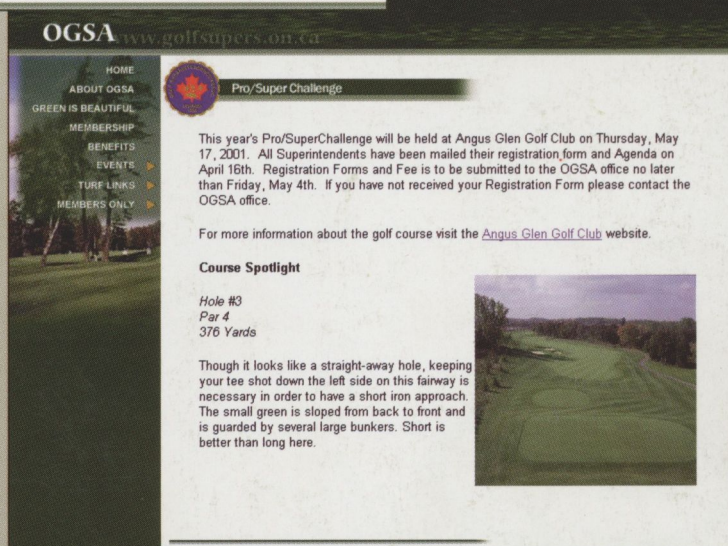
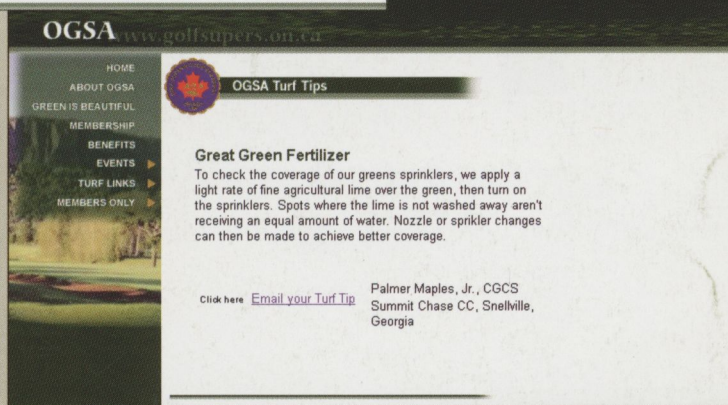
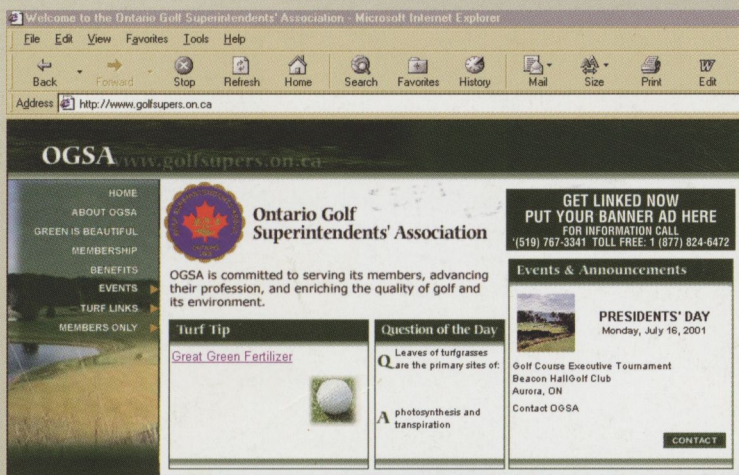


Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



A Dream Come True

Angus Glen Golf & Country Club

Preparation for the AT&T senior open

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SCGX2600S: 26.2cc 4-Cycle

In order for golf course superintendents to maintain a nice tight edge around bunkers, they must trim and edge bunkers a number of times during a golf season. With the average golf course having 63 bunkers that labor cost alone is a place to look for reducing costs.

LABOR COST WITHOUT USING A RECIPROCATOR™

Using string trimmers, spades and other various tools, it takes 2 grounds crew persons 45 minutes to complete the edging and cleanup of each sand trap - bunker.

45 minutes x 63 bunkers = 47 hours, 15 minutes
2 grounds crew persons @ \$8.00 per hour = \$16.00
\$16.00 x 47 hours & 15 minutes = \$756.00 labor cost

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20 minutes x 63 bunkers = 21 hours
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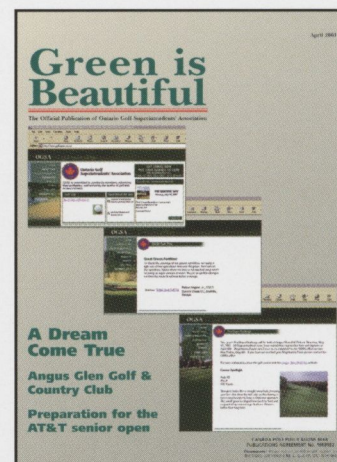
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

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*OGSA is committed to
serving its members,
advancing their profession,
and
enriching the quality
of golf
and its environment.*

President's message

The power of setting goals and objectives within organizations has been realized for decades. Mapping out a plan and achieving the results with a motivated staff not only benefits your operation and its clients, but also enriches the job satisfaction of your staff. Whether your organization is large or small, public or private, 9 or 18 holes, bentgrass or bluegrass fairways; we are **all** in the service business.

We all know how vital good customer service is for people who enjoy the "golf experience". As the economy begins to show signs of general decline, many superintendents will be forced to do more with less. As the various inputs into our golf operations increase in price (some exponentially) on an annual basis, we continue to look for ways to control escalating expenses. Many times we may forget the revenue side of the golf business since most of us deal with only expenditures at our courses. How golfers and their guests enjoy our golf course will usually directly impact the revenue side of our club. As a result, maintenance operations that provide great service not only will help to increase revenues, but also your value as a golf superintendent.

As superintendents, we need to go out of our way to really listen to our clients, and in the process we can also learn from them. There are many superintendents across Ontario who are truly great at customer service and it is evident in the success of their operation. We need to learn to know and anticipate what the golfer needs. Ask your clients how they feel about your maintenance operation. It is well known how beneficial spending time with your clients playing golf can enhance your operation and professionalism. Since your staff are the vital component of your golf maintenance operation, focus on empowering them as well as being pro-active. "What if" training works great and facilitates the staff to think about what they would do if a special situation occurred, i.e. too much rain, floods, angry people, etc. On a reactive basis, we all have to remember that nobody's perfect. It is indeed part of human nature that we will all make mistakes in our profession. Great leaders make plenty of mistakes, but know how to fess up and fix up! Sometimes it is very uncomfortable dealing with angry people and awkward situations. But 5% of your clients will actually try to take advantage of you while the other 95% are honest. Remember to set your course for the 95%!

Your OGSA Board of Directors have set ambitious goals and objectives for each portfolio to be achieved by the end of this year. Without going into great detail, I can reassure you that your Board of Directors consists of a serious group of dedicated superintendents who are focused on achieving their portfolio goals this year. The OGSA has formed an Annual Conference Subcommittee to specifically focus on three areas of opportunity. First, the Subcommittee will make a recommendation to the OGSA Board of Directors on a potential new format for the annual conference and show. Secondly, the Subcommittee will examine relationships with current partners in the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Finally, the Annual Conference Subcommittee will determine and make recommendations to the OGSA Board of Directors concerning appropriate action with respect to the CGSA and their conference and show. The best interests of the OGSA membership will always be represented throughout the mandate of the Subcommittee.

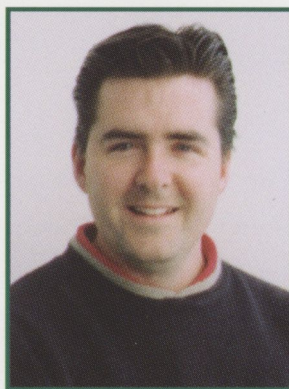
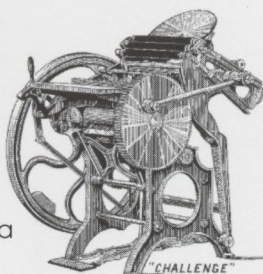
We urge the membership to share your views on the current conference and show as well as offering any comments on what you would like to see improved. The OGSA is in the business of servicing our members and we would like to 'raise the bar' at your annual conference and show.

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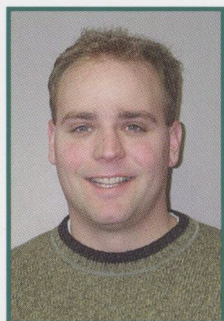
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Editor's message



Jeff Stauffer
Credit Valley G&CC

It is with enthusiasm and honour I accept the opportunity to be the Editor of *Green is Beautiful*. I thank the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association Board of Directors for this opportunity for development and for their confidence in my ability to perform the role of Editor. I have enjoyed the previous year as a member of the Editorial Committee and as the new Editor, I am committed to continue to provide the quality magazine my predecessors have worked hard to create and produce.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate my most recent predecessor, Bob Burrows, on his successful election to the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Board of Directors and a successful year as editor of *Green is Beautiful*. During his short term Bob introduced several new components that significantly enhanced the magazine. With membership support and submissions, *Green is Beautiful* will continue to incorporate these changes. Finally, I would like to thank Bob for his support and guidance during the transition of editors.

I encourage all members of the OGSA; Superintendents, students, or industry affiliates, to submit articles. It is this continual flow of information that contributes to personal development and assists fellow colleagues in the day-to-day performance of their jobs.

Finally, a request from the *Green is Beautiful* Editorial committee. When taking pictures during the upcoming season, please turn your camera on and snap a few for us. It is only when a picture is in portrait format that it is feasible to be used as a cover photo.

The *Green is Beautiful* Editorial committee will strive to continue to produce a quality magazine that represents the OGSA Membership. If you have comments or suggestions for improvement, please contact any member of the Editorial Committee. Input from the membership will be greatly appreciated.

All the best for a great start to the spring!



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport
Provided by Ministry of the Environment

YEAR 2001

	Average	Actual
January		
(rain)	18.5 ml	21.0 ml
(snow)	32.3 cm	10.8 cm
(total)	45.6 ml	31.2 ml
February		
(rain)	20.8 ml	55.6 ml
(snow)	25.9 cm	36.0 cm
(total)	45.5 ml	94.0 ml



O.G.S.A. Welcomes our newest members

Chris Armatage Glen Abbey Golf Club	Class F
Robert W. Baker Seven Lakes Golf Course Ltd.	Class A
Wade Beaudoin St. Thomas Golf & CC	Class C
D. Robert Hendricks Timber Ridge Golf Club	Class A
Louis Josh Lieff Diamond Back Golf Club	Class C
Tanya McIvor Glen Abbey Golf Club	Class C
Daniel McNeil Riverbend CC	Class A
Mike Pellerin Rosedale Village Golf Club	Class C
Dennis Piccolo St. Catharines Golf Club	Class C
Ryan Scully Muskoka Lakes Golf & CC	Class F
Edward J. Sealy, Jr. Mahoning Valley CC, PA	Class A
Brad Sizer Brier Fox Golf Club	Class B
Norbert Szabo Thornhill CC	Class F
Deni Terenzio Glen Abbey Golf Club	Class S
Gary Terris Port Royal Golf Course	Class C
Catherine Towle	Class S
Tom Winger Willow Valley Golf Course	Class F
Roseann Winters Frog's Breath Golf Course	Class B
ENVIROLINKS Doug Brooks, President, Kitchener	Class E

by Keith Bartlett
Thornhill Country Club

This year marks GCSAA's 75th Anniversary. The Association has many activities scheduled throughout the year which started at the recent Conference and Trade Show in Dallas. I wanted to bring a few interesting items to your attention that you may want to participate in or take advantage of.

There is a special membership offer for any persons who qualify for class A, B, and C. The special rate is \$75.00 and will be available until March 1, 2002. New

members are eligible for a free registration to the Orlando Conference and Trade Show. This offer is only available to those joining the GCSAA for the first time.

Also, the GCSAA is launching a golf ball collection drive. It is an attempt to demonstrate the far-ranging geographic scope of the GCSAA. More information will be forth coming but they are requesting all members to send three logo golf balls from your respective club.

At the recent Annual General Meeting, Tommy D. Witt became the new president. Also, all the PDI issues were approved and beginning in 2003, each member will be required to obtain a minimum number of points to retain their Class A status. You will be required to obtain a minimum number of points over a five-year period. Some points can be obtained simply by holding a valid pesticide license. More details will be made available as they are finalized at the GCSAA.

C.G.S.A. director report

by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club



As I left Vancouver, I realized that not once did I have to use my umbrella. The CGSA/WCTA joint conference was a great success! With fine weather, record attendance, a popular trade show, and outstanding educational opportunities, the overall feeling was very positive. Congratulations to Mr. Jim McGarvey, the WCTA and all those responsible for helping to make this conference a success. We are all looking forward to Quebec City next March. Also mark next September on your calendar for the CGSA Fall Field Day

at the Royal Bromont GC, about one hour south-east of Montreal. This event fills up quickly, so register early.

A number of ongoing CGSA initiatives were discussed during the Conference in Vancouver. At the National Occupational Standards (NOS) a roundtable meeting was held to determine next steps, and thoughts brought forward will be used to guide the Board on the development of a 'needs assessment'. This exercise will integrate the NOS with our members' needs. Various educators from across Canada also met for a full day and they have formed an "Educators Council" to help implement and teach-to, the standards at turf institutions.

After Vancouver, I attended a two day meeting in Ottawa hosted by the Federal Ministry of Health, specifically the "Pest Management Regulatory Agency" (PMRA). The meeting was a result of the "Healthy Lawns" initiative of the PMRA and included a variety of 'stakeholders' from across the green space industry. Afterwards, I realized that these two days were indeed a watershed meeting between industry and regulators. The views of the golf industry were very well received and respected. I can tell you that we are viewed as the experts on IPM and property management.

As the new Ontario Director, I would like to say that I am honoured to represent the members of Ontario on the CGSA Board, as well as serve on the OGSA Board. Many people believe that sitting on both Boards is a positive step in maintaining the already good communication between our two Associations. As Mr. Bill Fach has moved up to the position of Vice President, I would like to thank Bill for his hard work, dedication, and commitment over the past years.

Finally, may the 2001 season be successful for you and your club, and please do not hesitate to call me at any time. I look forward to seeing many of you this season.



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Members of OGSA, CGSA and NGCOA

Health & safety

Your health & safety program

by Doug Johnson,
SAFETAID and Health and Safety Consulting
First Aid and Safety Supplies and WHMS Training

I trust that you are all having a good winter and are looking forward to a safe and prosperous golfing season.

I have had a number of discussions with employers lately and one thing that tends to stand out is what they don't understand about the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the Act). I have been surprised that employers I have talked with do not realize that when it comes to the Act it is not possible to divide up the workplace into different pieces and only deal with safety in some of those areas. The Act defines the workplace as any "land, premises, location or thing at, upon, in or near which a worker works".

The Act goes on to define an employer as "a person who employs one or more workers or contracts for the services for one or more workers and includes a contractor...". This means that at your workplace your employer is required to have a written health and safety policy and program that covers all aspects of the course. The clubhouse, the kitchen, the

curling club, the greens or any other part of the property associated with the club.

The policy is a written, signed and dated, document that states that the employer is responsible for all aspects of safety in the workplace. It should also state that all managers and supervisors are responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the Act are communicated and enforced in the workplace and that all managers and supervisors will be held accountable for safety in the workplace.

The policy also clarifies that workers and contractors have a duty to follow all aspects of the Act and any rules that your employer may have in the workplace.

Once the policy has been established the employer is required to implement a written program to support the policy. This means that the employer is required to develop a program that details the responsibilities of all the workplace participants. This program will also define the duties and responsibilities of the Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health

and Safety Representative. Other areas that must be covered include, workplace inspections, WHMIS, first aid, accident investigation, early return to work, lockout, personal protective equipment, injury reporting and claims management to name a few.

To meet the minimum needs of the Act you should encourage your employer to develop a health and safety program and as the superintendent you should ensure that the program is implemented, communicated to your workers and enforced in the areas of your jurisdiction. Failure to do so may lead to orders from the Ontario Ministry of Labour or in the worst case, after a critical accident, charges under the Act for "failure to comply".

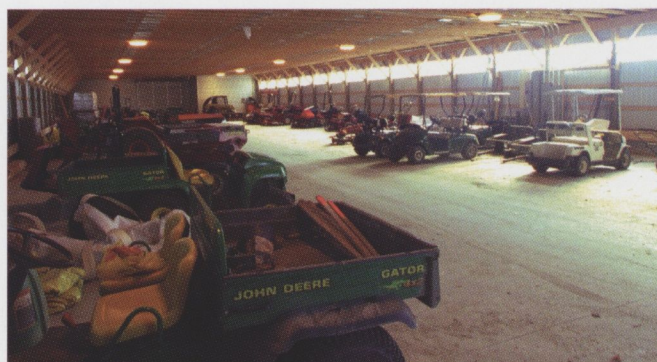
Take this opportunity to put your club on the right track and implement a program today. If you need help, or wish to discuss this in more detail, please give me a call. It is cheap insurance!



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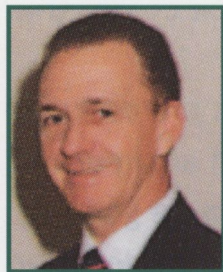
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The referee

Spring cleanup

by Bob Leggitt
Rules Chairman, O.G.A.



Spring – A very nice time of year for golfers. The time of year to get back outside and enjoy nature. It is also an extremely busy time for golf course superintendents and

their staff as they endeavour to get the golf course ready to open for play. One of the biggest jobs must be the cleaning up of all the various “Loose Impediments” that are left after the winter. Just what are

“Loose Impediments? They are natural objects such as stones, leaves, twigs, branches, dung, worms and insects and casts or mounds made by them, provided they are not fixed or growing, are not solidly embedded and do not adhere to the golf ball.

A lot of these items must be cleaned up each spring, after storms and again in the fall when trees begin to lose their leaves.

What can a player do when loose impediments are missed in cleanup and interfere with play?

Loose impediments may be removed without penalty except when both the loose impediment and the ball lie in the

same hazard. (whether it be a water hazard or a bunker). When removing a loose impediment lying within one club-length of the ball, care must be taken to ensure the ball does not move or the player will incur a one stroke penalty. If the ball is moved, it must be replaced or the player will incur a two stroke penalty. So, as, players we owe a lot of thanks to the superintendents and their staff who do an excellent job in keeping our courses clean and thus prevent us from occurring penalties by moving these objects that might interfere with play.



The Toronto Terror

The Life and Works of Stanley Thompson, Golf Course Architect

REVIEWED BY MARK SCHNEIDER, OWEN SOUND GOLF CLUB

by James A. Barclay, Sleeping Bear Press, Hardcover 207pg, \$40.00, Revised by Neil Crafter

Stanley Thompson was a larger than life Canadian who was said to have made three separate fortunes and managed to lose them all! As a golf course architect, Thompson is well known in Canada for such gems as Banff, Jasper Park Lodge, and St. George's and in this book Canadian author James Barclay delivers a fascinating biography of this ebullient character with his vast portfolio of work.

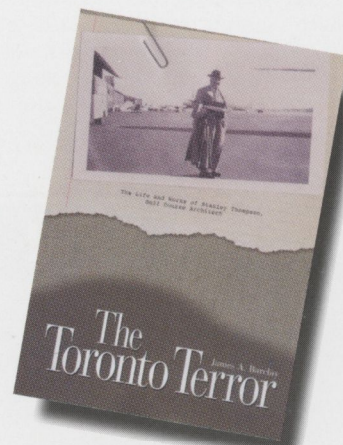
The book is not so much an assessment of Thompson's work but more a glimpse into one man's interesting life, from his childhood in Toronto as one of ten brothers and sisters, to his play as a fine amateur golfer and on to his career as a golf course designer of some renown. In 1930, Stanley Thompson met and teamed up with a young man who would later be recognized as the most successful architect

of the latter half of the century – Robert Trent Jones. As Thompson's partner, Jones clearly absorbed much of the older man's knowledge and philosophy, to the point where the spirit of their style was described as being identical.

Thompson pioneered the multi-disciplinary design firm, employing soil scientists, plant pathologists, landscape architects, arborists, architects and land planners in his office.

The first part of the book is devoted to Thompson's upbringing and family life, while the later sections examine the state of design in the 1920's, his philosophies and finally lists his prodigious work output.

Period black and white photography is used throughout the book and coupled with some of his company advertisements makes an interesting accompaniment to the



text. Another fine book from Sleeping Bear Press that contributes to a growing understanding of golf course architecture and its practitioners. Copies are available through:

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Cyber super

Search engines

by Mark Prieur, Assistant Superintendent
Lionhead Golf and Country Club

Surfing the Web sometimes can be a real chore when you do not know how to find what you are looking for. Looking for information on the latest turf disease or even checking to see how the stock market is doing can be puzzling due to the constant barrage of advertisements. The Web has definitely become one universal used-car salesman trying to get your dollar. If you know how to search correctly, one will not waste time getting spammed (read: junk) from the Web.

Try www.alltheweb.com for a real fast search result, no gimmicks, no ads. This site prides itself on speed and accuracy. Also www.google.com falls into the same speedy search category with no ads. Unfortunately, these sites do not really narrow the search results like some of the other sites do. Sometimes the search

results will skew; for example, searching for "turfgrass" (as I did) may lead to either a turfgrass research institution or a flooring company in Anytown, USA. See the end of this column for tricks on refined search techniques.

If you intend to do more 'surfing,' www.altavista.com can lead you to specific sites that have a high relevance to the subject that you are searching for. In addition, it will search within the site; (let you see the relevant links in the site without actually opening it) this saves a large amount of time. The downside is that there are a tremendous amount of ads here and does not have the speed of the sites listed above.

My personal favorite is www.metacrawler.com. This site actually searches using all the other search engines. The other plus of

metacrawler is that it will narrow your query (search) by adding sub-directories to it. Searching for "superintendents" will prompt metacrawler to suggest "superintendent associations" or "school board superintendents" as a refined query. This site is slower (and has ads) but more often provides the desired result.

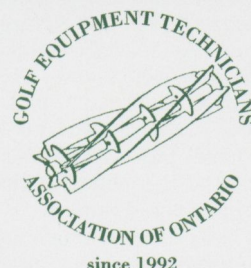
Remember, how a query is entered is just as important as what is entered. Using quotation marks for phrases will ensure that each hit will contain ALL words (ex. "golf course superintendents") in your search. Plus (and minus) signs will also ensure that each word will be included on (or excluded from) the hit list. Last but not least, NEVER include numbers (or single letters) in your search as these will provide every website with a number (or single letter) in it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mechanic's Association News

The board of directors of the GOLF EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO has selected Larry A. Murray to become president. Also, John Garfield Findlay has joined the board of directors.

The G.E.T.A.O. will continue to assist its members with educational tools, tips, industry links to distributors and manufacturers. Its members receive the trade magazine, REEL GRIND, six times a year as well as hosting a week of service schools based on the needs of the mechanics. The association, which has been functioning since 1992, has earned the respect of manufacturers' representatives, distributors, and superintendents of O.G.S.A. Superintendents have often approached the association, in search of a good mechanic. The association does provide classified ads. for employment as well as searching for, trading, or selling equipment and parts. If the mechanic at your golf course is not a member, then take this opportunity to join and reap the benefits immediately. To obtain a membership application, telephone Larry, (905)898-3917 or Eddie, (905)889-7620 ext.503, or eddie.konrad@ladiesgolfclub.com.



Green Is Beautiful

The official publication of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association has been recognized by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, for **Most Improved Publication**, for the second year in a row. Bob Burrows was on hand to accept the award, at their recent conference and trade show. Thanks goes to our Editorial Committee for their hard work and guidance, and to you the members, for your input. We will continue to work to make this the best publication possible, and welcome your suggestions or comments.



Newsletter editors contest winners (from left): Kristen Liebsch, Philadelphia Association of GCS; Robert Burrows, Ontario GSA; Monroe S. Miller, Wisconsin GCSA; Ken Krausz, CGCS, GCSA of New Jersey; Michelle Frazier, CGCS, Northern Ohio GCSA; Patrick Sisk, CGCS, Metropolitan GCSA; Charles M. Borman, CAE, Carolinas GCSA; Joel D. Jackson, CCGS, Florida GCSA.

Golf course highlight

Galt Country Club

750 Coronation Blvd.
Cambridge, Ontario
N1R 8E3, Canada
email: gccmark@golden.net
web site: www.galtcountryclub.com

COURSE PROFILE

WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR CLUB LOCATED IN?

Waterloo

IS YOUR CLUB PRIVATE, SEMI PRIVATE, PUBLIC, RESORT, MUNICIPAL?

Private

SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP?

650

NUMBER OF ROUNDS?

37,000

TYPICAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATE?

April 10 and November 21

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT?

Mark Piccolo

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT?

8

ARE YOU CGCS OR MASTER SUPERINTENDENT.?

No

LIST OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AUDUBON, BOARD SERVICE ETC.)

OCSA Board of Directors

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN AN O.G.S.A.. MEMBER?

11

HOW MANY YEAR ROUND STAFF?

4

HOW MANY SEASONAL STAFF?

12

HOW MANY MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS?

1 and 1

HOW MANY GARDENING STAFF?

1

COURSE STATISTICS

HOW MANY HOLES?

18

WHAT IS THE YARDAGE FROM BACK TEES AND FORWARD TEES?

6234 and 5308

WHAT IS THE SIZE AND LENGTH OF DRIVING RANGE AND RANGE TEE?

120 yds

HOW MANY BUNKERS?

45

HOW MANY PONDS, AND/OR HOW MANY TIMES DOES WATER COME INTO PLAY?

3

WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT?

Stanley Thompson

WHAT WAS THE YEAR OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION?

1906

BY WHOM AND WHEN WAS THE COURSE REMODELLED?

Early 60's Moote

WHAT MAJOR TOURNAMENTS HELD?

Ontario Ladies

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR MAINTENANCE SHOP?

6 000 sq ft

WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Rain Bird Mater II, 8 yrs old

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE GREENS, TEES AND FAIRWAYS?

110 000 sq ft (greens), 75 000 sq ft (tees), 22 acres (fairways)



16th hole, Galt Country Club.

WHAT IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GRASS?

Poa / Bent

HOW MANY USGA GREENS AND HOW MANY LOAM GREENS?

1 and 18

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT SOIL TYPE?

sandy loam

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE IN INVENTORY?

6 - GM 1000 Greens Mowers (walkers)

2 - Jacobsen Greens King IV Triplex's

2 - Toro 5100 fairway mowers

2 - AR-250 rough mowers

1 - National

1 - Ransomes Out Front

1 - Cushman Sprayer

6 - Club Cars

2 - Cushmans

1 - Workman

3 - Tractors

2 - GA 24"

1 - GA 60"

Blowers, sweepers, harvester, topdresser, miscellaneous equipment, cushman sprayer 19' boom, dumptruck etc.

COURSE PROJECTS

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU RECENTLY COMPLETED?

- new clubhouse in 2000

- new practice putting green fall of 1999

- new first tee spring 2000

LONG RANGE PLANS

WHAT LONG RANGE PLANS FOR RENNOVATION DO YOU HAVE IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

- rebuild our 7th green

- continue to improve tee size

- replace sand in bunkers

- possibly work to control flooding from the Grand River

CHALLENGES

ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES YOU FACE WITH YOUR PROPERTY?

- flood of the Grand River

- Canada geese

- small greens/lots of play

SUCCESS STORIES

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCCESS STORIES?

We now mulch all of our leaves using our 2 AR-250 - Just amazing!

A dream come true for the Galt Country Club

by Mark Piccolo, Course Superintendent

For many years the Galt Country Club has struggled to be recognized as a quality private club in the Golden Triangle area. The best deal in town pleased the members but it wasn't enough to produce the revenue needed to make improvements to the golf course and clubhouse. In the past nine years all of that has changed.

In 1992 the membership voted 51% to 49% to replace the manual irrigation system and renovate the bunkers. In 1996 a long range plan was adopted for the golf course and a commitment was made to improve the tees to handle the amount of play we were receiving. The club was taking steps to improve the golf course, now the focus shifted to the clubhouse. In 1996 the push was on to either renovate the deteriorated club house or rebuild. Estimates came back in the one to two million dollar range for



Galt Country Club old clubhouse – October 1999

renovations. Committees now knew that rebuilding was the only answer. Several

committees, concepts, and membership votes later, in the winter of 1999, the membership voted over 80% in favour for the latest concept put together by the building committee and the financing package by the Board, and motioned the Board of Directors to go ahead with the new facility.

The Galt Country Club was going to embark on its biggest project ever. On October 1st 1999, the demolition of the old club house began. The plan was to leave the existing curling rink intact and tie the new facility into the curling rink. Construction carried throughout the winter and was opened to the membership in mid June 2000. Quite a feat in a matter of 9 months.

It was now our turn to get involved. The Greens Committee was responsible for the blending of the new facility into the existing landscape. Our plans included a new 8,000 sq. ft. practice putting green to be located behind the curling rink, a new first tee, driving net, cart path design and landscaping around the facility and the reconfiguration and paving of the parking lot and main roadway.



Construction of new putting green overlooking the Grand River

Hilton Landmark and Design out of Waterloo was retained to design traffic flow routes, planting areas and the parking lot reconfiguration. In the fall of 1999, we constructed the new green designed by Carrick Design Inc. The work was done mostly in-house. The green was a California style using a calcareous 60/40 mixture which speckled very well and sodded to L-93. The project seemed to add life to the construction area. In the spring of 2000, once construction crews were finished with the exterior of the building, construction of the first tee began. The 3 days of placing armour stone to tier the tee created a great setting for the clubhouse. As construction of the facility was finishing, grading for the paths and digging of the planting areas began. Once the installation of the irrigation system and landscape lighting conduits were installed, the paving was completed and planting and sodding finished the project. The final project was the construction of a 22 foot gazebo which now is used as a sitting area for members beside the practice green and a staging area for tournaments.

As you drive by Coronation Blvd. in Cambridge people take a second look at the transformation that has taken place. The once old farm house is now an estate of cut stone overlooking the golf course and the banks of the Grand River. The summary I gave does not include the tales of sleepless nights, arguments with contractors, delays after delays, extreme weather conditions, changing of minds after the fact, being over budget more than the 10% allowed and having to explain it to the Board, or the pleasure of having lunch in a facility our club use to dream about. To describe the facility it's best to visit and you will understand the amount of work it took from all parties involved.

Did I forget to mention, the course is still being targeted as a main corridor for an access route through the city to improve traffic flow to the other side of the river. The saga continues at the Galt Country Club but for now, it's time to enjoy!



Retaining walls around the new first tee



Construction of new clubhouse



Galt Country Club new clubhouse – June 2000

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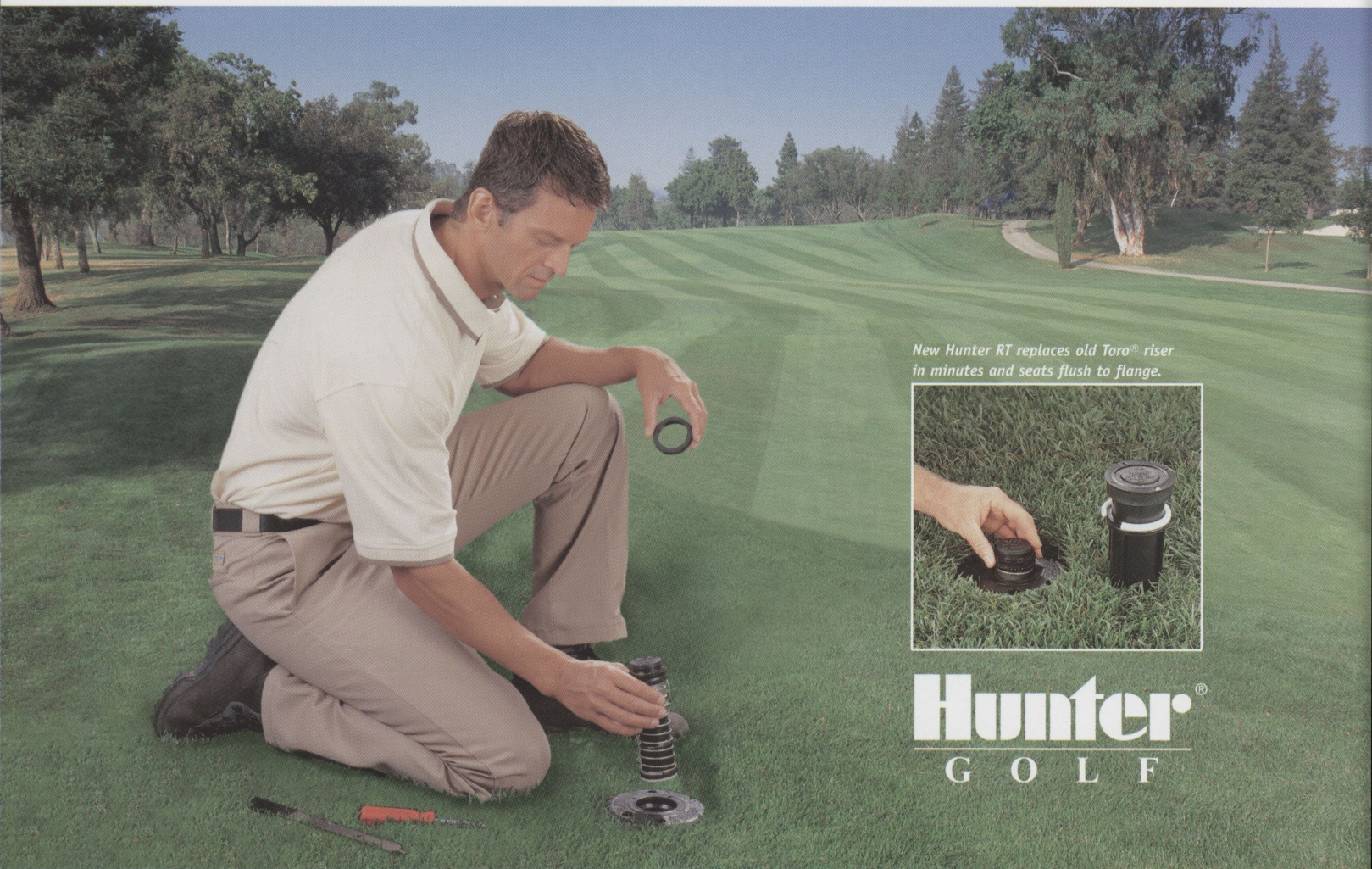
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Preparation for the AT&T senior open – 2001

by Bob Brewster, Superintendent
Mississauga Golf Club

The preparation for the Tournament started immediately after the announcement by the R.C.G.A. that we were hosting the 2001 AT&T. It was exciting for our staff, knowing that we had a big event and in fourteen months the tournament would start.

I was fortunate in August, to travel to Winnipeg and St.Charles Country Club to spend a couple of mornings with Curtis Collins, as he was hosting the tournament in 2000. My first impression was a big circus coming to town... all the tents, trailers, and grandstands, corporate village et cetera. Where will we fit this amount of equipment with very small storage areas and confined space? Then it hit home, the challenge of preparing the golf course for this event. I have been very fortunate over the past twenty-eight years of hosting almost every event possible, including Pro-Am Men's & Ladies' Tour players, except for the four day tour events on P.G.A. tour. I was very impressed with the P.G.A. tour staff and spent a couple of hours in Winnipeg with these people. They were very helpful and they do these events week-in and week-out. I have also had two visits from John Scott, a P.G.A. agronomist and on both visits he has been very pleased with the condition of the course. It will be fun if John

is placed with Mississauga for this tournament, as he is a former Superintendent and a very interesting person to talk turfgrass with, in general.

Since I have only worked at Mississauga for the past two seasons, I really would have liked a couple of extra years to be able to make changes but by having the tournament so quickly it gave us the opportunity in the fall to complete a bunker upgrade and take three holes back to a natural look around the greens. We are putting the Pro-Angle sand in all bunkers. This will help to give consistency throughout the property and has upgraded the golf course to another level.

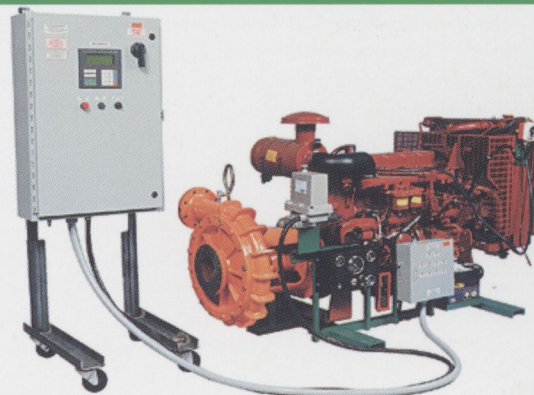
I hired Doug Carrick and Ian Andrews to help upgrade the golf course to a level expected by the Membership. The golf course has now improved to another level. It is actually better than I expected and I am looking forward to the comment of the Membership in 2001 and the reviews from the P.G.A. players and press.

I was fortunate to be in Orlando at the P.G.A Show and had a chance to talk with Lorne Rubenstein. He has criticized Mississauga lately in his articles and rightly so, but I advised him that we are restoring

the golf course. We had done a lot of work this fall for the AT&T Tournament and it will take a couple more years to complete all the restoration. I am hoping to get some better press for the Club in 2001. Also, over the fall we had visits from C.T.V who are looking for camera positions and also tying in with R.D.S. and C.N.B.C. and the grandstand and corporate tents people who are planning corporate events. Finally, volunteers were organized by a member, Tom Buckley, who worked in the Canadian Open in 1974. Six hundred volunteers are required, and the organization of this group requires a lot of meetings.

My staff is counting the weeks and as I write this article we are down to twenty-six weeks. We are presently planning our topdressing and spray schedules from the start of the season until the start of the tournament. I find you can never be organized enough, even down to extra employees required 7-10 days before the tournament.

As you can see throughout the article, that the excitement is here for me and I am looking for a fun week both for myself and my staff and an opportunity to showcase the Mississauga Golf and Country Club for the Membership.



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Angus Glen Golf and Country Club

by Eric Williamson
Assistant Superintendent

Well, it was another record-breaking year at Angus Glen Golf Club, in Markham, Ontario. Attendance was up for our golf clinics; food and beverage sales were good; and although play had remained relatively close to previous years, revenues were excellent! These, however, weren't the only surprising reports at Angus Glen. The weatherman had a few new records to set as well.

The existing 18 holes managed to "weather the storm(s)" well, making up for any lost rounds with more lessons, clinics and food sales. The new course, however, having had all the topsoil replaced through the snowless and relatively mild winter of 99/00, had a difficult and challenging task trying to make progress through the spring and early summer of 2000. The severe storms that we, along with pretty much all of southern Ontario, suffered on what seemed like regularly scheduled intervals gave a much more literal meaning to the phrase "losing ground".

The topsoil went onto the freshly shaped subgrade smoothly throughout December, January, February and March. By the time the end of April came along, the irrigation contractors were able to continue their installation of the system where they had left off in the fall, having already installed the mainline around the whole course. The contractors were able to follow them, putting finishing grades on the topsoil, leveling/shaping tees and greens, building cartpaths and constructing the sod wall bunkers.

Number 15 fairway was the first to be seeded, and the seed wasn't in the ground a week when the first severe storm hit. Number 16 fairway was next, and it was hit as well (twice) before

germination.

Number 12 was next, and 11 followed, and both suffered a severe beating with a storm that hit in July, tearing down several of the sod wall bunkers that had recently been completed. Sod had to be replaced, washouts repaired, and bunkers cleaned up. The storm in July was in fact so torrential that a section of asphalted cartpath was actually lifted from its gravel base, torn into chunks and strewn randomly over the 11th fairway.

The sod wall bunkers, of which there are 38, were probably the most time consuming part of the whole project. A shelf was fashioned in the subgrade by an excavator; 4" perforated pipe was installed at the back of this shelf and of course hooked into the regular bunker drainage at the low spots; the pipe was surrounded by pea gravel and as the sod was stacked (green side to green side, brown side to brown side), the hollow area behind the sod wall was filled. A layer of geo-textile matting was installed between every fifth layer of sod, the end of which was then buried behind the wall. Finally, 1/2" reinforcement rods were pounded down into the wall to help hold them securely in their place. I appreciate their necessity, but anticipate a few hours of labour in the spring as we try to find any that have been forced up by frost and lay in wait for a



Sod wall bunkers.

reel-type mower, fresh off the grinder, to pass unsuspectingly over them.

This was the process for each of the sod wall bunkers, and understandably, tears were shed and hearts were broken when a storm ripped down four of them.

Another two photos will show the "war zone" effect of one of the storms on #10 and the finished product after order was restored. The contractors exhibited tremendous patience!

By mid-July, when the last thunderstorm had blown itself out, 4 holes were completed. Needless to say, we were behind schedule. But by the end of September, all the seed was in the ground (with the exception of the third and the eighth greens which were seeded in the first week of October). We were relieved to see that everything had come up and although some spots were still a little thin we expect it to survive the winter and fill in nicely this spring. Here's hoping for a better, and perhaps a little drier, spring than we had last year!



Tenth hole, looking from the green toward the tee



Tenth hole looking from the tee to the green



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Utilizing technology to help keep golfers informed

by Jim Flett, Superintendent
Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

Golf continues to grow in popularity throughout Ontario at most of our courses. Thirty thousand rounds of golf seem to be the norm at most golf facilities. As our courses have become busier and the demands becoming higher, it's a real balancing act to maintain optimum playing conditions while minimizing disruption of play. With maintenance schedules changing due to weather conditions, the process of re-scheduling cultural practices and updating the proshop and keeping golfers informed is an ongoing, time consuming task.

Many maintenance activities are disruptive to golfers, such as topdressing and aerating. Lack of communication of maintenance activities greatly increases golfers' tensions. Members become extremely irritated by unexpected cores or sand on greens, especially when playing with a guest. This type of miscommunication can be avoided if more avenues of communication are utilized, embracing some of the technology that is available today.

Thanks to irrigation technology, most superintendents are now fortunate to have access to computers in their offices via their central controller. With accumulated hours of daily adjustments to optimize irrigation watering programs, and pump flows, many superintendents have grown comfortable with working with computers and have begun to master other software programs as well.

Word processing, desktop publishing, and web design software is easy to use and can be easily utilized to make your Golfer Communication Program more effective, giving it a more professional looking appearance.

Most of us rely on face-to-face communication and phone calls to update the proshop on course activities. However, sometimes your message doesn't reach the golfers for whatever reason, which leads to conflicts. Here are

some communication methods using technology that can help you spread the word:

- Information Kiosk
- Turf Hotline
- Information brochures
- Greens website

Information Kiosk

Most superintendents already utilize this method of communication with their membership posting daily messages. Try creating interest in your kiosk by using desktop publishing software to add colour and pictures to your postings. Purchase a laminator to protect the paper from getting damaged from moisture. Update daily/ hourly/ weekly as necessary to get the important messages across. Consider printing off and posting the weather forecast off an Internet weather website.

Information Kiosk Contents:

- Weather forecast
- Maintenance schedule
- Golf cart status
- Course closures
- Project status
- Wildlife sightings

Turf Hotline

Allow your membership/proshop to have access to a recorded message that summarizes daily course maintenance activities. The benefit is that this message can be retrieved and updated from any phone, which provides members/proshop information on activities before they reach the course. Keep message updated daily, hourly or weekly depending on activities or time of year. Be sure to post phone number for hotline on your kiosk and other correspondence. Consider having the last four digits of the number spell something like "turf" i.e. 765-(TURF).

- Course Maintenance Activities
- Course Closures
- Golf Cart Status
- Course Etiquette reminders

Implementation Procedures

- Add Bell Identi-Call feature to existing fax line (\$7/mo)
- Add Message Centre Plus (Increases message time to 1 min (\$3/mo))
- Add ring selector to line (\$50)

Sample Message.....


"You've reached Muskoka Lakes Turf Hotline on Tuesday May 8th. Due to overnight weather conditions golf carts will not be permitted until further notice. The new back tee on #16 will open for play this coming Friday May 11th. Before you bring out that important guest we would like to remind you that greens will be topdressed next Tuesday at 1 pm. Have a great round of golf and remember to do your part by repairing divots, ballmarks and remembering to obey the white line rule for carts."

Maintenance Pamphlet

Another method of getting your message across to members is to produce a brochure of maintenance activities including pictures using desktop publishing software such as Microsoft Publisher. This software automatically sets up the page for a brochure setting where the folds of the paper will be. Then it's easy to just start inserting drawings and text.

Include:

- Calendar of maintenance activities
- Hotline phone #/web address
- Course etiquette procedures
- Answers to frequent asked questions like "why aerate?"




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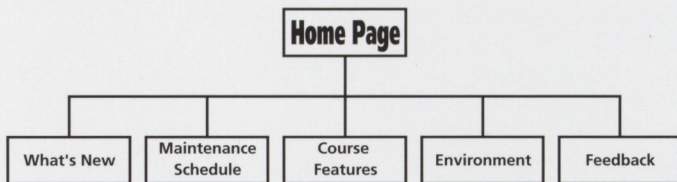
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Course Website

Another new method of spreading the word to members is by utilizing an interactive website. At the click of the mouse the members or proshop can get the information they desire. Feedback from membership is easily encouraged by response forms via email. Members can be miles away and see photos of the golf course from their computer.

The structure of a greens department website could look as follows:



Home Page content

- Mission Statement of course
- Course Conditions
 - Delays closures
 - Links to weather
 - Cart status
- Phone number to Hotline
- Latest News Headlines
- Hyperlinks to other sections

What's New section content

- Completed course projects, renovations
- Newly acquired Equipment featured
- Details on improved Maintenance Practices
- Profile on new staff members

Maintenance Schedule section content

- Calendar of scheduled maintenance by month
- Link to FAQ's like "Why Aerate?"
- Post # to Turf Hotline

Course Features section content

- Course yardage
- Grass types by location
- Bunker sand type
- Naturalized area locations

Environment section content

- Describe Programs
- Water conservation
 - Wildlife enhancement
 - Naturalization

Feedback section content

- Golfer suggestions
- Mini-surveys
- Comments to webmaster

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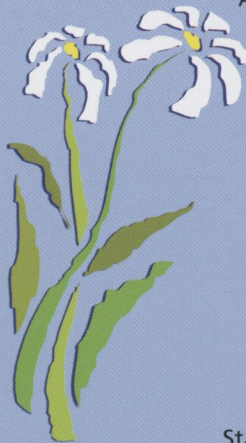


TURF CARE

For more information, contact the Irrigation Division at 1-800-561-1432

In Memory of Jim Boyce O.G.S.A. Honourary Member

James (Jim) Boyce died on August 29th. He graduated from the University of Toronto (OAC) in 1932 with his B. Sc.A. He then worked for the next five years at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa as a graduate assistant in turfgrass and pasture research, then to the New Jersey Experimental Station as a research assistant in turfgrass management under Dr. H. B. Sprague. He received his M. Sc. from Rutgers University in 1939 and returned to Ottawa where he directed the Canada Department of Agriculture plant introduction and turfgrass research programs until 1962. After that he became self employed as a consulting agronomist. He developed correspondence courses for the University of Guelph and taught at Algonquin College in Ottawa. From 1970-73 he was Executive Director of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association and editor of "The Greenmaster". He was closely associated with Rothwell Seeds Limited since it was formed and with its president Norman Rothwell for many years before that. As a founding member of the Sports Turf Association, at the first meeting he stated, "this is an idea whose time has come". Canadian director of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation for several years. While with the Department of Agriculture Jim was intimately associated with the development of such turfgrass varieties as Delta Kentucky bluegrass, Chieftain Canada Canada bluegrass, Duraturf creeping red fescue and Norlea perennial ryegrass, plus several forage type cultivars. In addition to the desirable features of mildew resistance in Delta and winter hardiness in Norlea, all cultivars produced by the Forage Crops Division had a common characteristic, high seed production. On behalf of Rothwell Seeds he was responsible for securing licensing or registration for sale in Canada varieties such as Penneagle and Prominent creeping bentgrasses; Adelphi, Argyle Classic, Eclipse, Glade, Harmony, Midnight, Regent, Scenic and Welcome Kentucky bluegrasses; Ensylva creeping red fescue; Barfalla and Luster's Chewing's fescue; and All Star and Pennant perennial ryegrass. May he rest in peace.

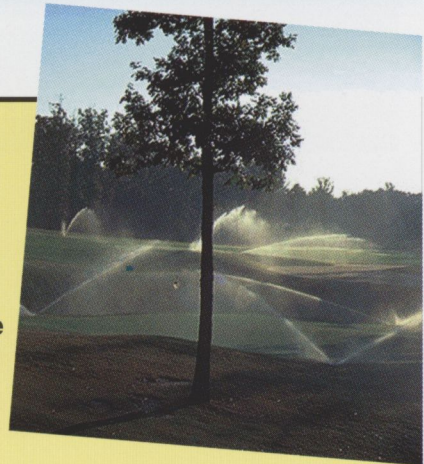


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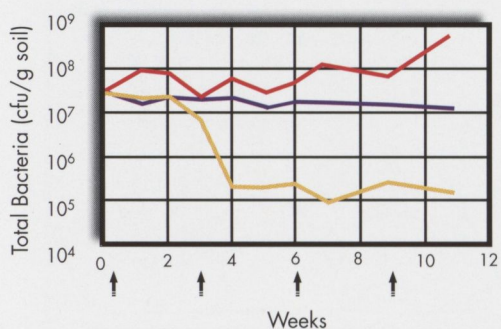
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↑ = application intervals

The bacterial population continued to increase with Nature Safe while the bacterial population decreased with the synthetic.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Southern Crop Protection & Food Research Centre, Dr. George Lazarovits, 1998

¹ Soil Organisms And Their Role In Healthy Turf, Turfgrass Trends, August 1998, Elaine R. Ingham, Ph.D.

² If You Care For Your Microbes Your Microbes Will Care For Your Turf, Golf Course Management, September 1998, Bud White, Agronomist

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Conestoga Golf Course

Weather

There's lots of stuff in this world that I don't understand. I don't know how they get the caramel in the Caramilk bar. I can't begin to guess why people are wearing elevator shoes and disco clothes again. Why do they sell weiners in packages of twelve and buns in packages of eight? I mean really, Eight? What else comes in packages of eight? Nothing! Every time you go camping, by Sunday night everybody has four weiners in their cooler, swimming around in the melted ice and goo with the last of the marshmallows, with no bun to put them on. How can a benevolent God allow this to happen?

Yesterday, I saw a drive through bank machine with braille buttons on it. What is the point of that? Now before the Blind Action Committee starts calling the OGSA and sending me hate mail, I totally support the need for braille bank machines and the right of the visually impaired to the glory of automated banking; but, this was a drive through and I happen to think that if you need braille buttons, you probably shouldn't be driving a car.

But the thing I'll never figure out, if I live to be a hundred, is the weather. Everyday I get about forty-seven phone calls asking when the snow will melt, when it's going to rain, when it's going to stop raining, and when it's going to snow again. Of course, the answer is always the same, I don't know. Nobody knows! The fact that they hire actors and models to do the weather on the evening news is a pretty good indication that they've given up on it too.

My grandmother was one of the great meteorologists of all time. She said that if you spend half your life working outside, and all your trips were either on foot or in an open carriage, you get pretty good at seeing "the signs". "The signs" were an odd collection of events and actions by the local flora and fauna that

only she could seem to interpret, but more often than not, she'd be right.

"See how the pigs are letting the turkeys stand on their backs and fly kites over the milkhouse?" she'd say, "Sure sign of a tidal wave." She'd announce cold weather if the dog left a dead groundhog on the front lawn, warm weather if there were dead squirrels on the back porch. "It's going to rain, the ducks are eating the knotweed."

In university, I actually took a couple of courses in meteorology, and the general consensus was that we can always explain why the weather did what it did afterward, but predicting it is like fishing with a high powered rifle. Take enough shots, and you're bound to hit something.

So when people ask about the weather, whether they're golfers, staff, or owners, just do what the professionals do. Draw a bunch of maps no one understands, put a bunch of symbols on them that no one knows the meanings of, and talk quickly using terms like barometric, metamorphologic, cumulonimbus squall event. (Make up some of your own if you like.) Then steal one of those folksy things from my grandmother about horses always facing into the oncoming rain and everyone will think you're a genius.



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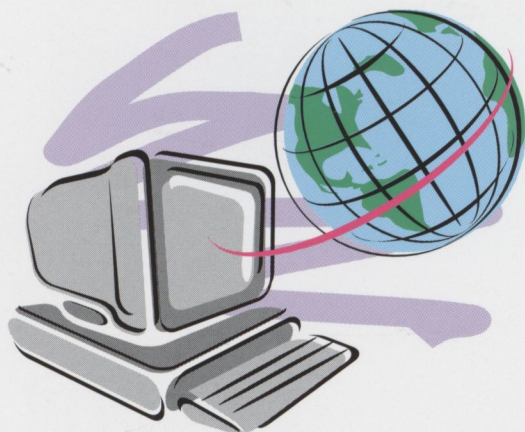
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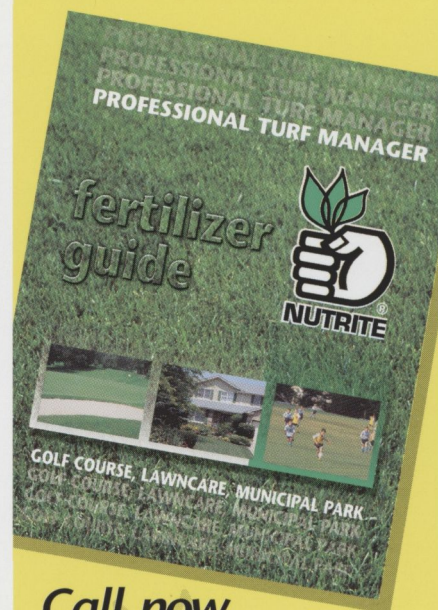
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Annual March curling day North Halton Golf & Country Club

by Dean Baker, Superintendent
North Halton Golf & Curling Club

The O.G.S.A. Annual Curling Day would have made Wayne Middaugh proud...or should I say Randy Ferbey, from Alberta. Since the retirement of Alan Beeney from North Halton, newly appointed Superintendent Dean Baker, and Assistant Superintendent Joe Clare took over as hosts for 2001.

It is always a small but dedicated crowd of curlers that attend this annual event... be a good or bad curler, it doesn't really matter. Long time diehard regulars such as Paul White, Pelino Scenna, and Gradon Goff braved the slippery conditions to participate.

Distributors and suppliers are also a welcome site, always generously contributing to the prize table. This year,

Dean Cormack from Vanden Bussche, and Alex McLeod & Rob Davis, from Turfcare were our big supporters.

Local knowledge was the theme to this year's winners circle. In the "A" division, Skip Mitch Jewell (Construction Foreman at North Halton) on home ice saw his team of Gradon Goff, Ian Chapman, and Bill Fach, through without a loss. In the "B" division, local Blue Springs Superintendent Ted Ellis brought his team of Jennifer Antoniak, Kasey Waldie, and Scott White to a second place finish. Honourable mention goes to the third place team, a local participant, Bernie Von Cube from Cambridge Golf Club with his team of Dave Schmelefske, Rob Stevens, and Mark Schneider.



Congratulations to all the winners! We would also like to thank North Halton for putting on another great curling event. Until next year... have a great golf season!

Name That Tournament Contest

Thanks to several members who entered their suggestions in the Tournament Naming contest. We have new names for **The Golf Professional/Golf Superintendent Event** and **The President, Greenchairman, Superintendent and Director Event**. All of the entries were given careful consideration, after which, the final decision was made by vote from the Board of Directors.

We are happy to announce the official names for these two tournaments are now:

Pro/Super Challenge entered by Scott Dyker, Superintendent at Beverly Golf & Country Club

Presidents' Day entered by Keith Bartlett, Superintendent at Thornhill Country Club

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Looking back

Thirty years ago today

by Barry Endicott,
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

In 1971, the Board of Directors were as follows: **John Arends** (pres.), **Bill Hynd** (vice.), **Ross Haines** (sec.), **Bob Heron** (treas.), **R. Allen**, **Frank Dunn**, **Bernie Macdonald**, **Bob Lamb**, **Helmut Kopp**, **Jim Wyllie** and **John Grighmire** (past pres.). The newsletter committee consisted of **Bill Hynd**, **Dave Gourlay**, **Ross Haines** and **Bob Heron**.

A meeting was held at Thornhill Country Club on February 22nd and **Dave Gourlay** was the host. The winning curling team of **Al Beene**, **Roy French**, **Bob Hall**, and **Jack Koslegin** defeated **John Stoughton**, **Paul Dermott**, **Bob Heron** and **Doug Heron** in a close game.

On April 20th, there was a meeting held at Port Colborne Country Club hosted by **Bill Robertson**. The guest speaker was **Bert Henning** from the Niagara Parks Commission. Twenty-seven played golf after lunch and the low gross winner was **Bob Hall** of Georgetown Golf and Country Club and the low net was **Keith Nisbet** of Westview Golf Club. First place low gross, for associates, was **Doug Heron** and low net went to **Jack Wilson**.

On May 10th, there was a meeting held at Donalda Club hosted by **Ron Allen**. On June the 10th, the OGSA and the Western Greenskeepers Association held a meeting hosted by **Paul Scenna** and the Galt Country Club and at the University of Guelph turf plots with 48 players playing golf. First low gross winner was **Bill Bond** followed by **Bob Heron**, **Bill Hynd** and **Whitey Jones**. Low net winners were **Dan Uzelac**, **Lloyd Reilly**, **Vince Piccolo** and **Keith Nisbet**. Commercial low gross was **Doug Heron** and low net was **E. Tremble**.

The 4th Annual Greenschairman Superintendent Day was held at the Chinguacousy Country Club on July 22nd hosted by **Paul Dermott**. **Mr. Bruce McLaughlin** was the guest speaker and the cost of the day was \$25.00 per person. Low superintendent was **Bill Bowen** and low net was **R. Reilly**. There were also

meetings held at York Downs hosted by **Kimmo Salonen** and at Summit Golf and Country Club, hosted by **Bob Lamb**.

The Pro/Superintendent Day was held on August 22nd at Meadowbrook Golf Club with 33 teams competing. **Whitey Jones** and Pro **Bruce Butterworth** from Aurora Highlands won the event hosted by **Arther Uens**. An interesting point noticed at this tournament was that a power rake was used in the sand traps with favorable results. It was also noted in that year that the tri-plex greens mowers were here to stay but the problem of burst hydraulic hoses must be rectified or we are likely to have shattered nerves. Surely a bright colored dye could be added so an operator could notice a leak immediately or better yet an alarm system with a red light to prevent this catastrophe.

On November 9th, there was a meeting at Uplands Golf Club hosted by **Helmut Kopp**. The annual meeting, on December 14th, at Aurora Highlands, was hosted by **Whitey Jones**. **Bill Hynd** (pres.), **Jim Wyllie** (vice pres.), **Bob Heron**, **Ross Haines**, **Paul Dermott**, **John Stoughton**, **Ed Charman**, **Paul Scenna** and **Roy French** were elected.

The Tam O'Shanter Club House was wiped out by fire on October 3rd. **Doug Suter**, at Credit Valley Golf Club, was clearing brush in the valley in preparation for a new 18 hole golf club. The 13 holes in the valley and 5 on top will be completed in two years. **Don Coles** of F. Manley and Sons died as a result of a car accident on October 15th. **Gordon Witteveen** was nominated as director of the GCSAA.

New members were **Don Nason**, Glen Abbey Golf Club, **Dave Holmes**, Derrydale Golf Club, **Kimmo Solonen**, York Downs Golf Club, **Tom Simpson**, Newcastle Golf Club, **Albert Kooper**, Rio Glen Golf Club, **John Konarowsky**, Grandview Golf Club, **Tony Wozniak**, Malton Golf Club and **Rusty Warkman**, Stratford Golf Club.

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