

October 2001

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

**Japanese beetles are on the move**

**The sandman**

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL  
PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT No. 40027105

*Postmaster:* Please return undeliverable copies to  
The OGSA, 328 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph, ON N1H 6H8



# Rapidcore



*The depth of penetration is simple to adjust by winding the two side jacks up and down.*



The Redexim Charterhouse Rapidcore is one of the fastest aerators available on the market with speeds up to 3-1/2 mph, the Rapidcore can finish a green in less than 30 minutes. Available with two types of tine holders allowing for 6 tine types, the Rapidcore can produce square hole patterns ranging from 1-1/4" to 5". The Rapidcore stands on its front roller and adjustable rear storage stand, which ensures the correct height for easy 3-point hitch connection. Service and maintenance is made easy due to the minimum of moving parts.

*For more information or a free demonstration, please contact our sales office.*



1184 PLAINS ROAD EAST  
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO L7S 1W6

Burlington Area: 905-637-5216  
Toronto Area: 905-338-2404  
All Other Ontario Areas: 800-883-0761  
Fax: 905-637-2009



## Contents

<b>ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Aeration .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Announcements .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>C.G.S.A. news .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Cyber super .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Easy way to control pond algae .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Golf course highlight – THE BRIARS GOLF CLUB .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Health &amp; safety .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>In praise of lawns and grass .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Japanese beetles are on the move .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Looking back .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Mechanic's corner .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>New Turfgrass faculty member .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Off the fairway .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>President's message .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Take me out to the ballgame! .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The perfect pumpkin .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The referee .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>The sandman .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Turf or consequences .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Welcome! .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## Advertisers

<b>Albion Golf Cars and Turf Equipment .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Almack &amp; Associates .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bartlett Tree Experts .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Braemar Building Systems .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Burnside Golf Services .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Century Rain Aid .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. ....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Maple Turf Supply .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Nu-Gro Corporation .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>OSC Seeds .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Penguin Golf Associates .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>The P.E.S.T. Institute .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Plant Products Turf .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Pumptronics Incorporated .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Skyway Lawn Equipment Limited .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Turf Care Products Canada – Irrigation Division .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Turf Care Products Canada .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>United Horticultural Supply .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Vanden Bussche Irrigation &amp; Equipment Limited .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Zander Sod Co. Limited .....</b>	<b>6</b>

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

Autumn at  
Midland Golf & Country 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

## It's more than just about the turf

The year 2001 may play-out as one of the most important years in the long history of the OGSA with respect to the issues that threaten our profession. These are the times in history when you want to be a member of an association that can effectively represent the golf superintendent's profession throughout the province of Ontario.

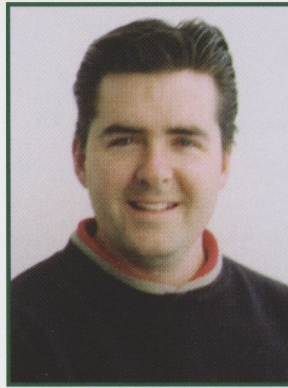
Because of the decision in the Supreme Court of Canada that upheld a by-law in the town of Hudson, Quebec, municipalities were given the power to implement by-laws limiting the use of pesticide products within their municipal boundaries. In Ontario, no municipality has brought such a by-law to fruition, though there are a large number who have begun the process and will need to be watched carefully to avoid a precedent setting case in Ontario. Some of the municipalities considering banning pesticides at the present time include Caledon, Toronto, London, Peterborough, Waterloo, Muskoka Region and Ottawa. Several other municipalities are taking the 'wait and see' approach to determine if banning pesticides will be successful in other jurisdictions.

Municipalities are currently waiting for the release of the new Ontario Municipal Act to be introduced in the provincial legislature this fall. This act may give municipalities the power (as in Hudson, Quebec) to determine whether or not pesticides could be used on golf courses, parks, etc. in their communities. The OGSA is currently involved with various strategies at the provincial level and municipal government levels. The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association has teamed up with the Royal Canadian Golf Association, Golf Association of Ontario & National Golf Course Owners Association to address the pesticide issues at the provincial government level. A professional lobby group has been retained to conduct strategy-planning sessions to immediately initiate discussions with the provincial government vis-à-vis the Ontario Municipal Act and the ability of municipalities to enact by-laws limiting the use of pesticides on privately held lands. We have been successful in securing key meetings with various ministries (including the Ministry of Environment) and have made some good progress. Our immediate objective is for the golf industry to impress upon the provincial government the depth, complexity and ramifications of this issue and the need for them to take a "go-slow" approach. This issue is more than just about the turf. It's about economics, taxes, employment, tourism and many other issues. Until this issue can be fully vetted with interested stakeholders, the provincial government (we believe) should restrict the ability of municipalities to implement by-laws banning the use of pesticides in their jurisdictions. In the absence of proven effective alternative products, there is a need in the golf industry for the legitimate, responsible, and controlled use of pesticide products in Ontario.

At the municipal level, it is imperative that each superintendent in that particular region voices their concerns over this issue and increase pressure on individual municipalities that are considering banning pesticides. The OGSA has plenty of information available to our members that will help you with your presentation. As well, the OGSA is setting up a team of regional representatives across Ontario to help facilitate municipal requests for information and presentations. This list will be made available to you in the near future. The key to any success at the municipal level thus far is ensuring that you attend these pesticide meetings locally. Local governments have been 'brain-washed' by the anti-pesticide folks, and they need to hear from you. They want to know how you will get along without the use of pesticides in your community. They want to hear from YOU, not the 'hired-guns'.

There are some successes to share with you year-to-date. Our meetings with MOE officials have resulted in the request for our industry to draft a by-law that pertains to pesticide use on golf courses. This is a great opportunity for us to help the provincial government develop a model by-law that they could take to the municipalities to avoid radically different by-laws from town to town in Ontario. Various municipalities have contacted us to help them draft potential by-laws in their communities for pesticide use of golf courses. This is our opportunity to show town officials that we are the true environmental stewards of the land.

Small battle victories in an uphill war.



John Gravett  
The Granite Club



### ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
328 Victoria Road South  
Guelph, ON N1H 6H8

Ph: 519-767-3341  
Toll Free: 877-824-6472  
Fax: 519-766-1704  
Email: [ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca)  
Website: [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	John Gravett
PAST PRESIDENT	Keith Bartlett
VICE-PRESIDENT	Jim Flett
TREASURER	Mark Piccolo
SECRETARY	Rob Ackerman
DIRECTORS	Dean Baker Jeff Burgess Bob Burrows Mike Courneya Sean DeSilva Paul Scenna

### OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR Dorothy Hills



### GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jeff Stauffer, Editor  
Bob Burrows, Liaison  
Dorothy Hills, Coordinating Manager  
Randy Booker  
Angelo Capannelli  
Scott Horsburgh  
Greg O'Heron  
Mark Piccolo  
Mark Prieur  
Mark Schneider

### Green is Beautiful 2001

Although every effort is made to check material for publication, the association is not responsible for material published on behalf of its contributors.

All rights are reserved by the publisher and any reproduction in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

"Green is Beautiful"  
is Printed on  
Recycled Paper





## New Turfgrass faculty member appointed at University of Guelph

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute at the University of Guelph is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Julie Dionne to the position of Turf Management Faculty with the Department of Plant Agriculture.

Dr. Dionne completed her Ph.D. in Plant Science at Laval University, Quebec, in the spring of 2001. She also received her B.Sc. from Laval in 1993. Julie grew up in a horticulture family. Her parents owned a garden centre, nursery and landscaping company and her grandparents were greenhouse flower growers.

Since 1999, Julie was the coordinator of the turf program at the Horticultural Research Centre at Laval University. She currently co-supervises five graduate students working in Quebec on different aspects of turf management. Two of those graduate students will be joining Julie at Guelph in January.

Julie looks forward to working with the Guelph Turfgrass Institute's research team and developing a strong research program addressing both applied and basic research challenges. Her research interests include the physiology and ecophysiology of turfgrass species in relation to environmental stress tolerance to extreme temperature, drought and anaerobic conditions.

"I think it is very important to work closely with the turfgrass industry", says Dionne, "and there is tremendous potential for the development of on-site research projects that provide both important



information and an educational opportunity for participating industry professionals."

Julie will divide her time between an office in the Bovey Building on the University of Guelph campus and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. She can be contacted by telephone at (519) 824-4120 ext. 2232 or by e-mail at [jdionne@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jdionne@uoguelph.ca).

For more information, please contact Dr. Dionne or myself, Rob Witherspoon, Director Guelph Turfgrass Institute & Environmental Research Centre, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario Canada (519) 824-4120 Ext. 6886 Fax (519) 766-1704

Free On-line Advisory Bulletin:  
<http://gti.uoguelph.ca/advisor>

Updated every two weeks through the season.



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

<b>Luis Gonzales</b> Kleinburg Golf Club Ltd.	Class c
<b>Mark Pickering</b> Crosswinds Golf & CC	Class C
<b>Stacy Brian Reardon</b> Deer Creek Golf & Country Estates	Class C
<b>Darryl William Shaw</b> Deer Creek Golf & Country Estates	Class B
<b>Chelsea Stroud</b> Westmount Golf & CC	Class F



### 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
August	84.2 mm	34.6 mm
September	74.2 mm	50.4 mm

SPECIALISTS IN TURFGRASS NUTRITION

# ALMACK



Corrie Almack, P.Ag.

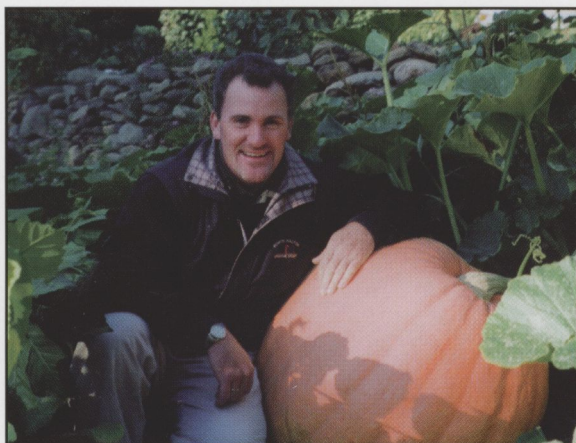
ALMACK & ASSOCIATES  
Box 256, Carlisle, Ontario  
LOR 1H0

Tel: (905) 689-6174  
Fax: (905) 689-8522  
Email: [C.Almack@sympatico.ca](mailto:C.Almack@sympatico.ca)



## The Perfect Pumpkin

Due to the summer drought most of Ontario experienced, Plant Products decided not to hold a Pumpkin contest this year. Despite the poor growing conditions Dean Baker, superintendent at North Halton Golf & Country Club and his staff fought the odds and grew some gorgeous gourds. Here's Dean sitting in the Pumpkin Patch, on the hill beside the maintenance shop at North Halton.



**Brett Murray**  
Technical Sales

Maple Turf Supply  
8112 King Rd. W.  
P.O. Box 370  
Bolton, Ontario  
L7E 5T3

Business: (905) 857-2000  
Fax: (905) 857-8215  
Mobile: (416) 616-8112  
1-800-268-4425  
mapleturf@attcanada.net



17525 Jane St., R.R. #1 Kettleby, Ontario L0G 1J0  
Tel.: (416) 364-5700 (905) 727-2100  
Fax: (905) 727-8546  
E-mail: info@zandersod.com  
Website: www.zandersod.com



## TURF CARE



Prism™

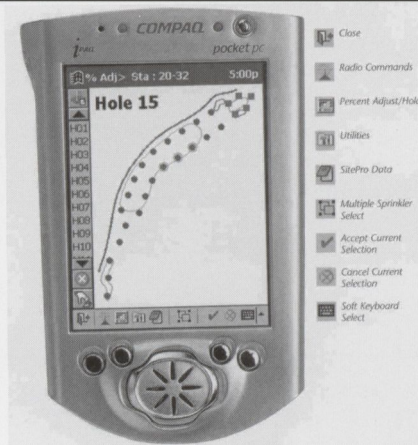
Pocket-PC Remote Irrigation System Manager

Hand-held central control

- Fast
- Accurate
- Fits in the palm of your hand

The best tool you will ever purchase for your irrigation system. Call your Turf Care Representative for more details at 1-800-561-1432.

Ask about our GPS Surveying.



A Tradition of  
Dependability

Turf Care Products Canada

200 Pony Drive, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 7B6 Ph: (905) 836-0988 Fax: (905) 836-6442  
www.turfcare.ca



# Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news

by Robert Burrows  
Rosedale Golf Club



The tragic events on September 11th in the US affected the ability of many CGSA members across Canada to fly in for the Fall field day in Bromont Quebec. This was certainly a sad

day. The tournament was held on the 17th, although primarily with members from Ontario eastward who were driving to the tournament. Thank you to host

Superintendent, Tim Harkness and his staff, for providing a great course. Thanks also to the tournament sponsors, Toro and John Deere, for generously contributing to the Fall Classic. The regularly scheduled pre-tournament CGSA Board meetings were postponed until October. Under the circumstances, our Board business can wait until things return to some sense of normalcy.

Congratulations to the 2002 Score Superintendent of the Year award recipient, Mr. Dean Morrison of the Calgary Country Club. This was no doubt a difficult decision for the

Selection Committee as all of the candidates were well qualified. Dean is a well known and long-time supporter of our profession as well as a past President of the CGSA.

Watch your mail for information on the CGSA Quebec City Conference. This promises to be a very special venue. The new conference and hotel sites are connected and are absolutely first-class. This historic city is one of the world's best tourist destinations with lots of apres-work activities.

See you at the CGSA Regional seminar in November near Pearson International airport with Dr. Frank Rossi.

## Easy way to control pond algae

by Marie Meyer

Here is a simple, inexpensive and organic method for controlling algae, a common pond problem, using barley straw.

This solution seems to have been a well kept secret in North America, even though researchers in the British isles have been using barley straw to control algae for over 15 years. Perhaps it's too simple to be believed. Algae, a normal part of pond life, are tiny aquatic plants that beneficially produce food and release oxygen into the water. However, algae can run rampant, causing problems. Algae's decay can deplete the water's oxygen; they may clog drainage systems, pumps and filters; and they can turn the water a strange colour and produce an unpleasant odour. Some forms of algae make the water poisonous for humans, wildlife and livestock.

Controlling algae can be tricky. Raking is recommended for the hairlike and clumping varieties, but does not work for the tiny particulate algae. Herbicides aren't a good idea either, because they are harmful to fish and wildlife, and shouldn't be added to water used for irrigation. The chemicals may also kill higher plants, giving algae free rein with no competition, once the herbicide is gone.

The barley straw method doesn't kill higher plants or the existing algae, but it does prevent new algal growth. Dr. Jonathan Newman, Senior Research Scientist for the Center for Aquatic Plant Management, recommends starting the treatment in autumn, winter or early

spring, before algal growth begins. Here are a few guidelines for using the barley straw method. First, estimate your pond's surface area in square yards. Decide the amount of straw according to your pond's needs, and multiply by pond surface:

- Clear water with little algae and or mud: Use .03 oz. of straw per square yard.
- Muddy water with heavy algae infestation: 1.7 oz. of straw per square yard.
- Problem algae: First dose is up to 3.5 oz. per square yard.

Loosely fill mesh bags or crabtrap-like cages with straw, and distribute. For lakes, use numerous bundles spaced about 35 yards apart for even coverage. For small ponds, place the bags in the center of the pond. Place bags near moving water, if possible. Anchor bags with bricks and float with buoys or capped plastic pop bottles filled with water. In cold water, straw takes six to eight weeks to become active in controlling algae. Replace the straw before it is completely rotted, about every six months (although if the straw starts to smell you should remove it at once). In the event that you have put in too much straw for your pond, don't remove old straw until the new straw starts to work. Don't add straw during prolonged hot spells in summer (during the spring and fall is best). Rake out algae mats about one month after straw application. Filamentous algae may need extra discouragement.

Although barley straw works best and lasts longer, it may be hard to find.

Wheat straw is easy to find and works nearly as well, but you'll have to increase the quantities and replace the straw more frequently. **DO NOT USE HAY.** It is high in nutrients (feeding the algae) and rots quickly (robbing the water of oxygen).

Here are some of the benefits of using the straw method:

- increased growth of submerged plants such as wild celery, thereby decreasing the need for future straw treatments;
- increase in invertebrate animals such as water shrimp, which decompose organic matter, graze on algae, and provide food for young ducklings and fish;
- improved growth and vigour of fish in the pond or lake;
- clearer water and improved light penetration makes for better feeding environment for pond residents;
- ducks and other waterfowl nest and roost on floating straw baskets.

If you know someone who grows barley, you may be able to get straw locally. Wheat straw is available at most feed and farm supply stores. The straw method may require some trial and error before you get your pond algae under control, but the results are promising – and earth-friendly. Researchers find straw is effective in most, but unfortunately not all, ponds, but considering the benefits, it's worth a try.

Reprinted from: *The Almanac for Farmers and City Folk*, 2001



# Health & safety

## Chainsaw Operation

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

Another summer coming to a close and now we look forward to another new year. Construction and refurbishing is upon us. This means a different vigilance to your work.

In March, 2000 I wrote a bit about some of the things you should do to ensure that chainsaw use was being handled properly. I thought that since we are now entering the construction season, it might be a good idea to revisit the chainsaw issue.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (the Act) does not specifically discuss the use of chainsaws. The Act does however specifically state that all supervisors must ensure that they are doing everything reasonable to ensure the safety of their workers. The Act also indicates that anyone operating equipment that might be hazardous must be competent and capable of operating the equipment.

One of the things that the Ontario Ministry of Labour (OMoL) has done is

issued guidelines for employers to use when determining the need to train. These guidelines basically indicate that if you have a worker who is using a chainsaw, then you had better ensure that the worker is competent. This means that the worker must be trained. Training courses are available throughout the province. You should contact the Ontario Forestry Safe Workplace Association at 1-705-474-7233 or the OGSA in Guelph to find a qualified trainer available near you.

What some of the clubs have done is work together to get a trainer in so that they have a reasonable group of participants. This way you can keep the cost per participant down while ensuring that you are meeting or exceeding your legal obligations.

We are attempting to put together a list of qualified trainers that you can access through the OGSA.

Another issue that you should note is that a recent study on chain saw

exhaust, (American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal October 1997), has indicated that there may be an issue with the inhalation of Carbon Monoxide while working with chainsaws. It seems that there are issues with the inhalation of the exhaust fumes and these problems are particularly apparent in work areas where the operator is working in situations where air movement is restricted. This might occur in an area where there are other trees and shrubbery surrounding the work area. The study noted that there were particular issues if the worker was required to work in a "leaning or squatting position" as this brought the operator into closer proximity to the exhaust.

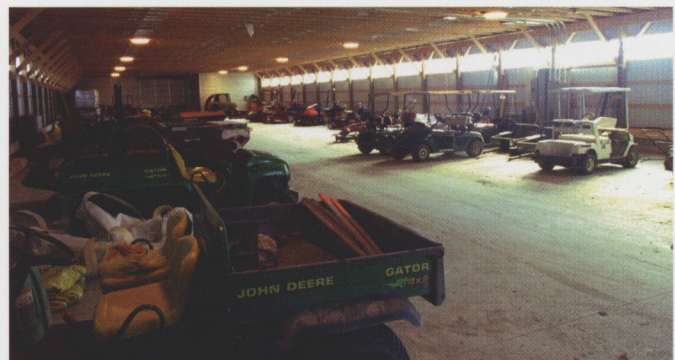
It is important to ensure that you are taking the necessary precautions for your workers. Meet or exceed the requirements of the Act and have a great Autumn!



Experience...  
That's the  
Braemar Difference.

For your **FREE** estimates please call  
Rick Brenzil, Harold Bundy or Jack Brenzil

**Toll Free: 1-800-215-1996**



STORAGE FACILITIES • WAREHOUSES • NEW BUILDINGS  
• WOOD & STEEL STRUCTURES • ADDITIONS • RENOVATIONS



RRI, York, Ontario N0A 1R0 • Telephone: (905) 772.3351 • Fax: (905) 772.3422  
Email: rbrenzil@braemarbldg.com • www.braemarbldg.com



# Call Century for Solutions

## *Golf Course Irrigation ♦ Pump Stations Controller Board Repairs/Replacements ♦ Fountains/Lighting and More*

At Century Rain Aid, we have been working with golf course superintendents for more than 25 years helping them solve irrigation problems. Your local Century Golf specialist can help you replace a few rotors, update your existing system or plan new construction. Century represents the industry's leading manufacturers and we offer a wide range of solutions to meet your budget and renovation schedule.

### **HUNTER GOLF**

With Hunter rotors, valves and central control systems you can achieve reliable, water-efficient irrigation throughout the course.

### **PUMP STATIONS**

An updated pump station can solve many site problems. Your local Century Golf rep can help you design and install a cost-effective pumping system.

### **FOUNTAINS, CLUBHOUSE LIGHTING**

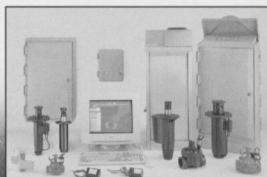
Water features and landscape lighting can enhance your course. Talk with your Century Golf rep for ideas on making your site more attractive year-round.

### **BOARDTRONICS**

#### **CONTROLLER BOARD REPAIRS**

Replace worn or outdated boards for Toro® and Rain Bird® controllers. Fast 48-hour repair service: 888-855-9132.

*Century has the solutions . . . call today for an on-site consultation.*



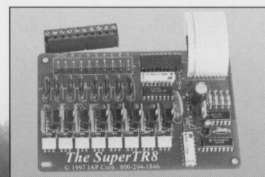
**Hunter Golf**



**Pump Stations**



**Water Features**



**BoardTronics Repairs**

**Hunter®**  
GOLF

**CENTURY RAIN AID**

Canada: Concord, 140A Bowes Rd, 905-881-4794  
Burlington, 944 Zelco Dr, 905-639-7980  
800-347-4272 • [www.rainaid.com](http://www.rainaid.com) • email: [rainaid@rainaid.com](mailto:rainaid@rainaid.com)  
Controller Board Repairs and Replacements 888-855-9132





# Cyber super

by Mark Prieur, Assistant Superintendent  
Markland Wood Country Club

A picture is worth a thousand words. Digital photography is indeed becoming a part of the superintendent's bag-o'-tricks to explain graphically to its membership what they do. These photos can be used in email, powerpoint presentations or to show before/after scenarios.

Adobe Photoshop or other digital enhancing software is available for purchase but there are other options. The web is full of shareware (read: free stuff) and digital-enhancing software is one of those items that you can use to give your presentation the "polished look."

The first program Photo Wizard is available at [www.photocountry.com](http://www.photocountry.com). Photo Wizard is fairly flexible; one of the

things it does is enable you to lighten pictures that would normally be too dark. Also you can use filters, rotate, sharpen etc. In addition, you can post the pictures on the web and do fun stuff like calendars and sports cards. It is simple software and it is free.

The second site is [www.printroom.com](http://www.printroom.com). I think it was originally designed to share your photos on the web. As a user you have to register (answer some questions, including your email address) and then you can download an exe. File (a file that runs itself). Once this is complete you run the file and your computer automatically sets up PhotoGenetics. Basically you can evolve the picture and do things like

filters, red eye reduction and photo rotation. It is not as showy as Photo Wizard but again, it is free.

**Remember to keep the camera going.** *Green is Beautiful* "Photo of the Year" contest is open to all OGSA members. However, keep in mind that for publication in the magazine **DO NOT sharpen** your photograph, either by default or manually. Sharpening gives contrast to the photo and makes it look great on your screen, but when it is printed, it puts a black line around everything, which is not acceptable for use in our magazine. Also, once a picture is sharpened, it cannot be erased. So... if you are snapping a shot for *Green is Beautiful*, turn off the default sharpener!

## In praise of lawns and grass

by Gordon Witteveen

My first exposure to lawns was when I watched my father scythe the grass in our yard. The razor-sharp scythe cut the grass to perfection and the result was a smooth green sward. Even as a youngster the sight and the scent of the freshly mown grass was extraordinary and I remember touching the turf and feeling its softness. I knew right then that lawns were something special. Scythes have long since been replaced by power lawn mowers but a newly mown lawn has never lost its appeal to me.

Some years later at the Ontario Agricultural College I learned that there was much more to growing and mowing grass than one might suspect. I studied chemistry and physics and the properties of soils and plants. In the summer I worked on lawns and eventually on a golf course. For the next 42 years I grew and maintained golf courses that provided pleasure to thousands of golfers. I watched my three children grow up and play frisbee and croquet and pitch their tent on the best lawn in the neighbourhood.

Meanwhile, my studies continued and I learned that a sward of green grass had many benefits. Grass is the best form of erosion control imaginable. Its thick mass of roots and leaves traps runoff water and prevents the formation of erosion gullies in the landscape. The grass mat includes a layer of thatch that is the best possible filtration system. Medicines that are applied to grass when it is sick are

contained in that thatch layer and never seep through into the soil and ground water. Mother Nature takes over with her loving hands and the medicines are decomposed. This amazing fact has been proven again and again at Research Stations all across North America.

Most people don't realize that an acre of grass generates far more oxygen than an acre of any other cover, including trees. In fact, a 50 ft. square lawn produces enough oxygen for a family of four. Grass has a cooling effect on our climate and it also traps dust and smoke particles and thus cleans the air that we breathe.

On an average 18-hole golf course only about half the primary playing area is used by the golfers. The other half is often left in a naturalized condition where it becomes a haven for wildlife. Many golf courses add bird boxes to further encourage wildlife.

Besides the nearly 20 million people in North America who play and enjoy golf regularly, there are many millions more who play soccer, baseball and all kinds of other sports that use grass as a playing field. People picnic on grass, run, walk and even make love on grass, all of these activities without ill effects.

In spite of the many benefits of grass and lawns and playing fields, a movement has sprung up to do away with grass and lawns. This misinformed radical movement has as its first priority the elimination of pest control products.

Their next step will be to seek a ban on fertilizers, and finally to convert all lawns and sports fields - including golf courses - to naturalized areas.

Pest control products are the medicines of grass care. When grass gets its version of the measles it receives a small dose of an antidote and the grass recovers. Since such medicine is expensive, as little as possible is used and it is applied very carefully. As we all know the best way for mankind to combat sickness of any kind is to remain healthy and so it is with grass. Grass is fed and watered and medicines are applied only as needed. My own lawn is a showcase of that philosophy.

I can't imagine what life would be like without grass if our children and grandchildren can't play on grass, if we are unable to play golf and if people can't picnic in parks.

Let me encourage all of you, friends, neighbours and anyone who appreciates healthy lawns - in the strongest possible terms to recognize the threat of shortsighted, politically correct activists and to promote and to protect our turfgrass and our lawns.

*Gordon Witteveen was the longtime superintendent at the Board of Trade Country Club in Woodbridge, Ont. He has written three books on grass and greenkeeping, one of which has been translated into Spanish. He writes for magazines and lectures globally about his passion, the care and joy of grass. He resides in Richmond Hill, Ontario.*



# Golf course highlight

## The Briars Golf Club

P.O. Box 111, Jackson's Point, Ontario L0E 1L0

email: briarsg@ils.net

### COURSE PROFILE

WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR CLUB LOCATED IN?

Georgina Township, Region of York

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

Semi-Private and Municipal

SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP?

328

NUMBER OF ROUNDS?

21,000 to 24,000

TYPICAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATE?

3rd week in April - November 1

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT?

Paul White

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT?

33 years

ARE YOU CGCS OR MASTER SUPERINTENDENT?

Master Superintendent and CGCS

LIST OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AUDUBON, BOARD SERVICE ETC.)

OGSA and CGCS

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

25 years +

HOW MANY YEAR ROUND STAFF?

2 (1 mechanic and 1 assistant)

HOW MANY SEASONAL STAFF?

10

HOW MANY MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS?

1 mechanic and 1 assistant

### COURSE STATISTICS

HOW MANY HOLES?

18

WHAT IS THE YARDAGE FROM BACK TEES AND FORWARD TEES?

6285 yards

5211 yard

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

8

WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT?

Stanley Thompson

WHAT WAS THE YEAR OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION?

1922

BY WHOM AND WHEN WAS THE COURSE REMODELLED?

Robbie Robinson in 1973

WHAT MAJOR TOURNAMENTS HELD?

None

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR MAINTENANCE SHOP?

50' by 40'



The Briars Golf Club

WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Toro system - automatic on Tees and Greens - 28 years old

Manual watering on fairways

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

120,000 sq.ft. greens, 88,000 sq.ft. tees and 21 acres of fairways

WHAT IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GRASS?

Poa Bent

HOW MANY USGA GREENS AND HOW MANY LOAM GREENS?

2 USGA greens and 17 loam greens

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT SOIL TYPE?

Sandy Loam

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE IN INVENTORY?

2 Fairway Mowers

2 Green Triplexes

Sprayer

Fertilizer Spreader

Flymo

Massey Tractor

Rotary

3 Greens Mowers

5 Trimmers

3 Blowers

Sod Cutter

4 Power Carts

Chevrolet Pick-up truck S10

Cushman 3 Wheel Truckster

Cushman 4 Wheel Truckster

Toro Aerifier

Stihl Chainsaw

Edger

Honda 5 hp pressure washer

Seeder

Toro Bunker Rake

Jacobsen TriKing 1900D

Reel Grinder

Hoist

### COURSE PROJECTS

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU RECENTLY COMPLETED?

New bunkers on 4, 5 and 15

Asphalted all cart paths

Drainage installed on 10 greens and 12 fairways

### LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Reconstruction of all tees and bunkers

Re-piping of irrigation system

Automation of fairway irrigation

### CHALLENGES

ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES YOU FACE WITH YOUR PROPERTY?

4th and 5th tees are in complete shade

### SUCCESS STORIES

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCCESS STORIES?

Greens drainage has saved greens



# Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

by Dean Baker & Paul Scenna  
O.G.S.A. Golf & Meetings

You could not have picked a better day for the Annual Alex McClumpha Memorial Golf Tournament. The October 1st date was picture perfect for weather, and our host Paul White pulled out all the stops. The Briars Golf Club was a wonderful setting for this year's event. With the season coming to an end, the small Briars staff catered to just over 120 participants on this wonderful resort course. Brad Johnson and his golf shop staff got us off to a great start; Mary Wilkinson and her staff of only four served up an incredible meal; and of course, our host Superintendent Paul White took care of the beautiful weather, and a terrific golf course to play. The O.G.S.A. would also like to thank Dr. Julie Dionne for coming out for dinner. Dr. Dionne has officially

moved into her new position of Turf Management Faculty with the Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph/G.T.I.. Another notable mention was Art Dodson who helped found this annual event.

The big winner of the day, with the low gross score was Ted Ellis from Blue Springs Golf Club. Bruce Burger, from Lakeview Golf Club won the George Darou trophy for low gross Superintendent over 50 years of age. This is also better known as the "finely aged" Superintendent category. Dave Stevens, from Beaverbrook Golf Course, rounded off the Superintendent & Assistant flight by taking home the lowest net score. For our Associates & Guests, Cliff Deering, from Cliff's Tree Care Ltd. was 1st low gross, and Mike Smith from Duke Lawn

Equipment was 1st low net. Jamie Scott won the annual putting competition, and for some strange reason the prize has always been "a putter"? Al Schwemler from Toronto Golf Club won a D.V.D. Player for closest to the hole. Donated by Vanden Bussche Irrigation, and a fishing trip for two donated by Vito Cirone, from Burnside Golf Services was awarded to Scchwemler, from The Toronto Golf Club. The question is does Al really like fishing? Congratulations to all our winners!

The O.G.S.A. sends a big thanks to our associate members for all their support throughout the years, and of course "the prizes". We would also like to thank all the participants for coming up to Jackson's Point for the day and enjoying the Briars' hospitality.









# Aeration

by Chris Lecour

Assistant Superintendent, Toronto Board of Trade Country Club

The hot and dry conditions experienced throughout Ontario during August had many golf course managers scrambling to keep enough water on the turf. Some courses may have felt the effects of 38°C temperatures more than others if they suffer from shallow root systems and excessive thatch on their greens. Now is the time to plan ahead for next year's anticipated high temperatures and evaluate your current aeration program.

There are a number of aeration options available for the golf course superintendent: hollow core, solid core, deep-tine, mini-tine, hydroject, dryject, etc. Superintendents may be limited by their budget, the amount of traffic their course experiences, or the management philosophy of their club. However, the need for a committed aeration program is crucial to the success of any club's greens. Options are available for almost any budget to help reduce thatch and promote deeper root systems, while causing negligible interference to golfers. Mini-tine and deep solid core aerating have been the "weapons of choice" at the Toronto Board of Trade Country Club for several seasons now, and for thatch reduction and deeper root systems, the results have been outstanding.

## Mini-Tine Aeration

Mini-tine aeration involves the use of a 1/4" hollow core tine to penetrate just below the turf (approximately 2-3" deep) so a small core can be removed. The cores can be swept or blown from the surface and the holes filled with a soil amendment. Alternatively, the cores can be broken up on the surface and the organic matter blown off the green; the remaining soil can be dragged back into the holes, relatively free of unwanted organic matter.

The operator can adjust the speed of the aerator to increase or decrease the number of cores removed from the surface. According to a USGA report, using 1/4" tines with 1" X 2" spacing will impact almost 2.5% of the surface being aerated; altering the spacing to 1" X 1" will double that figure to almost 5%. The advantage of using mini-tines is the relatively minor disturbance to golfers. Two to three days after being aerated with mini-tines, the holes on a putting green will already begin to fill in; after one week, the consistency and smoothness of the greens should be back to normal and the ball should roll as it did before the green was aerated. This reasonably trouble-free method can allow the superintendent to aerate two or even three times per year.

Using a larger diameter tine (1/2" to 5/8") will affect a greater percentage of the putting surface and possibly reduce


the number of times the greens need to be aerified each season. However, the larger holes left behind will fill in much more slowly than mini-tine holes, the stress on the green is often increased and the cleanup can be more extensive. Usually the disturbance to golfers will increase and play can be affected for a longer period of time. At the Board of Trade, we are limited by several factors as to when we can aerate our greens. As a result, the last week of July and the first week of August is our best window of opportunity to aerate our tees and greens. Despite the scorching temperatures and lack of rainfall this year, the disturbance to the turf was minimal, due in large part to the size of tines used.

## Deep Solid Core Aeration

Instead of using a hollow core tine to remove a section of the turf, a solid core tine can be used to simply punch a deep hole in the green, leaving the putting surface practically undisturbed. The larger diameter tines (1/2" or 5/8") are spaced further apart than mini-tines (anywhere from 3"X3" to 3"X5"), thus affecting only between 2 to 4% of the surface area of the green.

The benefit in deep solid core aerating is the depth the tine can penetrate (usually up to 8") and the "shatter" effect that some aerators, such as the Soil Reliever, can achieve. By penetrating 8" into the green and employing a "kickback" action that serves to shatter subsurface layers, compaction problems can be alleviated over time. As a result of increased water infiltration, thicker roots can be observed at greater depths on greens that had been plagued by shallow root systems. An additional benefit, as far as play is concerned, is the amount of cleanup required after the aerator has passed over the green. Usually rolling the green immediately afterward will smooth any ridges created by the tines. The average golfer will not notice any adverse affect on the putting surface after rolling. We have had great success deep core tine aerating all of our greens in early to mid October; the holes have a chance to recover before the turf stops growing and the deep roots observed by the hole changer the following spring are proof that deep core aerating is an effective tool.

Mini-tine and deep solid core aerating are two of the various methods of greens aerification available for golf courses. They offer the course manager a simple, effective means of removing thatch, breaking up subsurface layers and initiating deeper root systems. Their effect on everyday play is minimal while their long-term benefits on putting surfaces make them invaluable tools for many superintendents.



**Penguin Golf Associates**  
GPS Surveys and Engineering

**Jim Firth P.Eng.**

www.penguinolf.com jim@penguinolf.com  
1 High Crest Road, Bolton, Ontario L7E 5R7  
Tel.: (905) 880-7070 Fax: (905) 880-9450 Cell: (416) 884-GOLF(4653)

**ALBION  
GOLF CARS**  
AND TURF EQUIPMENT

**BRUCE McDONALD**

**Kawasaki**

**Club Car®**  
Golf's Driving Force.

29 ADVANCE ROAD  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M8Z 2S6  
PHONE: (416) 236-1001  
FAX: (416) 236-4654  
www.albiongolfcars.com

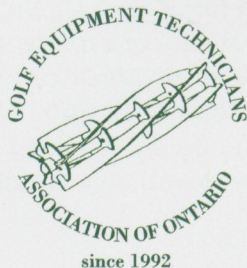


# Mechanic's corner

by Larry A. Murray,  
Pheasant Run Golf Club

The ninth annual G.E.T.A.O. Golf Tournament was held at Westview Golf Club on September 18, 2001. The winning team from Islington Golf club comprised of Dan McGrade, (mechanic) Sean Kelly, Tony Mantel, and John Rowley. They are the first team to be engraved on the new trophy. Also, a draw for an all expense trip to the Toro Service School was won by Warren Wybenga from Donalda Golf Club. Congratulations to all winners! The membership of G.E.T.A.O. would like to thank John Gravett, Dorothy Hills, and the O.G.S.A. for their assistance and contribution to the tournament.

This is the time of the year the equipment we use comes into question; the question of "To trade or not to trade". Perhaps there is money left in this year's budget and a beneficial decision needs to be made soon. All too often, the tax man is the main influential person in the decision process. Within the framework of a team, why not consult with your equipment professional, your mechanic. Your mechanic may have knowledge of a new product or perhaps he has knowledge of a product or equipment by being in contact with his peers. A good mechanic is capable of making any piece of machinery operate properly, however is the functional value really there? If you need more value for dollar, then capitalize with the help of your mechanic. For information on the mechanic's association, please e-mail me at [l.a.murray@sympatico.ca](mailto:l.a.murray@sympatico.ca).



Engineers,  
Hydrogeologists,  
Environmental  
Consultants



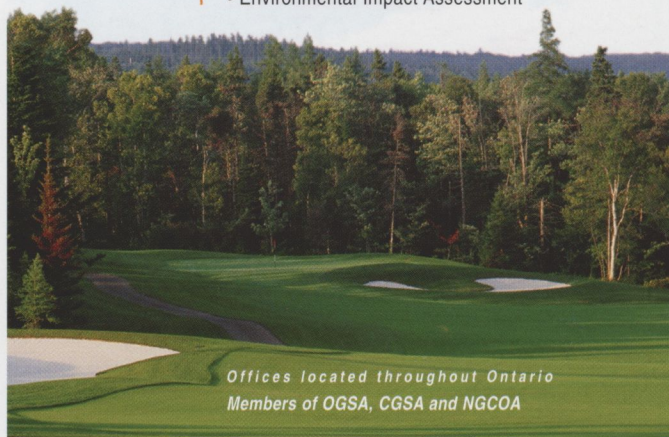
**Burnside Golf Services**  
A DIVISION OF R. J. BURNSIDE & ASSOCIATES LIMITED

## Serving the Needs of the Golf Industry

**Contact Vito Cirone**  
Tel: (905) 953-8967  
Toll Free: (877) 799-8499  
Fax: (905) 953-8945  
E-mail: [vcirone@rjburnside.com](mailto:vcirone@rjburnside.com)  
Website: [www.burnsidegolf.com](http://www.burnsidegolf.com)

### We can help with:

- Approvals for Golf Course Development and Operations
- Hydrogeology and Stormwater Management
- Sewage Treatment and Disposal
- Environmental Management Plans
- Building and Clubhouse Design
- Irrigation Design and Consulting
- Environmental Impact Assessment



Offices located throughout Ontario  
Members of OGSA, CGSA and NGCOA

## THE P.E.S.T. INSTITUTE

SPECIALIZING IN PESTICIDE EDUCATION  
& SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

### LAND EXTERMINATOR (LANDSCAPE CATEGORY)

#### PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION COURSES

##### NORTH YORK:

November	26 - 30, 2001
January	21 - 25, 2002
February	18 - 22, 2002
March	11 - 15, 2002
March	25 - 29, 2002
April	8 - 12, 2002
May	7 - 11, 2002

##### MILTON:

April	1 - 5, 2002
-------	-------------

##### LONDON:

December	3 - 7, 2001
March	18 - 22, 2002

##### OTTAWA:

March	4 - 8, 2002
-------	-------------

Gov't exam held on Monday following each course.

**Instructor:** Paul G. Pilley, B.Sc., M. P. M.

For more information and a brochure contact:

P.O. Box 1021 Lindsay, Ontario K9V 5N4  
E-mail: [pgp\\_pest@lindsaynet.com](mailto:pgp_pest@lindsaynet.com)  
Tel: (705) 324-PEST (7378) Fax: (705) 324-9729



For All Your  
Golf Course Needs!

Turf seed, Pesticides, Nutrite Fertilizers  
and Bayco Golf Accessories

P.O. Box 7, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 3Z6  
Tel: (519) 886-0557 Fax: (519) 886-0605  
1-800-465-5849 Email: [seeds@oscseeds.com](mailto:seeds@oscseeds.com)

Victor Freiberg Ken Graham  
Trevor Hunter A. Kent McDonald  
David Schmelefske



## When Falling Leaves Will Let Us See...

Dead, dying, weak and diseased  
branches should be removed  
or supported to:

- reduce wind resistance
- provide less surface for heavy ice and snow
- remove entry points for insect and disease pathogens

Take advantage of our **FREE**  
Inspection program.

Bracebridge • (705) 646-8733  
Gravenhurst • (705) 687-0696  
Huntsville • (705) 789-0929  
[www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com)

BACKED BY THE BARTLETT TREE RESEARCH  
LABORATORIES AND EXPERIMENTAL  
GROUNDS, CHARLOTTE, NC



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### NEW O.G.S.A. STAFF

OGSA would like to give a warm welcome to Pat Thomas, who has recently joined the office team. Pat is a resident of Guelph, and brings with her, not only office skills, but also a great deal of experience in the opportunities and challenges that working for a small office can provide. When Pat is not working for OGSA and The Big Sister Association of Guelph, she likes to spend her free time renovating her house and walking her dog. So, if you hear a new voice on the telephone the next time you call, say hello to Pat.

### OTS EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

**Conference Half Day Seminar - Wednesday, January 23, 2002**

**Title:** "Effective Cultural Management/Soil Amendment Program" instructor Bud White has been replaced with:

**Title:** "Preparing Your Golf Course for Tournaments"

**Description:** This seminar covers preparing the golf course for golf tournaments including outings, club championships, member guests, and professional tournaments. The focus is on planning, communication, course set-up, preparing for the event, having a successful event and then evaluating the event. Participants will discuss keeping the golf course in top condition while hosting multiple events and how to get the job done on a daily basis when there is an event every day.

**Instructor:** John C. Miller, CGCS, at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, Ohio is a 1983 graduate of Ohio State University in Agronomy. He has experience in private and public golf and was the host superintendent for the 1999 Nike Dayton Open and the 2000 and 2001 buy.com Dayton Open.

You can register directly on line at [www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots](http://www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots)

## What you need! When you need it!

Technically Trained Sales Staff  
Full Offering of Quality Products  
Superior Customer Service and Efficient Delivery



Plant-Prod Soluble Fertilizers, Nu-Gro Professional  
Fertilizer Products, Emerald Isle Fertilizers,  
Fungicides, Insecticides, Herbicides  
Standard, Par Aide and Accuform Accessories



**Call the Plant Products Turf Team!**

**Plant Products Co. Ltd • 1-800-387-2449 • [turf@plantprod.com](mailto:turf@plantprod.com) • [www.plantprod.com](http://www.plantprod.com)**

We can also be contacted at: 314 Orenda Road, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6T 1G1 • 905-793-7000 • fax: 905-793-9632



# The referee

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



We felt that our members might be interested in a mini quiz on 'rule of play', and therefore are offering the first segment of questions. If any member has

any concerns about 'rule of play' fax or email them to Dorothy Hills at O.G.S.A....  
email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca  
fax: (519) 766-1704

1. Bill's ball comes to rest in an area where a drain cover (an immovable obstruction ) interferes with his stance. He is not entitled to relief without penalty if:

- A. The ball is through the green and the drain is in a water hazard.
  - B. The ball and the drain cover are both in a bunker.
  - C. The ball is on a putting green and the drain cover is on the fringe of the green.
  - D. The ball is in bounds and the drain cover is out of bounds.
2. If Bill's ball is lost in casual water through the green, the reference point for taking relief is where the ball splashed in the water.  
TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_
3. For which of the following situations must a player take relief according to the Rules of golf ?
- A. A ball lies on a wrong putting green.
  - B. A ball is embedded in its own pitch mark.

- C. A ball lies on a paved cart path.
- D. A ball lies in casual water.

4. Bill hits his tee shot out of bounds. Not realizing the ball was out of bounds he plays his second shot with the ball lying out of bounds. He is then informed that he must return to the tee and play again from there. He does so and scores four with the second ball. His score for the hole is eight.

TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

5. If Bill's ball lies on the fringe of the putting green, he is not entitled to relief from ground under repair on the putting green.

TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

## Take me out to the ballgame!

The Plant Products 2001 Annual Slow Pitch Tournament was once again a great success. This year was our biggest year yet with 39 teams playing a total of 55 games. The participants took to the field for the first games at 9:00 am on July 14 at Turner Park in Hamilton on what turned out to be a beautiful, warm, sunny day. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet and compete with other golf course teams from across the province.

After several exciting and hard fought games throughout the day, once again, Toronto Golf Club won the "A" division final by defeating Oakdale Golf Club 16 to 6. Both of these teams won their respective finals last year. Chippewa Creek Golf Club won the "B" division final by default over Burlington Golf Club.. Chippewa Creek was a previous winner in 1999. Congratulations to all on your victories!

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support in hosting this tournament as well as St Johns Ambulance, the umpires and the girls from the Ancaster Minor Girls Softball Association for scorekeeping.

We look forward to 2002 where we will see if this years winners will be able to defend their titles.



Toronto Golf Club Team

### Nu-Gro Corporation



**Brian Rosenberg**  
Technical Sales Representative  
Cell: (519) 574-2013  
Fax: (519) 743-6849  
brosenberg@nu-gro.ca



**SKYWAY**  
LAWN EQUIPMENT LIMITED  
DEDICATED TO SERVICE

1067 Beach Boulevard  
Hamilton, Ontario L8H 6Z9  
Telephone 905-545-5363  
Fax 905-545-2647  
CAN-USA 1-800-263-8606





# Japanese beetles are on the move

by Pam Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist

It came to me as quite a surprise to find out that Japanese beetles have spread from the area where they were first discovered, namely: Niagara; Haldiman-Norfolk and Hamilton-Wentworth to many new areas in the last few years. The counties that have been added to this list include: Middlesex county; Ottawa; Simcoe county and Kent county.

It came to my attention that they were in the Midland area (Simcoe county) this year after a conversation with the Executive Assistant of your association, Dorothy Hills. In a conversation with one of the golf course staff, at the Midland Golf Club she was told that there was a very serious invasion of Japanese beetles at the golf course. Dorothy came back into the office on the following Monday and was asking me about these beetles. Not knowing that they had been found in the Midland area, I thought that the golf course employee might have been talking about the Asian lady bird beetles. The lady bird beetles have been all over the news over the last couple of months. They have been in abundance this summer because there has been a soybean aphid epidemic. Aphids are a major food source for lady bird beetles.

Because the Japanese beetle population seems to be expanding

into new areas, I thought it might be a good idea to give just a bit of a refresher on these scarab beetles, what they look like, what they feed on and their life cycle.

## Description

The adult Japanese beetles are very distinctive. They are roughly 1.0-1.25cm long. They have a bright, metallic green thorax and copper coloured wing covers. They have six tufts of whitish/ yellow hairs along the outside edges of their wing covers that look like tiny paintbrushes (Figure 1). They are by far the most attractive of the scarab beetle adults. The grubs resemble all the scarab grubs. They are white with the characteristic C-shape. They have brown heads and three pairs of legs. At maturity the Japanese beetle grubs measure 2.0-2.5 cm in length. The rastral pattern on the Japanese beetle grub is a shallow V made up of two short rows of stout spines with a crescent shape anal opening (Figure 2). The grubs go through three larval instars before they pupate. To determine which grub instar you are finding, you can look at the head capsule width. The first instars have a head capsule width of 1.0mm, 2nd instar is 2.0mm and the third instar is 3.0mm.

## Damage

Unlike the other scarab beetles found in Ontario, the Japanese beetle adults feed on foliage of over 300 species of plants. The preferred hosts are maple, birch, mountain ash, linden and fruit trees such as cherries, peaches, plums, grapes and blueberries.

As with all the scarab species, the grub stage feeds on grass roots. Damage first appears as wilted turf. As the feeding progresses the turf roots are completely severed from the shoots. Damaged grass can be peeled back to reveal the grubs beneath. Japanese beetle grubs have also been known to feed on the roots of ornamental plants and vegetables. Often, the greatest damage to the turf is caused by secondary predators like skunks, raccoons and starlings. The skunks and raccoons especially will pull up the turf in search of grubs. Starlings will pull out tufts of turf in search of grubs.

## Life Cycle

Japanese beetles have one generation per year. Adults emerge from the soil in July. Adults feed for 30-45 days. Adult emergence coincides with the flowering of hydrangea, Canada thistle and Queen Anne's lace. Beetles usually feed and mate in the morning and return to the soil in the late afternoon and evening. Large numbers of males may be attracted to one female in an attempt to mate. The result is a ball of Japanese beetles rolling around on the grass. Egg-laying takes place in late July to early August. Eggs hatch in two weeks. These newly hatched larvae go through three instars during the late summer to late fall. As the larvae increase in size from second to third instar, they also increase their feeding. By the time they reach the beginning of the third instar the damage to the turf is evident.

In early October the grubs begin to move deeper in the soil where they will remain during the winter. It is believed that the factor that limits their spread in Ontario is the soil temperature during the winter. Once spring arrives and the soil temperatures warm up to about

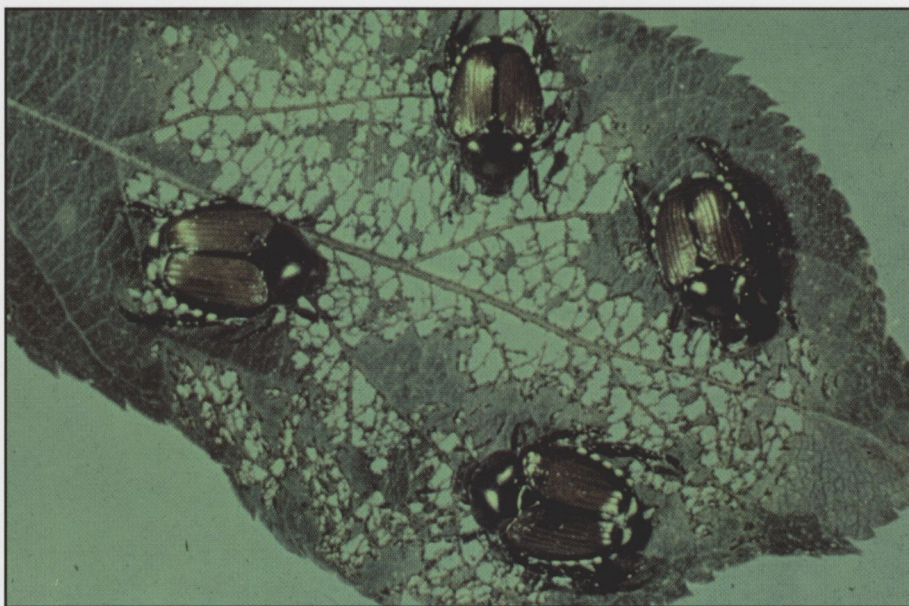


Figure 1. Japanese beetle adults shown skeletonizing a tree leaf.



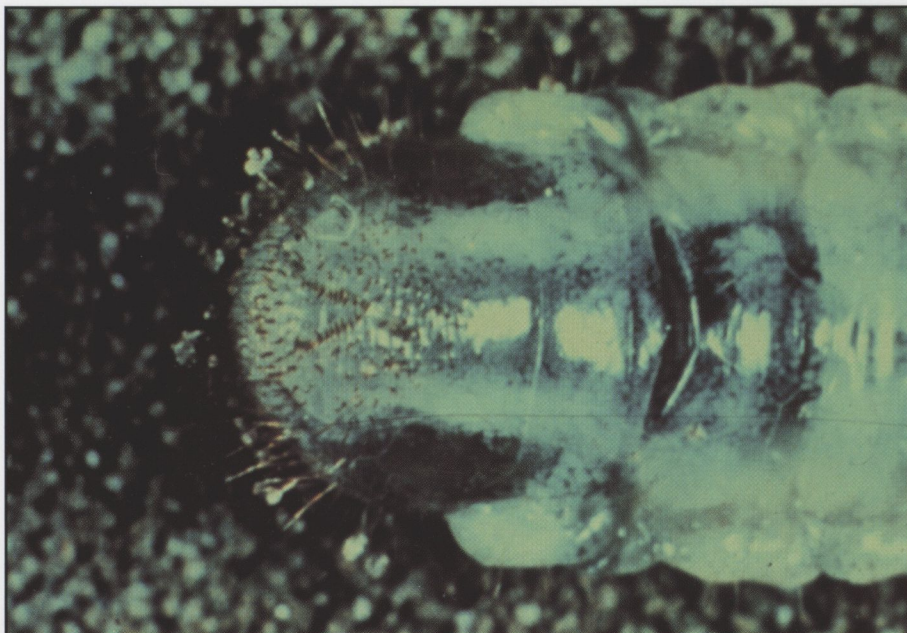
10°C, the Japanese beetle grubs move up to the turf root zone and feed briefly. By late May to early June they pupate. The cycle begins again in July when the adults emerge.

## Monitoring and Control

There are Japanese beetle traps available commercially. These rely on both female sex attractants and a floral scent to lure the beetles to the trap. If large numbers of adult beetles are found in traps it is a good idea to consider a pesticide application. Merit is registered for preventative control Japanese beetles in Ontario. The window for Merit application is from June 1st to Aug. 1st. Merit must be watered in to be effective and can only be applied once a year. For curative control once grubs are found in an area, insecticides such as diazinon and Sevin XLR Plus are registered. For all insecticide application, consult the pesticide label for more information.

For more information on Japanese beetle locations in the province you can visit the Canadian Food Inspection

Agency web site at: [www.inspection.gc.ca/english/ppc/science/pps/sit2000e.shtml](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/ppc/science/pps/sit2000e.shtml). For more information on the biology, identification, damage and control of Japanese beetle you can visit the OMAFRA web site at: [www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/92-105.htm](http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/facts/92-105.htm).



**Figure 2.** Rastral pattern on hind end of Japanese beetle.



**Variable Speed Pump Stations**  
Slow Fill, Automatic Ramp, Soft Flow

18-1290 Speers Road,  
Oakville, Ontario, L6L 2X4  
Phone 905-469-6444  
Fax 905-825-8139

Toll Free 1-888-222-6676  
Email [paulp@pumptronics.ca](mailto:paulp@pumptronics.ca)  
[www.pumptronics.ca](http://www.pumptronics.ca)





# Off the fairway

## Priorities for the fall garden

by Daisy Moore



One of the most beneficial things you can do for your gardens in the fall is to top-dress the soil with compost or manure. I don't even mind if there are small twigs, straw or

chunky bits mixed in because they too are helpful components of the soil where the plants make their home. Organic matter is a key component in ornamental gardens.

I have managed to develop a fairly good composting system in my garden which provides me with a steady supply of nutritious muck. It is useful throughout the season and handy to have on hand. It takes a few years to master the art of composting so the earlier you get started, the better. If it is possible to combine grass clippings, weeds, garden waste and kitchen scraps (from the clubhouse) together, it would be a worthwhile investment for the gardens. Bribe the chef, as you will need their co-operation, with promises of fresh herbs! You need to turn the compost pile at least twice a year and you will eventually have it in bulk and on hand.

Perennial gardens are tended in the fall by selectively cutting back 'spent'

plants and leaving the attractive seed heads of some and bronzed or coloured foliage of others. Rose hips, grasses, hydrangea flowers, any 'umbel' producing plant and so many others are lovely in their senescence. Grasses and their flowers are bursting with colour in the fall and can and should be left until spring.

Leaving the seed heads on after the flowers die is the recommended procedure when growing a 'natural habitat' garden. The seeds are food for birds and wildlife and the remaining seed will be naturally dispersed by mother nature. There are many native and non-native perennials and annuals which colonize this way. With any luck, the garden will start to look after itself!

Stalks of perennial plants should not be cut back to ground level. Leaving at least 6-8 inches of stalk will attract snow and help to naturally insulate the roots beneath. It also reminds you where plants are the following spring. The gaps in between the perennials are where you need to plant spring flowering bulbs.

You will thank yourself in the spring if you plant spring flowering bulbs now. They bring the garden to life early and give the later performing plants time to become established. There is such diversity in flowering time, colour, size and shape of spring bulbs. I like to plant masses of blue bells or grape hyacinth for an extraordinary blanket of blue. I also

like to use the early-flowering or species tulips as accents in small gardens or rockeries. 'Orange Emperor' is an early tulip which was highly praised in the gardens at King Valley G.C. Another hit at King Valley G.C. was a grouping of the hot pink lily-flowered tulip 'Mariette' with another grouping of the single white tulip 'City of Vancouver'. Last but not least, ornamental onions, *Allium* 'Purple Sensation' were a highlight in the weeks prior and after the first frost free date. These bridged the gap between the end of the tulips and the planting of the annuals.

Fall rains are a welcome site to the gardener. Dividing, planting and transplanting, all require a moist workable soil and a generous supply of compost. You can create new beds and plant shrubs, add rocks or do whatever is necessary to shape the bed. Planting is an on-going procedure when you want your gardens to look good. Putting the gardens to bed properly and investing the time and thought into how the gardens will develop next spring make the fall a busy and critical time in the garden.

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)

**Support**

**+ RAIN BIRD**

**Rotors**

**Renovation & Upgrades**

**= Total Irrigation Solutions**

**Central Controllers**

**Accessories**

**Vanden Bussche Irrigation & Equipment Limited**  
7856 Fifth Line South  
Milton, ON  
L9T 2X8  
1-800-263-4112  
Visit us at: [www.vandenbussche.com](http://www.vandenbussche.com)

**Controllers**



# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Conestoga Golf Course

According to the plaque on the wall of my office, Conestoga Golf Club is an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. I must admit that when I first read the thing I wasn't sure what it meant, but I was pretty sure that my days of shooting squirrels with a pellet gun and putting cherry bombs in frogs were over. In truth, I haven't killed anything since I sent a groundhog to the great hayfield in the sky with a pitchfork, when I was twelve, back on the family farm. The whole experience of having to shake the thing off the tines so I could stab it again was fairly nauseating and I instantly became a Hindu. Now, don't start calling the Humane Society on me; it was 23 years ago and I learned my lesson... a shovel is infinitely more effective.

Since that time, I have tried to develop a symbiotic relationship with the little forest creatures and as a Golf Course Superintendent I have tried to balance the needs of the flora versus the fauna on the various tracks which have employed me. There was "Chuck" the groundhog that lived under the workbench. Sometime in the mid eighties he tunnelled in from the outside wall of the shop and raised himself a fine family of rodents right there at my feet. We had a deal. He got

to live, and I could escape the bad Karma of putting one of his cousins through a baler in 1981.

At another course, we had a four year battle with one of the most remarkable pairs of rodents in the history of buck teeth. "Wally the Sewer Beaver" evaded all of our best plans while he cut down half the trees on the golf course and dragged them into the Guelph storm sewer system. "Marmot Bomb" was another woodchuck who gained the nickname after he survived not just one, but an entire package of the rodent removers. He was also run over periodically by golfers in carts, but, as far as I know, he is still sunning himself on the ninth fairway.

In western Canada, superintendents trade stories of the best way to collect elk droppings, and how to remove bears who don't meet the dress code. More recently, near-sighted rutting moose have taken to doing their annual pre-copulatory rhumba with the flag sticks on greens. Moose researchers at the University of Alberta have concluded that "Either they can't see very well or they like their cows skinny... Ally MacBeal skinny." (OK, I made the U of A bit up)

Which brings me to the Canadian Geese at Conestoga. One of the three

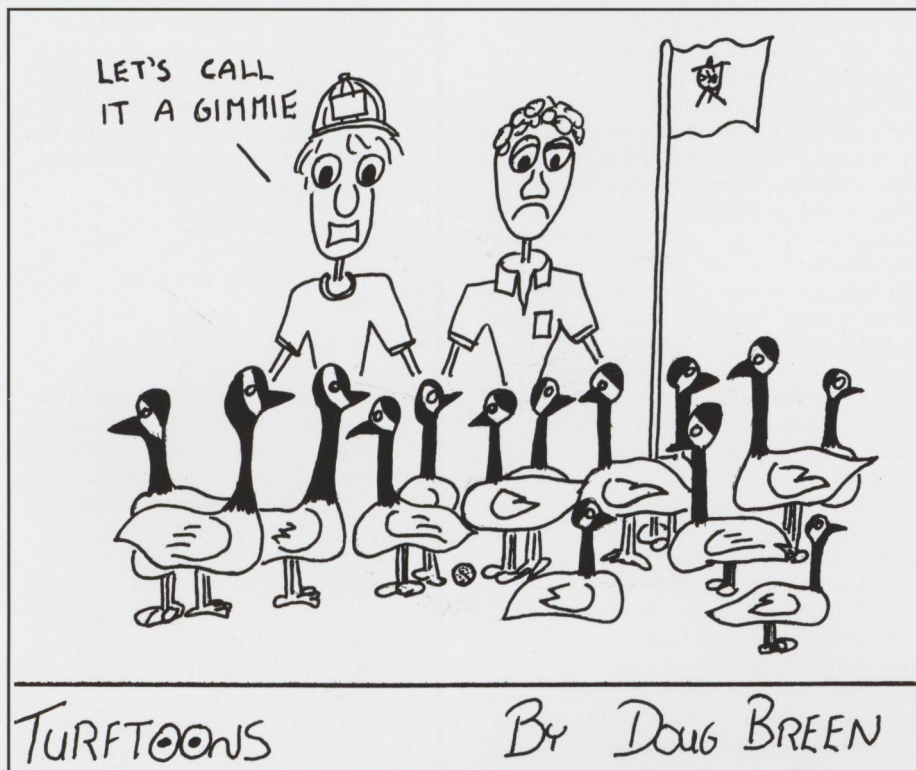


nines is actually called the Goose Run. They call it that because by the middle of the summer, there are about 8 billion of them out there and they will kill you if you don't run away from them. Anything within five yards of a nest is a lost ball, or a lost arm if you go after it. It's like a Hitchcock movie out there, and they leave this slimy, smelly, greenish trail of, slippery when wet, booby traps for you which make fleeing nearly impossible. After they started eating the greens, and the third junior member disappeared, we decided to do something about it.

Every golfer in the world has a story about how someone they know got rid of their geese by chasing them with dogs or pinning one to the ground with a bow and arrow and leaving it there for a month. There are numerous companies who will, for a fee, chase the aviary infestation away with fireworks, dogs, electric fences, falcons, or my personal favourite, psychology. There are people who will take your money to "get inside the heads" of their marble sized brains.

None of these techniques will work on Conestoga geese. They are the Alpha geese. They laugh at my dog. Actually, everyone laughs at my dog; he is an idiot. We tried plastic dead geese decoys which were guaranteed by the manufacturer (guaranteed to look like dead geese, not to scare live ones), and within a week the Conestoga Supergeese were bringing them to life through a process of galvanization, you know, like Frankenstein.

We did manage to keep them off the greens with a product made of grape pits, which had the pleasant side effect of making the course smell like grape Bubblicious, but as usual the animals prevailed. The Audubon Society has it right though; it's all about symbiosis and cooperation. We all have to get along with each other and respect each other's habitats. Of course, I do have an alternate theory that old Mr. Audubon only started the whole conservancy thing when he realized he couldn't get the dam birds out of his backyard anyway.

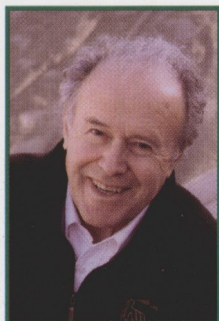




# The sandman

## Local businessman finds fame supplying Australia's 2000 Olympics

by Anthony Firth



Bob Hutcheson

When it comes to clichés, Bob Hutcheson has heard them all. "It's like selling fridges to the Eskimos," they'd say, or even "selling coal to Newcastle." Truth is, such clichés really do apply to the 73-year-old Huntsville, Ont.,

resident. Hutcheson's made quite a name for himself selling sand – wait for it! – to the Australians. In fact, Hutcheson's sand is so darned good it was used for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. But how does a local boy – who began his career growing and selling Christmas trees – end up accomplishing such a coup?

For several generations, the Hutcheson family were the largest Christmas Tree farmers in the Muskoka region and son Bob was all set to carry on the family tradition. To this end, he studied forestry at the University of Toronto. But things didn't go smoothly for the young Hutcheson. He came down with polio and for two years was bedridden, his future on "hold". Upon recovery, Hutcheson was once more in a position to get involved in the family business. However, soon after embarking on his new career, he began to suffer from serious allergies which made it increasingly difficult to work. Eventually, it was discovered he was allergic to the very thing on which his livelihood depended – Christmas trees. But it was to be this unfortunate allergic reaction that would lead Hutcheson to a more lucrative and less risky, in terms of his health – business. Without a clear idea of what to do next, Hutcheson arranged for the Christmas trees to be cut down. Underneath, it was discovered, lay some of the finest sand to be found anywhere. To the uninitiated, sand is just, well... sand. But to those in the know, sand comes in many varieties, whose characteristics differ greatly. Sand for road building, for example is fairly coarse – but that used in the mixing of cement for building construction is fine.

At about the time Hutcheson faced his dilemma, specially-formulated sands were beginning to grow in importance. Seeing an opportunity for his company, Hutcheson turned his attention to the development of specialty sands for golf courses. "I invested \$3 million – which I persuaded the bank to lend me – in high-tech machinery that can grind sand

particles to certain sizes, and remove the dust as well. This became one of the secrets of our success," he says. This ability to classify, grade, screen as well as clean the sand with a machine that can run 3,300 gallons of water a minute through the load, allows Hutcheson to guarantee the size and consistency of sand for a variety of uses – one of the reasons his company now supplies 600 golf courses in America with specially-formulated sands for bunkers and greens.

Lately, the company has got into the building of artificial beaches, such as the Mandalay Beach Resort in Las Vegas. Admittedly, it does seem a little weird that a resort located in the desert should call in a company from the snowy North to produce the right kind of sand – but that's the sand business. The way things worked out was not quite as far-fetched as it seems. In the case of Nevada and other exotic and far-away locations, Hutcheson doesn't actually ship the sand from Northern Ontario. Instead, he sends a team of experts – with the appropriate high-tech equipment – to adapt as much locally-found sand as possible for the client's purpose. From beach resorts it was only a short step to the latest olympic sport: beach volleyball. Like most new sports, beach volleyball had modest beginnings. You just set up a net – the same height as a volleyball net – on a suitable piece of beach, and start hitting a ball around. But for a leisure activity to become a *real* sport, you have to ensure playing conditions are consistent everywhere – whether you're playing in Canada, the Caribbean or Australia. Having made a name for its sand in Canada, it was inevitable that its quality and flexibility wouldn't remain a secret for long. While working on a golf course in Calgary, a group of beach volleyball players checked out the sand in the bunkers and became convinced it was the ideal playing surface needed for their sport. It had all the qualities they'd been looking for – it was soft, it was safe (the players' feet wouldn't get stuck in it), and, if it got rained on, would dry in half an hour, allowing play to resume with minimum delay.

Hutcheson realized immediately that fate had smiled on him again, and he started promoting his "beach sand" to clients in his neighbourhood. He was even able to persuade the North Beach Volley Ball Club, an indoor facility on Railside Road in northeast Toronto, to use it.

Eventually, Hutcheson's sand became the court surface of choice for the leading Canadian volleyball clubs and, soon after,

the Canadian Beach Volley Ball Association made the Hutcheson formulation its regulation formula for all competitions.

From the national scene it was but a hop-skip-and-a-jump to international competition and tournaments. When the Brazilians, the beach volleyball world champions, declared it the best sand they'd ever played on, Hutcheson Sand and Gravel had really proved itself "World Class". Its sand became the regulation formula for all international competitions sanctioned by the Federation Internationale de Beach Volley Ball, including the forthcoming Olympics. While Hutcheson doesn't know yet whether he'll personally supervise the sand formulation at Sydney, the thought makes him chuckle: "It would be kind of ironic for someone from Canada to tell the Aussies, with the famous Bondi Beach right next door, how to make a good beach." Perhaps. But knowing the sandman, anything's possible.

*"Reprinted with permission from CARPNews FiftyPlus, the magazine of Canada's Association for the 50Plus"*

### Rule of Play Answers

1. D. Rule 24- Definitions states that any part of an immovable artificial object which is out of bounds is not an obstruction.
2. FALSE. Rule 25.c says that if a ball is lost in casual water the spot where the ball last entered the casual water shall be determined and the ball shall be deemed to lie at that spot.
3. A. Rule 25-3 states that if a player has interference by a wrong putting green, the player must take relief.
4. TRUE- Rule 15-3 States that if a player plays any strokes with a wrong ball he incurs a two stroke penalty. A ball lying out of bounds is no longer in play and therefore is a wrong ball. The player must then return to the tee and play again with a stroke and distance penalty. He would be playing five from the tee.
5. TRUE- Rule 25-1 Interference says that intervention on the line of play is not interference under this Rule. It is only interference if the ball lies on the putting green.



## Looking back

### Fifteen years ago today

by Barry Endicott,  
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

The Board of Directors of the OGSA in 1986 were as follows: **Barry Endicott** (pres.), Caledon, **Robert Kennedy** (vice.), Garden City, **Hugh Kirkpatrick** (past pres.) Westmount, **Rhod Trainor**, St. Thomas, **Neil Acton** (editor), Brooklea, **Ron Heesen**, Beachgrove, **Gordon Nimmo**, Sarnia, **Scott Dodson**, Chedoke, **Thom Charters**, Islington, **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst, **Mark Hagen**, Wyldewood and **Dave Gourlay** (jr.), Toronto Ladies. The office secretary was **Cindi Charters**.

The following members received their 25 year OGSA member plaques: **Jim Wyllie**, **Bernie Macdonald**, **Doug Suter** and **John Grighmire**. **Bill Bluet**, OGSA President in 1961 & 1962 and longtime Superintendent of Mississauga Golf Club, passed away in April.

The GCSAA Conference and Show was held in San Francisco from January 27th to February 4th and once again "Green Is Beautiful" was selected as one of the top ten newsletters out of 49 others. The newsletter won the category for Best Format and Readability.

The CGSA Conference and Show was held in Ottawa from March 1st to 5th. **Gord Witteveen**, Board of Trade, **Cecil Hoekstra**, Cherry Hill, and **Bill Hynd**, St. Georges, presented talks at the conference.

About 200 attendees were pleased with the new 2 day format and content of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium held at the University of Guelph. **Al Draper** was the chairman and the speakers list consisted of **Dr. Switzer**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, **Dr. Lee Burpee**, **Dr. Jack Eggens**, **Dr. Joe Vargas**, **Ted Woehrle**, **Barry Britton**, **Alex LaBelle**, **Thom Charters**, **Don McFaul** and **Bruce Clark**.

New members: **Graham Wilkinson**, Acrow Canada, **David Cherry**, Cherry Downs, **John Cherry**, Cherry Downs.

The OTRF Fundraising Tournament was held again at the National raising about \$17,000. The low net winner was **Dick Gordon**.

**Alex LaBelle**, superintendent at the Midland Golf and Country Club hosted the Ontario Amateur Championship.

The Spring Field Day was held at the Victoria Park Golf Club hosted by **Carman, Ted** and **Angelo Decorso**. The winners for the day were: Low Gross – **Ted Ellis**, **Warren Vout**, **Hugh Kirkpatrick**; Low Net – **Kelly Barnett** and the Clay Switzer Trophy Winners – **Ted Ellis** and **Kelly Barnett** – 133 combined score (region 1).

The Georgian Bay Superintendents Association had another busy and successful season with meetings at Brooklea, **Neil Acton**, Midland, **Alex LaBelle**, Circle Pine, **Ray Richards** and Horseshoe Valley, **John Hughes**.

The McClumpha Tournament was held at Maple Downs hosted by **Paul Brown**. **Jack Austin**, Turfcare, presented the trophy to winner **Bill Hynd**, St. Georges. The Turf Care Slow pitch Tournament winners were Westmount G.C., **Hugh Kirkpatrick** defeating the Donalda Club.

The OGSA Bestball Tournament was held at Uplands Golf Club, **Ted Tom**, with the team of **Gordon Witteveen**, Board of Trade, and **Ken Wright**, National, winning.

The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association held the Taylor Barnes Tournament at the Brantford Golf Club hosted by **Vince** and **Rick Piccolo**. The winners were: low gross – **Don Blatchely** (75), Sawmill and low net **David Wray** (70), Nanticoke.

## here's why balanced chain methylene urea is such a great nitrogen source



Balanced Chain Methylene Urea (BCMU™) is United Horticultural Supply's own formulation of short, intermediate and long-chain methylene urea and is an integral part of **UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers**.

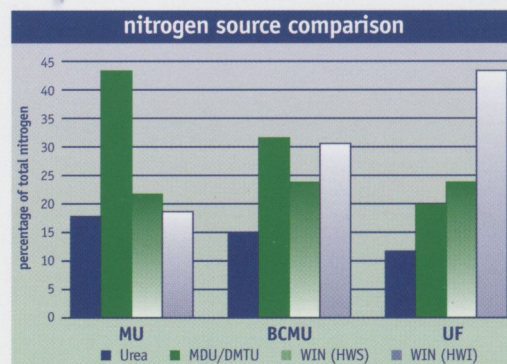
The shorter chains (water soluble components) in BCMU provide fast greenup and as they dissipate, the longer ones (water insoluble components) take over to give sustained feeding. It is one of the most uniform releases available in a fertilizer.

This sustained, consistent and efficient nitrogen release produces excellent plant response throughout the growing season, even into the second year, without inducing growth flushes, leaching excess nitrogen or losing it benefits due to volatilization.

While improving color and stress resistance, BCMU's carbon and nitrogen molecules also feed microbes in the soil, enhancing root and rhizome development and creating a rich humus layer, even in soils low in microorganisms.

It is safe to use on fine turf and sensitive ornamentals and is non-burning even in extremely hot weather. BCMU is compatible with wide range of other nutrient sources and control products and is unaffected by particle sizing or damage from equipment.

What more could you ask for?



UHS East  
1-800-328-4678  
UHS West  
1-888-273-4330



*Signature*  
brand fertilizer

UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers are a product of United Horticultural Supply





# TURF CARE

**Everyone has their idea of  
what the best aerator  
should be like.**

**Introducing all of them rolled into one.**



Announcing the  
Toro® ProCore™ Series.

It's easy to see why the new Toro ProCore series aerators are the best overall. With precise depth control you can adjust without tools. Variable spacing you control simply by adjusting tractor speed. The industry's largest variety of tines and accessories. Exclusive RotaLink™ technology for cleanly pulled cores. And, of course, that legendary Toro reliability. To learn more contact your Turf Care Sales Representative at (905) 836-0988, or visit our website at [www.turfcare.ca](http://www.turfcare.ca).

*Choose the model that suits your needs:  
ProCore 440, ProCore 660, or aerate up  
to 2 acres per hour with the ProCore 880.*



**TORO®**

## Turf Care Products Canada

200 PONY DRIVE, NEWMARKET, ONTARIO L3Y 7B6 • PHONE (905) 836-0988

FAX (905) 836-6442

London

Ph: (519) 668-7664 Fax: (519) 668-3722

Mississauga

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

Scarborough

Ph: (416) 298-2101 Fax: (416) 298-8758

Gloucester

Ph: (613) 822-1881 Fax: (613) 822-2099