, Ont. M1S 3R3
Ph: (416) 298-2101 Fax: (416) 298-8758

2575 Delzotto Avenue, Units D & E
Gloucester, Ontario K1T 3V6
Ph: (613) 822-1881 Fax: (613) 822-2099