

MAY 10 2002

August 2001

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

**Presidents' Day**

**International turf research conference**

**Timber Ridge Golf Course**

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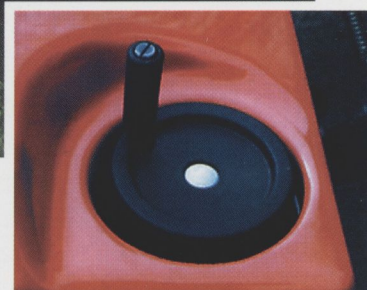
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## Contents

<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY AT BEACON HALL .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Announcements .....	9
C.G.S.A. news .....	6
Cyber super .....	8
Editor's message .....	5
Education .....	19
Effects of rainfall and Fusarium patch disease .....	14
Timber Ridge Golf Course .....	17
Garden renovations .....	20
Golf course highlight – BEACON HALL GOLF CLUB .....	11
Health & safety .....	7
International turf research conference .....	10
Looking back .....	23
Mechanic's corner .....	6
President's message .....	4
The referee .....	8
Turf or consequences .....	21
Welcome! .....	5

## Advertisers

Albion Golf Cars and Turf Equipment .....	6
Almack & Associates .....	21
Braemar Building Systems .....	23
Burnside Golf Services .....	14
Century Rain Aid .....	18
Chipco Professional Products .....	22
Douglas Wood Large Tree Services .....	21
G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. ....	2
Graphic Services Ltd. ....	4
Maple Turf Supply .....	13
Nu-Gro .....	13
Nutrite .....	20
OSC Seeds .....	8
The P.E.S.T. Institute .....	8
Plant Products Turf .....	8
Proturf Division – NuGro Corporation .....	6
Pumptronics Incorporated .....	15
Skyway Lawn Equipment Limited .....	9
Turf Care Products Canada – Irrigation Division .....	19
Turf Care Products Canada .....	24
United Horticultural Supply .....	16
Vanden Bussche Irrigation & Equipment Limited .....	7
Zander Sod Co. Limited .....	9

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

Beacon Hall Golf Club

Photo by: Dorothy Hills

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



## President's message

On June 28, 2001 the Supreme Court of Canada rendered its decision in the Quebec Municipal By-Law appeal. You can view the entire 22-page decision by visiting the court website at [www.scc-csc.gc.ca](http://www.scc-csc.gc.ca). As we anticipated, this story is now being played out in the media throughout Ontario and across Canada.

In summary, the Supreme Court of Canada ruling permits individual municipalities to determine whether or not pesticides may be used within their jurisdictions on both private and public lands. These areas include golf courses, parks, home lawns, gardens, etc. The anti-pesticide groups have been waiting for this opportunity for quite some time and have launched an all out attack on the lawn care industry and will no doubt incorporate golf courses into this group. It is believed that the anti-pesticide groups want all pesticide products used for horticultural purposes banned from use regardless of who applies the products. If the anti-pesticide groups are successful in the horticulture industry they will then move onto agricultural use.

This situation for golf courses is very serious. The Supreme Court decision is most relevant to Quebec where provincial legislation concerning pesticide use is lacking. Provincial requirements in Ontario currently prevent municipal governments from adding another layer of bureaucracy to regulate the use of pest control products on private property. However, the OGSA along with other industry stakeholders have asked for clarification where the Ministry of Environment stands on this issue. We have yet to receive a response from the Minister of the Environment.

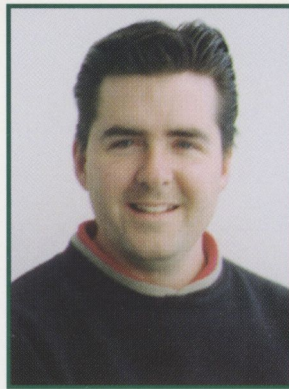
Currently pesticides are regulated both federally and provincially. In most cases pesticides are subject to more testing than pharmaceutical drugs before and after they are registered and made available for use by Health Canada. The Ministry of Environment regulates pesticide use in the province.

Canada currently has one of the most stringent pesticide regulatory systems in the world. Products are thoroughly tested and evaluated in order to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. It takes up to ten years and costs \$50 to \$100 million dollars for a pest management product to become registered with Health Canada before it can be used.

Unlike Health Canada and the provincial Ministry of the Environment, municipalities lack the qualified staff and financial resources required to evaluate pesticides for safety. The politicians involved in making recommendations concerning pesticide use may not fully understand the pesticide regulatory process in Canada. Decisions concerning pesticide use, if left in the hands of municipal politicians, will be based on emotion and speculation rather than sound scientific research.

Any authority given to Municipal governments to regulate pesticide use on private property will infringe on homeowners rights and undoubtedly have a negative effect on the quality of golf courses throughout Ontario. It will also cause municipal taxes to increase, as municipalities will have to hire additional staff with some expertise regarding pesticides to enforce any by-laws that they implement.

The recent ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada may seem daunting, however we believe there is still a tremendous amount of room for work and opportunity. On the surface it would appear that the court has allowed for a third level of regulation. In reviewing the decision, we believe that all provinces outside of Quebec will be left to sort out municipal powers and right of individual property owners.



John Gravett  
The Granite Club



### ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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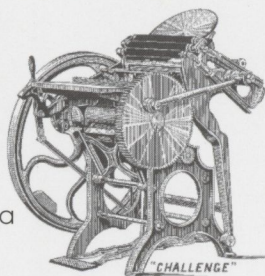
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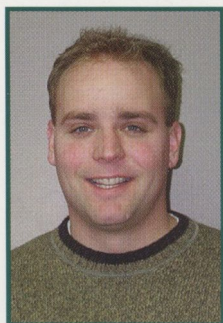
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## Editor's message



Jeff Stauffer  
Credit Valley G&CC

As the 2001 season passes the mid-point we turn our attention toward the upcoming fall season and the end-of-season projects on the horizon. Let's hope the "back nine" of this golfing season is more wet than the front. It sure has been a hot, dry one thus far. Here's to a terrific finish to the 2001 season.

With the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada regarding the banning of pesticide use, many of us will find ourselves explaining our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs and the use of pesticides as a whole to our Board of Directors, members, employees, friends, family and neighbours. Personally, earlier this spring I had the opportunity to address the Town of Oakville's City Council on the issue of pesticide use. The city council was debating the approval of the Parks and Recreation Department's IPM program and pesticide use for the 2001 season. As a fellow agronomist and resident of Oakville, I wanted to share my professional knowledge and experience and also, to show my support for the prudent use of pesticides. Furthermore, I stressed the importance of educating the community on the appropriate use and environmental and physical effects of pesticides.

After listening to the perspectives of some of the council members and the other citizens addressing the city council, I was truly amazed by the misconceptions and biases toward pesticide use that exist. I now realize how important it is to take the time to educate and inform the decision makers, such as city councils, to assist them in making informed decisions concerning the use of pesticides.

In speaking at the city council I had the opportunity to express my opinions, share my knowledge and experience and field questions from the council and other speakers. I felt my expertise was appreciated and believe the information I was able to share impacted the perspectives of many of the attendees at the meeting.

I encourage all members of the OGSA to take the opportunity to educate others to avoid the potential banning of pesticide use within their municipalities. From personal experience, I strongly believe our voices can make a difference and if we sit back and do nothing we may find ourselves in a position of not being able to use pesticides as a tool to rid our turf of devastating circumstances!

### F.Y.I.

Future issues of *Green is Beautiful* will now be published in January, March, May, July, September and November. The intent of this change is to allow for quicker reporting of events around the province. Finally, please forward any articles or story ideas to Dorothy Hills or myself, Jeff Stauffer as soon as possible. The Editorial Committee is planning upcoming issues and would like to address the topics of interest to you, the member and reader.

Again, all the best...

continued from page 4

The OGSA is developing a strategic framework using alliances in the horticultural industry as well as several golf associations. We believe that our message must get to the golfers of the province immediately. The OGSA will be an integral part of an aggressive media campaign to communicate the benefits of proper pesticide use on golf courses across Ontario. But what can you do? Each OGSA member needs to become a student of all the issues that arise in your individual municipalities. It's time that each and every one of you became involved in this issue. Contact the key people at your golf course and spend some time with them to educate them on separating fact from fiction with respect to pesticide use. Many of you have 'access' to the most influential people in your community through your golf course!

You also need to contact your local municipal authorities and voice your opinion on this issue and get involved with pesticide advisory groups in your municipality. You have a good story to tell.

Can you imagine trying to manage your golf course without the use of any pesticides at any time? Certainly, the quality of the golf course would suffer tremendously and you would not have a reliable tool to help your golf course fight pest invasion. There is no doubt that our ability to host a major tournament (PGA or LPGA) in this country would be in jeopardy.

The OGSA is actively involved with various issues related to this topic across Ontario. We have been heavily involved with building a strategic plan and response for golf superintendents in Ontario. Please contact the OGSA office if you require any further information on this topic or require support in your specific geographic area. We will keep all members informed of current issues as we move forward.

If at anytime you would like to discuss this matter with myself, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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

<b>Alan Firth</b> Ashton Meadows	Class B
<b>Troy Humphries</b> Jaspur Ridge Stables	Class F
<b>Mark Pickering</b> Crosswinds Golf & CC	Class C
<b>Ed Wagner</b> Hawthorn Valley Golf Course	Class A
<b>James Woloszanski</b> Wyldeewood Golf Club	Class C
<b>Burnside Irrigation Services</b> Rick Ziegel, President	Class E
<b>More Trees Please</b> Terry Perossa, (co-owner with Rob Stevens)	Class E



### PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport  
Provided by Ministry of the Environment

	Average	YEAR 2001 Actual
January		
(rain)	18.5 mm	21.0 mm
(snow)	32.3 cm	10.8 cm
(total)	45.6 mm	31.2 mm
February		
(rain)	20.8 mm	55.6 mm
(snow)	25.9 cm	36.0 cm
(total)	45.5 mm	94.0 mm
March		
(rain)	35.1 mm	8.8 mm
(snow)	19.9 cm	26.4 cm
(total)	56.9 mm	31.4 mm
April		
(rain)	56.0 mm	35.8 mm
(snow)	7.3 cm	0.6 cm
(total)	64.0 mm	36.4 mm
May	66.0 mm	92.2 mm
June	68.9 mm	61.8 mm
July	76.6 mm	34.0 mm



# Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news

by Robert Burrows  
Rosedale Golf Club



On Friday, June 29th, Bill Fach and I attended the retirement party for Mr. Chuck Desveaux, office and trade show Manager for CGSA. What a great way for Chuck to start his retirement. He was with us for about 12 years, and was very capable and well liked by his peers and exhibitors. He plans to go back east and visit relatives,

and generally travel and enjoy his free time. I am sure that will take some adjustment, as he is a very energetic person. All the best Chuck!

In early July, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down their final ruling in the matter of "Chemlawn versus the City of Hudson, Quebec". In essence, the ruling opens the door for municipalities to enact by-laws locally regarding pesticide usage to 'protect the health and welfare of its citizens'. These powers were confirmed by the high court, and enable municipalities to now limit or eliminate pesticide use on public and/or private lands. The CGSA, along with Provincial

Associations and other trade organizations, will be closely watching what happens next. If you should hear of any regional or city/town council starting to draft by-laws of this nature, please contact me immediately. We want to ensure that the councillors receive a 'balanced viewpoint' and not only that of the environmentalists or the vocal minorities.

As a reminder, your CGSA gold card will allow you complimentary admission to the AT&T Canada Senior Open, August 20-28 at Mississauga GC. I am sure that Bob Brewster would like to see your support at this premier event on the national golfing calendar.

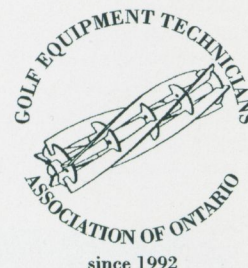
## Mechanic's corner

by Larry A. Murray,  
Pheasant Run Golf Club

Did you ever have one of those days when everything goes wrong, even when you do something right, it turns wrong? I recently learned a lesson about checking the condition of your tools. I was doing routine maintenance on a Kubota 4310 tractor, which included an oil change. The problem developed when the very end of the oil container fell into the gear case. I tried every kind of flexible magnet, but to no avail. Though the temptation to ignore the problem was strong, I knew it would haunt me every time I heard the tractor start-up. To remedy the problem, it was necessary to

take the front of the engine apart, remove the gear case cover, retrieve the evasive piece and reassemble everything. After the job was complete, the anger I felt at first transformed into memories to laugh at and write in memoirs.

The Association will be hosting its ninth annual golf tournament at Westview Golf Club in Aurora, Ontario. The event will take place on September 18, 2001. Colin Nesbit, the course Superintendent, has been helpful and promises to have the course in shape for our tournament. Walter Pope is the host mechanic. The tournament is open to



Superintendents, Assistants, Suppliers, as well as Mechanics. The cost of the event is \$95.00, which includes Golf, Cart, and a Steak Dinner. For more info., or to register, call Eddie at (905) 889-7620 ext. 503 or e-mail at [eddie.konrad@ladiesgolfclub.com](mailto:eddie.konrad@ladiesgolfclub.com).

For information on the mechanic's association, please contact me at (905) 898-3917 or e-mail [l.a.murray@sympatico.ca](mailto:l.a.murray@sympatico.ca)

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# Health & safety

## Lightning!

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

Lightning is heaven's fireworks! I have been doing a bit of research into lightning and I have found some very interesting information!

One thing that a lot of people think is, if you are in a vehicle you are protected. You know, the rubber tires are insulating you from the potential to be struck by lightning. Not so according to the experts. You are just as likely to be hit in a vehicle as anywhere else!

How many people have run for the cover of the trees in a storm? You may as well run for cover under a lightning rod! I was recently shown the effects of a lightning strike at a golf course in Guelph. Lightning struck a tree and travelled down the tree along a major root to the irrigation pipe. Along the way it blew a trench open and threw rocks and debris 10 to 15 feet on either side of the root. No one was injured, but it provided a dramatic example of the effect of a lightning strike.

Just recently, two men were killed in Toronto while standing under a tree trying to wait out a storm. And don't think that the storm has to be directly overhead to be dangerous.

Lightning is unpredictable. It can strike up to 25 miles away from its parent storm. It can literally strike "out of the blue".

Golf courses are notoriously prone to lightning strikes and your club should have a clear, well practiced warning plan in place to ensure that your staff and the clients have adequate time to get off the course in the event of an electrical storm. Generally, you should not have too much trouble getting your workers off the course but you should also consider ensuring that the clubhouse understands the severity of a lightning strike and see that the Club Manager or Golf Pro has the same knowledge and respect as you do.

If you need more information check out this site at <http://goflorida.about.com/> or <http://www.weatheroffice.com>

## OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

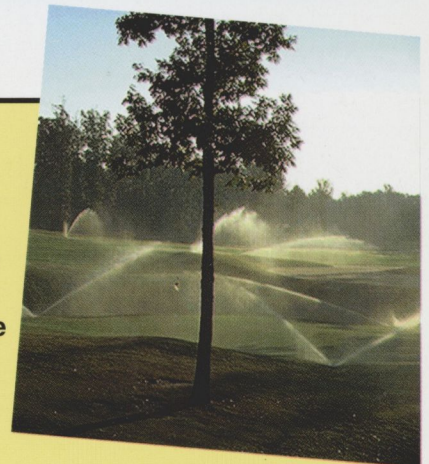
- Follow the 30/30 rule. If the time between seeing the flash of lightning and hearing the thunder is less than 30 seconds, take shelter. You are in a strike zone. Remain in shelter for 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning.
- Immediately get away from pools, lakes and other bodies of water.
- Get off the beach.
- Never use a tree as a shelter.
- Avoid standing near tall objects.
- Keep away from metal objects including bikes, golf carts, umbrellas, fencing, machinery, etc.
- Get indoors if at all possible or get in a hard-topped vehicle.

One source: Vanden Bussche Irrigation



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## Cyber super

by Mark Prieur, Assistant Superintendent  
Markland Wood Country Club

Want to learn more? The Web is full of places to go but I often find myself running around in circles. Thank heavens for the educational sector for not giving in to the ad market (for now anyway). The University and College websites are chock full of current research information on turfgrass issues that may or may not affect you. Nevertheless, one must stay on top of the

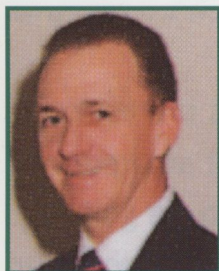
ever-changing turf industry. The one I most enjoy is [www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/](http://www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/) where the links section is enormous; so big in fact you must search by country. The research there is most relevant to our area but you hear about these updates at most of the regional conferences anyway. At the links section however, you can literally check hundreds of other research updates from that site.

Some of my favourites are [www.css.msu.edu](http://www.css.msu.edu) (Michigan State's Crop and Soil Science webpage). It is a bit into sports turf but the current information on crumb rubber topdressing and the Pontiac Silverdome Project are interesting. Also check out [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu)

(Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences webpage). The current issues section has information on Biotechnology and West Nile Encephalitis.

A great Superintendent once told me, "The day I stop learning is the same day I leave the business." There is a lot of truth to that statement.

## The referee



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



If anyone has any questions about 'rule of play' fax or email them to Dorothy Hills at OGSA...

email: [ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca)  
Fax #: (519) 766-1704.

I will do my best to address your concerns in the next issue of *Green is Beautiful*.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GCSAA Golf Ball Showcase

GCSAA is initiating a special golf ball collection drive to visually illustrate the far-reaching scope of the golf course superintendent profession. Members are asked to submit three golf balls bearing the logo of his/her golf facility. GCSAA will assemble and display this impressive collection representing members from across the country and throughout the world. The Golf Ball Showcase will first be on display at 2002 Conference and Show in Orlando and eventually on permanent display at GCSAA Headquarters.

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## WHERE ARE YOU?

### Turf Manager Short Course Grads 1977 to 1987

We have searched high and low and cannot find your addresses. We want to send you an invitation to a party! We need your sleuthing help to track down your classmates.

The first Turf Managers Short Course reunion will be held Wednesday, January 23rd during the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium at the Regal Constellation Hotel. Thirty years of graduates and teachers will be welcomed to a reception to renew acquaintances, tell lies and have fun.

Unfortunately, class lists and addresses for graduates of the years 1977 to 1987 are no longer available. If you are a graduate from one of these years, please contact the University of Guelph, Office of Open Learning to ensure that you receive an invitation to the reunion. Put on your detective hat and help us track down your classmates. If you know the whereabouts of any grads, it would be very helpful if you could pass along the addresses.

Please call or email Peggy Nagle at 519-824-4120, Ext 3814, FAX to 519-767-0758 or email [pnagle@open.uoguelph.ca](mailto:pnagle@open.uoguelph.ca). Peggy vows she will be eternally grateful to anyone who can help fill in the missing pieces in the Turf Manager Short Course records. Mark January 23rd on your calendar. Make sure you are at the reunion. Jack and Norm are looking forward to seeing you!



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## International turf research conference visits the G.T.I.

*Photos by Dorothy Hills*

On Wednesday, July 18th, the G.T.I. was just one of the stops for the International Turf Conference registrants participating in the Bus Tour. The visitors split up to tour various locations in the morning, such as Greenhorizons Group of Farms Ltd. (Cambridge Farm – sod production), Crosswinds Golf & Country Club – Burlington, Devil's Pulpit Golf Association – Caledon, Markland Wood Country Club – Etobicoke, Oakdale Golf Club – Downsview, Rattlesnake Point Golf Club – Milton, RIM Park – Waterloo, and the Toronto Cricket and Skating Club, and arriving at Guelph Turfgrass Institute & Environmental Research Centre for a BBQ lunch and tour of the building and research plots.

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute & Environmental Research Centre (GTI) was founded in 1987. It has been developed as a partnership between the Ontario turfgrass industry, the provincial government and the University of Guelph. After a major campaign spearheaded by the turfgrass industry, the

G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre was opened in 1993. The building houses GTI staff, industry association offices including that of OGSA, as well as providing laboratory space, a reference centre and meeting rooms.

The primary focus of the GTI is turfgrass education and research. Approximately one-third of the 60 hectare site is dedicated to research activities including sixteen 25 by 100 meter research ranges, four research putting greens on a variety of rootzones and rootzone material evaluation plots. The property is also home to extensive environmental research facilities including apparatus for the evaluation of grass filter strip efficacy, an agroforestry area, a range of lysimeters and the aquatic ecosystem research facility of the Canadian Centre for Toxicology. ITRC 2001 delegates had an opportunity to meet GTI faculty, tour the building and view the turfgrass and environmental research projects being carried out on the site, before boarding the buses to go on to the Woodbine Racetrack.





# Golf course highlight

## Beacon Hall Golf Club

400 Beacon Hall Drive, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3G8

email: rtee@dcnet.com

### COURSE PROFILE

WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR CLUB LOCATED IN?

York

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

Private

SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP?

240, shareholders

NUMBER OF ROUNDS?

18,000

TYPICAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATE?

April 15 – November 15

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT?

Robert Heron

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT?

35 years

ARE YOU CGCS OR MASTER SUPERINTENDENT?

Master Superintendent and CGCS

LIST OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AUDUBON, BOARD SERVICE ETC.)

OGSA, CGSA

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

35 years

HOW MANY YEAR ROUND STAFF?

5

HOW MANY SEASONAL STAFF?

25

HOW MANY MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS?

1 and 2

HOW MANY GARDENING STAFF?

1

### COURSE STATISTICS

HOW MANY HOLES?

18

WHAT IS THE YARDAGE FROM BACK TEES AND FORWARD TEES?

7001 and 5252

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

17 acres / 1 acre tees

HOW MANY BUNKERS?

87

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

6

WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT?

Robert Cupp

WHAT WAS THE YEAR OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION?

1986

WHAT MAJOR TOURNAMENTS HELD?

Ontario Amateur

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR MAINTENANCE SHOP?

10000 sq.ft.

WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Toro (Site Pro),  
13 years old

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

2.8 acres, 2 acres,  
21 acres

WHAT IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GRASS?

Bentgrass

HOW MANY USGA GREENS AND HOW MANY LOAM GREENS?

20 USGA

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT SOIL TYPE?

sandy loam

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE IN INVENTORY?

- 5 Greens Walker
- 5 Tees Walkers
- Skidsteer
- Aerocore aerator
- Front mower & Sweep
- Progator
- Progator Sprayer
- 5 Fairway Units
- Greens Mower
- 3 Trim Mower
- Nunes rough cutter
- Tractor
- 2 Compact Utility Tractors
- Buffalo Blower
- Caroni Rotary Deck
- 2 Club car golf cart
- Cushman topdressor
- Dodge Ram Truck 1500
- 7 Turf Gators
- 3 E Gators
- 2 Hover Mowers
- J. Deere Trap/bunker
- Little Wonder
- Metermatic
- olathe wood chipper
- 2 pull behind sprayers
- Sandpro 14
- Sod Cutter
- spiker
- Stump grinder
- Toro Multipro
- Trailboss 325
- Toro snow blower
- Salsco Roller
- Trash pump
- Turf vac
- Vermeer trencher
- wood splitter
- Yamaha golf cart



Beacon Hall Golf Club

- rogers blower
- sweepster
- Billy Goat Blower
- Ryan seeder
- 2 Proseeders
- 86 MX Skidoo

### COURSE PROJECTS

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU RECENTLY COMPLETED?

- pond liners on #17, #8, #9, #13
- increased size of range tees
- extended interlocking cartpaths
- reconstruction of #15, #18 fairways and bunkers
- tree removal on front 9 to reduce shade using a sunseeker program

### LONG RANGE PLANS

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

- renovation of #1, and #6 greens
- redesign of #6 fairway, #7 & #4 tee
- cartpath extension on back 9
- continue with the sunseeker program on the front 9
- renovations of the driving range

### CHALLENGES

ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES YOU FACE WITH YOUR PROPERTY?

- very sandy
- 65 acres fescue
- maintaining high percentage of Bentgrass



# Presidents' Day at Beacon Hall

by Paul Scenna  
Donalda Club

On Monday July 16, Beacon Hall Golf Club and Mr. Robert T. Heron were hosts of this years Presidents' Day. Beacon Hall's characteristic Bob Cupp design challenged all players as they competed for the William Sansom Trophy.

The day started with a tasty barbecue lunch on the patio overlooking the finely manicured course carved out of the pines. Bob Heron, assistants Larry Bell and Jeff Cardwell, and all the Greens' staff are to be congratulated for all their hard work and the special attention they gave during the preparation for this tournament.

The format for the day was a progressive better ball with a total team score.

## The Winners!

### First Place

#### The Briars Golf Club

Superintendent Paul White, Directors Pat Burrows, Doug Bradley, and Gary Stortini.

### Second Place

#### Ballantrae Golf Club

Superintendent Kurt Rasmus, Directors Hugh Mucklin, John Mclellan, and Dennis Gilchrist.



Presidents' Day Winning Team from The Briars Golf Club, (left to right) Paul White, superintendent; Pat Burrows; Doug Bradley; Gary Stortini; Keith Bartlett, past president, OGSA.

### Third Place

#### St. Georges Golf Club

Superintendent John Gall, Directors Ron Rudon, Chris Sadler and Mart Raigla.





**Fourth Place**

**Beacon Hall Golf Club**

Superintendent Bob Heron, Directors Steve Cuddie, Nigel Hillard and Lary Boland.

**Fifth Place**

**Lowville Golf Club**

Superintendent John Dimitriw, Directors Sharon Robinson, John Cormier and Dick Kirkpatrick.

John Taylor from Hunters Pointe Golf Club and Dean Baker from North Halton Golf & Country Club ran the paramutual, and a five-dollar bet on the winning team paid out one hundred and fifty five dollars.

The evening finished off with a fabulous meal and sharing great golf experiences of the day. Special thanks go to General Manager Joe Coleman and Golf Professional Phil Hardy for their help in organizing the day. Thank you to all participants and especially to the hosts at Beacon Hall for making the Presidents' Day as enjoyable and competitive as ever.



Paul Scenna (right), OGSA Director, presenting plaque to Bob Heron, Superintendent of Beacon Hall Golf Club.



Beacon Hall Club House

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# Effects of rainfall and Fusarium patch disease in the fall on snow mould control

by Tom Hsiang and Sandra Cook

Dr. Tom Hsiang is a research scientist and Sandra Cook is a research technician in the Department of Environmental Biology at University of Guelph. They are also members of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

For the past two years, the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation has been supporting research at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute on several aspects of snow mould control. Fungicides which are used for the control of snow mould diseases are often applied right before snowfall with the desire that their efficacy will be maintained even if there are snowmelt and rainfall events before spring finally arrives. There are concerns that Fusarium patch occurring from mid to late fall will increase the level of pink snow mould throughout the following winter even with standard snow mould fungicide applications.

The purpose of the first study was to examine whether infections of Fusarium patch in the fall will lead to greater snow mould development, and to study the effect of fungicides applied throughout the fall on snow mould development the following year. This research had been

started in Fall 1999, but because of the unusually mild winter of 1999-2000 no differences between fungicide treatments were seen. In fall 2000, we attempted to induce greater levels of disease by the use of additional fast release nitrogen in the fall and higher levels of pathogen inoculum. We used Rovral Green 240F containing the active ingredient iprodione for Fusarium patch control for early to late fall applications, and Nutri-Q containing 0-0-5 NPK plus 5% quinterozone in granular form as the snow mould fungicide. The Fusarium patch fungicide was applied at set times during the fall with the final application of the snow mould fungicide right before permanent snow cover.

What we found was that a light level of Fusarium patch infection in the fall (less than 10% area affected) could be managed by a single late fall snow mould fungicide application to prevent heavy pink snow mould development in the winter. In a lightly infected area, the

application of fungicides from early to late fall to control Fusarium patch did not significantly affect the level of snow mould after snow melt since the single snow mould fungicide application was just as effective. However, if high levels of Fusarium patch were allowed to develop in the fall, then mid to late fall fungicide applications to control Fusarium patch may be insufficient to prevent a high level of pink snow mould after snowmelt, even with the snow mould fungicide application in late fall.


In the second study, we examined the effects of rainfall after final fungicide application on snow mould disease control from fall 2000 until spring 2001. The question often comes up about whether turf managers should apply fungicide during times of melt or rainfall during the winter. The purpose of this



Figure 1. Pink snow mould appears after snowmelt at the end of winter. The fungus which causes this disease, *Microdochium nivale*, also causes Fusarium patch.



Figure 2. Fusarium patch on creeping bentgrass can occur in the fall or the spring during cool wet weather. It can also occur during the summer in coastal climates or during cool wet growing seasons.



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Environmental  
Consultants

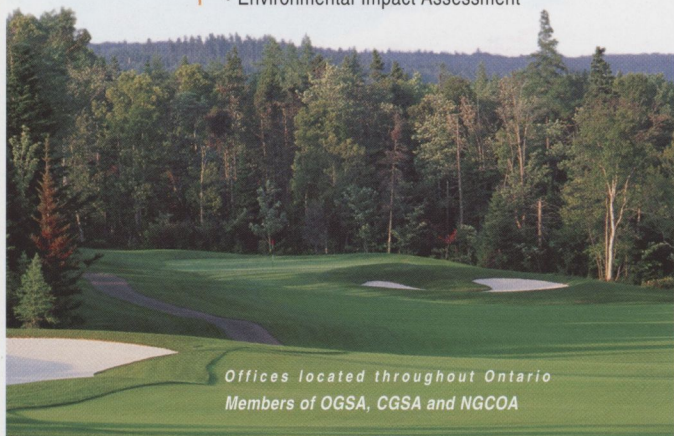
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study was to examine whether rainfall or snow melt events after the final snow mould fungicide application but before permanent snow cover will lead to greater snow mould development. This research had been started in Fall 1999, but, again, because of the unusually mild winter of 1999-2000, no differences between fungicide treatments were seen. In fall 2000, we attempted to induce greater levels of disease by the use of heavy fast release nitrogen in the fall and higher levels of pathogen inoculum. We used Nutri-Q containing 0-0-5 NPK plus 5% quitozene in granular form as the snow mould fungicide. We applied the snow mould fungicide at pre-determined intervals in the fall with some treatments followed by natural or simulated rainfall.

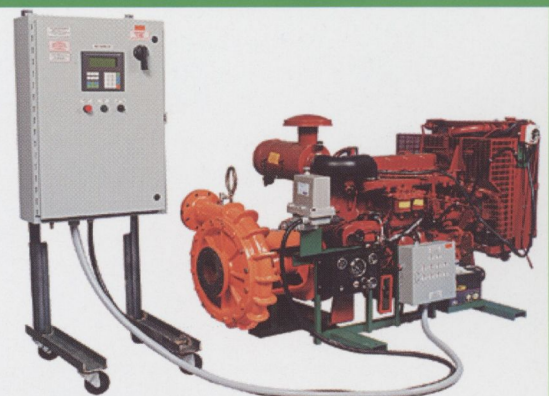
Most treatments showed significant suppression of snow mould when they were applied within three weeks prior to permanent snow cover whether or not there were rainfall events after fungicide application. Only the treatment of 6 Nov 2001 (5 weeks prior to permanent snow cover) showed reduced efficacy. Between 6 Nov and 13 Dec 2001, there were several occurrences of rainfall or snowfall with snowmelt which could account for the reduced efficacy of this early treatment. Another interesting result was that the fungicide application on 15 Dec 2001 also was not efficacious perhaps because the early snowfall conditions required for efficacy of this granular product.

For full details on these studies, please check website: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~thsiang/turf/otrf/otrf.htm>, and in

case you have already forgotten (or tried hard to forget) what the snow moulds look like after this past long hard winter, the images provide a short reminder on identifying the major pathogens involved in turfgrass snow mould diseases.



Figure 3. Pink snow mould (right) differs from grey snow mould (left) in having a more pinkish tinge to the fungal growth as well as lacking the small dark survival structures known as sclerotia. It is important to determine which snow mold fungus is present because most fungicides show varying efficacy toward snow mould diseases.



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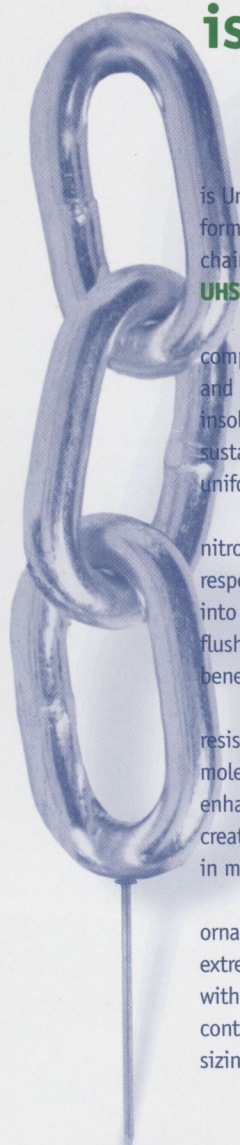
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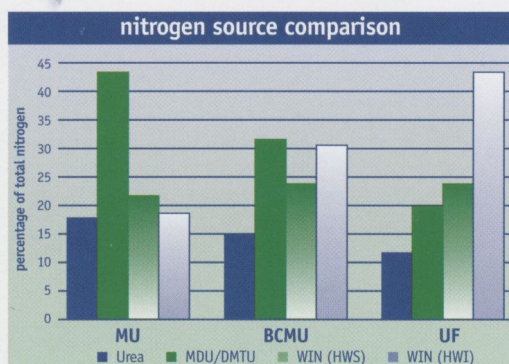
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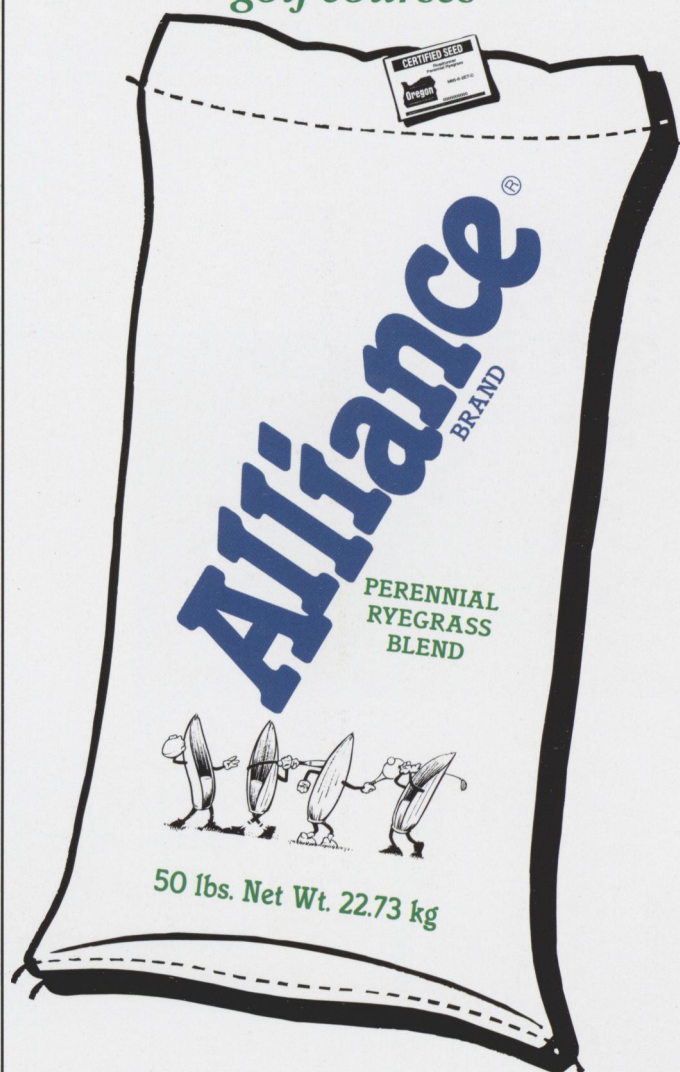


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# Timber Ridge Golf Course

by Dorothy Hills

If you are superstitious at all, you may not have planned to open your golf course, for the first time, to special guests on Friday the 13th. Not so, at Timber Ridge Golf Course, located in Beautiful Quinte Country in the heart of Brighton Township.

Aart Van Veld, Superintendent/Owner of the new course and his wife, Dawna, greeted their guests as they arrived at the beautiful, new club house for a continental breakfast. After a few words from Aart, we went out to the carts where our clubs had been already stowed, and commenced to our designated tees. Approximately 60 guests, anxiously awaited the starting horn allowing them to make their first drive on a course that had not yet been played.

Meanwhile, back at the Club House Aart was firing up the BBQ, and making the preparations for lunch. He was very masterful at flipping hamburgers and rotating the sausages, getting the players

fueled up with food and drink, ready for the next nine holes.

Timber Ridge is well equipped for those who want to practice, with four tee

decks ranging from 5,000 to 6,600 yards. The driving range has large tees as well as target greens located 100, 150 and 200 yards from the tee deck. A large practice green is also available for work on your short game.

It was a lovely, sunny day, making it easy to appreciate the beautiful 200 acres of property, providing a unique and varied blend of the best nature has to offer. Magnificent Oaks, splendid Maples, varied elevations offering awesome views and meandering meadows, not to mention the striking areas of tall golden fescue, which I managed to explore extensively. Everyone enjoyed the day of fine food, company and a great game of golf. If you're in the Brighton area, I encourage you to stop by and enjoy some of that fine Timber Ridge hospitality, as they are now officially open to the public.





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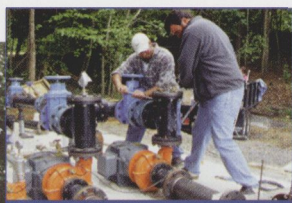
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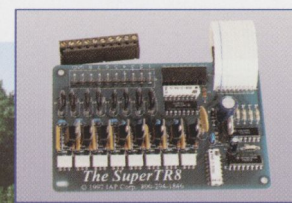
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# Education

## O.G.S.A. Scholarship

With an overall average of 91% in the 2001 Turf Managers' Short Course, Mark Halloway was the recipient of the O.G.S.A Turfgrass Education Scholarship in the amount of \$200.00.

At time of graduation from the course, Mark was employed at Britannia Hills Golf Club. We take this opportunity to congratulate Mark and wish him much success and happiness in all his future endeavours.

### Heritage Scholarship

Deadline date for the Heritage Scholarship applications has now expired. This year we have had the best response ever, and judges will have a tough time rating all the applicants to determine our winner. The winner will be announced in the next issue (October) of Green is Beautiful, and will be invited to the President's Reception at the OTS to be recognized.

## OTS Educational seminars

The OTS will be offering two seminars that will be of particular interest to our members.

### Pre-Conference – Full Day Seminar – Monday, January 21, 2002

**Title:** "MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR THE TURFGRASS SYSTEM"

**Instructor:** Dr. Joe Vargas

**Description:** Strategies to manage the turfgrass system including greens, tees, fairways, roughs and greens surrounds are provided. Focuses on all the disease and insect problems that occur all season long and how management programs must be developed to include all of the potential problems. An IPM approach on how to manage the latest information on the status of turfgrass stress management.

**Textbook requirements:** The textbook, "Management of Turfgrass Diseases", is strongly recommended (not required) for this seminar.

### Conference Half Day Seminar – Wednesday, January 23, 2002

**Title:** "EFFECTIVE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT/SOIL AMENDMENT PROGRAM"

**Instructor:** Bud White

**Description:** This course helps superintendents evaluate their putting green environment and develop cultural programs blending topdressing/soil amendment together to achieve desired goals. Not all amendments are designed for every situation. Participants learn how to evaluate and properly test soil.

**Textbook requirements:** None

Watch for more details about these two seminars and how you can register, in your 2002 OTS package, to be mailed out by University of Guelph, early Fall.


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## Off the fairway

Garden renovations... it's easier than you think!

by Daisy Moore



Entrance ways, pathways and meeting places are focal points in the golf course environment and should be surrounded by a pleasing display of gardens. Renovating the gardens now

will pay large dividends for next years' show. By renovating, I mean re-vitalizing the garden with new plants, new humus, perhaps a new shape and a new plan to make it look good all year. The key is to first consider the site conditions and select your plants accordingly. Dry sun, moist shade, moist sun, dry shade – the combinations of habitat and what each area has to contend with are limitless. Choose plants that are suited to growing in the site conditions and with each other. Consider the desired effect, the growth habit and eventual size of the plants. Some guidance might be advisable on how to create the ideal, stable and attractive plant community called the 'garden'.

Spring flowering bulbs are an easy way to liven up a bed in early spring. They are planted in the fall so you should be placing your orders now. Bluebells are a great investment and bloom about the time most golf courses open. In biological terms this is called phenology! Drifts of bluebells *Scilla sp.* could be planted, preferably in the lawn, in key locations. Let them go to seed, mow high for a week or two after that and then resume your regular maintenance. Crocus are a great addition to the woodland garden, such as wooded sites near tee decks, but are too fleeting for major display gardens. Early flowering species tulips are a better choice to provide colourful drifts of colour close to the ground soon after growth starts. Tulips of all sorts were a favourite of mine this past spring. Clumps of tulips of varying colour, timing and form were a welcome site and allowed the herbaceous perennials and shrubs a chance to catch up.

Bulbs can be added to liven up an otherwise successful garden bed or can be used as part of a major bed renovation. Perennials and shrubs are the other members of the garden which are ideally planted in the fall so that they are more established for the following spring. Annuals are added in the spring as the finishing touches. The right mixture of plants will reward you right away.

One of the most common dilemmas faced by gardeners (on golf courses) is the reliable supply of adequate moisture. Irrigation systems exist but are rarely working properly. Hose hook-ups need to be easy so that watering the gardens doesn't take up most of the hours of labour. There are a lot more useful things which the gardener could be doing.

Proper planting is critical when establishing a new garden. Each plant should be well heeled in with a slight well around it to collect extra water. I like to line the base of each hole with a damp peat sludge. This acts as a bit of an underground reservoir for moisture. (Don't do this with bulbs though). The movement of water from rain or irrigation must be considered and the soil graded accordingly so that the plants do get the water, it filters through the soil profile and soil doesn't erode onto the paths.

Unless the garden soil is the worst brand of clay, I prefer to amend it with compost, manure and peat rather than bringing in new soil. Topping up the beds with new soil is fine, but in the long run it is better to try to work with and improve what you have got.

A common way of coping with exposed soil and lack of attention is to apply mulch to the beds. Mulch is useful as a temporary shield against the drying sun and to protect the plant's root zone but is not a substitute, in my opinion, for ground cover. It should be used sparingly and for the right reasons. If planned properly, the soil surface will be covered by desirable plants and there is no need for mulch.

The summer garden, with annuals especially, are at their peak right now. It is a good time to make some notes about what you would like to include for next year. Perennials and shrubs are readily available for fall planting and by doing it now, it reduces the work load in the spring. I recently attended a growers' field day at Stoke's Seeds to have a viewing of all the different annuals. It is quite a treat to see all the subtle differences between the varieties lined up like a patchwork quilt.. How many shades of pink do we really need in petunias and impatiens? By making notes of the great performers in the landscape, you can begin to paint a new picture of what next year's garden will look like.

Daisy hosts 'The Garden Clinic' on Saturday mornings at 9:00am. Tune in to the station nearest you: am900 Hamilton, am980 London or am1350 Oshawa. Visit her website at [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com)

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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Conestoga Golf Course

## Communication

Back in the late eighties when I was matriculating, ruminating and generally degenerating within the ivy covered walls and hallowed halls of the University of Guelph, there was a desire to create well rounded students with a palate of elective courses from a wide range of study. Or in other words, they made us take easy courses from smaller departments to try to spread that huge pot of Aggie tuition money around. The electives included things like; "Music for Non-Musicians", "Introduction to Poetry", "Public Speaking", and various other courses where you were likely to find members of the football team.

My personal favourite was "Communication Processes". I figured that it would be an easy credit since I already knew how to talk and my high school girlfriend had taught me how to fake listening with the best of them. In truth, it was a fascinating course which taught me a lot about the importance of clarity, non-verbal communication and how seldom you could go to class and still pass a course since there wasn't a snow bank's chance in hell that I was going to a three hour seminar at 7pm on Aggie Pub Night.

Looking back, like most of my education, it turned out to be fairly useful in the end and I probably should have taken it a lot more seriously. But, this is 34 years old Doug talking to 20 year old Doug and you couldn't tell that idiot anything. It has proven useful because so much of a Superintendent's job is communication. On a daily basis we communicate with staff, employers, members, customers, salespeople, and God lately because I'm trying to get some rain to fall. (I've repented of things I only thought about doing, but yet it's still drier than a popcorn fart.)

All this is amplified by the rise of electronic communication. Each day I have a radio on one hip and a cell phone on the other. That's a lot of weight on a belt that quite frankly already has enough pressure on it. I'm sure we've all been ordering a pizza on the shop phone and had the boss call on the cell phone at exactly the same time the radio starts crackling about how the girl ran the beer cart out of gas again. Or maybe that's just at my place. Of course the worst part of cell phone use is trying to make it sound like you're still at work when the waitress says, "Welcome to Hooters, may I take your order?"

The Golf Superintendent's job is becoming less and less about physical work and more and more a series of three minute conversations with



staff, golfers and administrators. What we say in those chats, and how we say it, is as important as our ability to grow grass maybe more important. Latitude is given to Superintendents who have gained people's confidence, whereas no patience is given to one that isn't trusted; and that evaluation has as much to do with the sentence that comes after "Good morning Mr. Smith.", as it does with the condition of the first green. There are many excellent resources on the subject of communication which are available from our libraries and lots of seminars at the OTS, and the like which we ought to attend. Good communication is the key to success in any relationship, whether work, marriage, the mechanic, or the waitress at the local chicken wing joint so think about what you say and how you say it.

My grandmother always said, "You've got two ears and one mouth, so listen twice as much as you speak." Of course, she also said, "Good food is the key to good health" and then died of a digestive disorder. Come to think of it, she also thought that wrestling was real, but I'm still behind her on the communication thing.

In any event, there are some very important skills that can make our lives infinitely easier or infinitely more difficult. So much of how we are perceived by others is a direct result of our communication skills good or bad.

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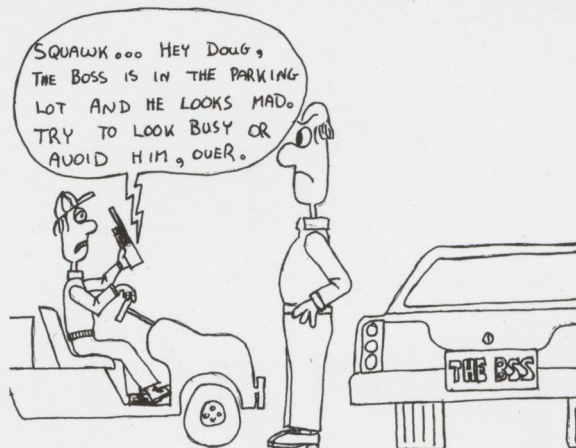
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# Looking back

## Twenty years ago today

by Barry Endicott,  
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

The Board of Directors in 1981 were **Ken Nelson** (president), **Bob Brewster** (vice pres.), **Rusty Warkman** (sec), **John Smith** (treas.), **Paul White** (past pres.), **Dan Ardley**, **Al Draper**, **Barry Endicott**, **Blake McMaster**, **Dave Moote** and **Doug Hoskins**. The editor of "Green is Beautiful" was **Bob Brewster** and the co-editor was **Barry Endicott**.

The OGSA/WOGSA joint meeting was held at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club hosted by **John Piccolo** with 63 golfers in attendance. **Hugh Kirkpatrick** was low gross winner with a 77 and **Bill Glashen** was low net winner with a 71. On June 14th, the Galt Field Day was held at the Galt Country Club, hosted by **Paul Scenna**. The President, Greenchairman, Superintendent Tournament was held at the Scarboro Golf Club on July 17. There was a rules meeting held at Westmount Golf Club and forty Superintendents, associates and guests attended with **Keith Nisbet** discussing the rule book.

The Pro/Superintendent Tournament was held at the Castlemore Golf Club with **Dave Nichol** as host Superintendent on August 17th. The winning team was from Aurora consisting of **Laurie Buckland** and **Paul Dodson** and the second place team was from Oakdale Golf Club with **Ron Montessor** and **Paul Dermott**. The low team gross aggregate was from Westmount Golf Club consisting of **Gus Maue** and **Hugh Kirkpatrick**.

The OTRF Tournament was held at the National Golf Club and the barbecue at the Board of Trade Country Club with \$4,800 being raised. **Ian Clark** was the low pro with a 72 and **George Garner** was the low man from the rest of the field. Ninety people attended the barbecue afterwards and the cost of the day was \$50.00.

The CGSA Conference was held in Vancouver, B.C., and it set a record attendance of 750 people. A pre-conference golf tournament was held at the Shaugnessy Golf Club and the Point Grey Golf Club and the winners were **Rod**

**Hermitage** winning the gross prize and **Hugh Kirkpatrick** winning the net prize. Sixty four golfers participated in the tournament. The GCSAA Conference was held in Anaheim, California, with a record attendance of 7,713 people.

**Jim Wyllie** became the vice president of the GCSAA. **Blake McMaster** became a director of the CGSA. **Dan Uzelac** became a director of the Michigan Golf Superintendents Assoc. **Randy Price** became the Superintendent of Markland Wood Country Club and **Bob Heron** became the Superintendent of Mississauga Country Club.

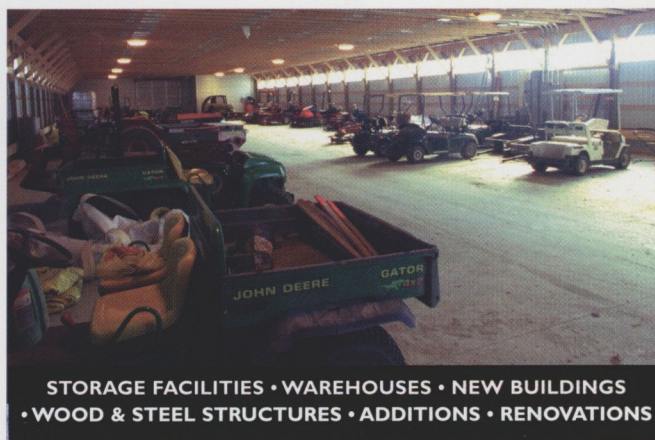
New members were **Sean Evelyn**, Evelyn Golf Centre, **Alex LaBelle**, Midland Golf Club, **Gerry Chillingworth**, Aero Irrigation Ltd., **James Moore**, Puslinch Golf Club, **Mark Hagen** (F), Greenhills Golf Club, **Doug Rothwell** (F), Islington Golf Club, and **Don Crimble** (F), Islington Golf Club. The Christmas Dance was held at the Oakdale Golf and Country Club on November 14.



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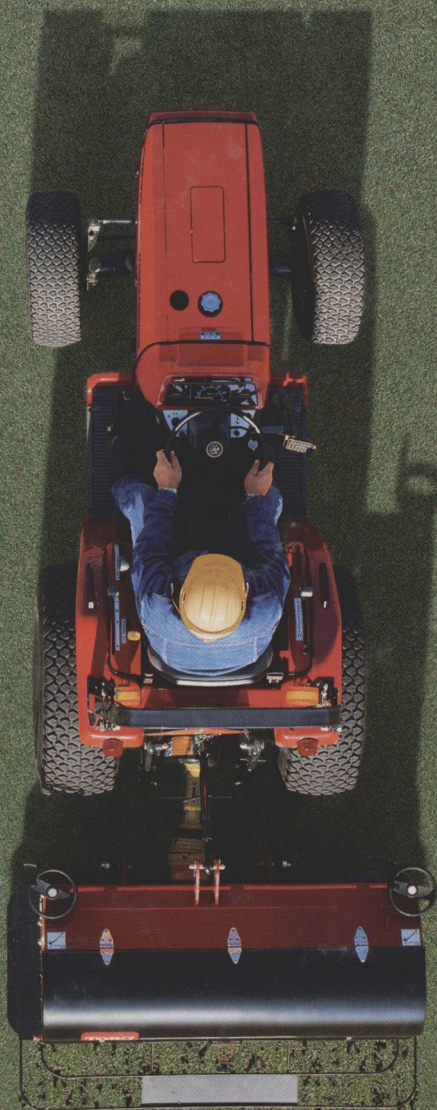




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