

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



OGSA takes a stand

2004 Conference and trade show Pesticide exposure

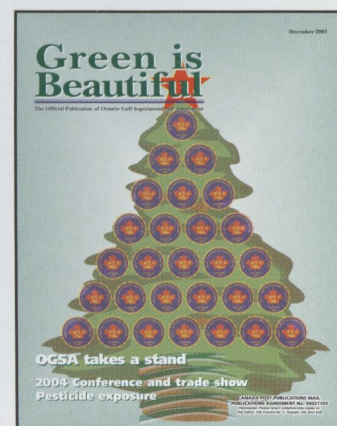
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER

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from Graphic Services

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Please accept our apologies
for the printing errors in the
Highlight of
Weston Golf & Country Club
which appeared in the
October issue of
Green is Beautiful.

The Superintendent of
Weston G&CC is
Rob Ackermann.

The Printer will be providing
us with corrected copies to
give to Rob and for the
OGSA office.

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

President's message

A Year to Remember

There has been a lot of activity at OGSA this season. The office, under the direction of Dorothy Hills is in the midst of expanding, as our membership has doubled in size over the past few years, with new applications bombarding the office at an unprecedented rate. OGSA hosted the 1st Annual Assistants' Tournament at Whirlpool Golf Club. Long time, OGSA member, Pelino Scenna was awarded the 2002 Score Superintendent of the Year Award. In November we formally announced OGSA's new Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show, to be held in Toronto in 2004. The event staged over a two-day period, will prove to be an invaluable education program for golf facilities, with speaker programs for golf course superintendents, equipment technicians and horticulturalists.

Members' Input Required

With the membership growing in leaps and bounds, it is time to once again reassess the needs of our association. A survey is being sent out in January 2003 to all members, to aid in directing the Board over the upcoming years. Please take the time to fill out the form with any additional comments and suggestions and return it to the OGSA office. Your input is important!

Pesticide Issue

I appreciate your prompt response in fulfilling OGSA's office requirement of sending in a hard copy of your pesticide license.

The pesticide battle continues to build throughout the province and it will likely continue with some significant developments, by municipalities in the coming year. John Gravett, Bob Burrows, and Jeff Stauffer have tirelessly participated

in the debates and information sessions at the provincial and municipal levels, and I thank them for their time and effort.

Jeff's focus on IPM accreditation has taken many twists and turns during meetings with the Ministry of the Environment. It is unknown, at this point, what the final outcome will be, but some form of certification is inevitable. The process seems to be heading toward passing of a written exam, reporting annual records of chemical products, conducting periodic facility audits, and maintaining educational IPM C.E.U.'s.

Thank You

On a more personal note, in this, my final President's Message, I'd like to thank the entire board, Dorothy Hills and committee members for their hard work and dedication over the past year. Also, I'd like to give a special thanks to those OGSA members who have continued to support me over the past several years, and my Club and family who allowed me the time to be available. It has been certainly an honour to serve the Association at a time during which such significant, positive changes are taking place within our industry.

I hope everyone experiences some quality downtime this holiday season with family and friends and the best for 2003!

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by Jim Flett
Muskoka Lakes
Golf & Country
Club



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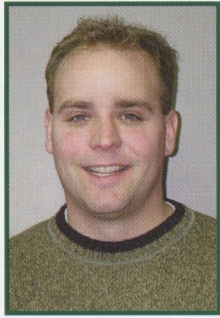
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Green is Beautiful 2002

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Editor's message



by Jeff Stauffer
Credit Valley G&CC

Another golf season has come to a close, with many of us already looking ahead to the Spring. There are many items to discuss over the winter season,

including the present pesticide issue, water use issues, and the many factors involved in our managing of the environments with which we work in.

The pesticide issue remains very active with many municipalities debating bylaws and restrictions of product use within their jurisdictions. My thanks to those who have presented deputations at various meetings across the province and continue to do so. I would like to urge those who have not been involved as of yet, to please get out there and present your message of responsible use of pesticide products and the role that IPM has played in our management of golf courses over the past years. Remember, IPM is nothing new, it has always played an important role in our promotion of the environment.

The development of the IPM Accreditation program is continuing and an up-to-date report will be given by yours truly at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, this January. It is intended to have this program ready for the start of the 2003 season and allow Superintendents and their facilities to start working towards accreditation. A lot of work indeed, but it is our goal!

The past season created some situations where water use was limited or even discontinued because of short supply. We must continue to document our responsible use of this important resource and prepare our turfs as effectively as possible to withstand the stresses of drought conditions. This will, no doubt, become another issue we will find ourselves defending very soon.

Promoting our positive effects on the environment must be on each of our

agendas with our Owners, Boards of Directors, and golfers, to properly inform them before they become misinformed. We all have good stories to tell, so let's get out and get them told. It will go a long way in aiding our cause, for many years to

come, when we find ourselves under the microscope, defending an important management tool, in front of governments and their agencies.

Enjoy the winter season and I look forward to seeing you all at the OTS!



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

Paul Catling	Class C
Aurora Golf Club	
Paul Davey	Class C
Eagles Glen Golf Resort	
Eugeni Doulev	Class C
Streetsville Glen Golf Club	
Ron Dyer	Class F
Oxbow Glen Golf Course	
Colin Evans	Class B
Oxbow Glen Golf Course	
Tom Gervais	Class B
Ariss Valley Golf & Country Club	
Bert Johnson	Class A
Big Cedar Golf & Country Club	
Thom Miller	Class D
Prescott Golf Club	
Fred Schmoelzl	Class A
Mitchell Golf & Country Club	
John Deere Landscape Ltd	Class E
Gillian Glazer	



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport
Provided by Ministry of the Environment

	YEAR 2002	
	Average	Actual
January		
(rain)	18.5 mm	14.6 mm
(snow)	32.3 cm	31.4 cm
(total)	45.6 mm	46.2 mm
February		
(rain)	20.8 mm	29.6 mm
(snow)	25.9 cm	7.0 cm
(total)	45.5 mm	38.4 mm
March		
(rain)	35.1 mm	44.1 mm
(snow)	19.9 cm	17.6 cm
(total)	56.9 mm	61.3 mm
April		
(rain)	56.0 mm	88.8 mm
(snow)	7.3 cm	12.2 cm
(total)	64.0 mm	103.3 mm
May		
(rain)	65.8 mm	80.7 mm
(snow)	0.1 cm	0.0 cm
(total)	65.9 cm	80.7 cm
June		
(rain)	68.9 mm	59.6 mm
July		
(rain)	76.6 mm	59.0 mm
August		
(rain)	84.2 mm	11.6 mm
September		
(rain)	74.2 mm	59.2 mm
October		
(rain)	62.0 mm	43.0 mm
(snow)	1.1 cm	0.0 cm

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club

*N*ow is the time to worry a little less about our facilities, and put our precious time into extended quality

family time, some time for ourselves, and professional development. Overall, the 2002 season, will be remembered as a good one! The extended mid-summer drought and second highest temperatures since record keeping started, has become a yearly occurrence and something we should just expect, I suppose.

The regional CGSA seminar in November, with Bob Sexton, on communicating effectively with Committees and Boards, was very well attended. This topic was a nice change from the more technical turf topics.

Try not to miss the registration for the CGSA International turf conference in Calgary, which is being held March 1-4, 2003. There will also be four excellent pre-conference seminars. This conference promises to be a great success.

Further to the press release by Jim Flett, regarding the future of the OTS, I must say that the CGSA Board and staff

are excited about the opportunity to help manage the future show in 2004. Our headquarter's staff are uniquely suited to use all of their resources to manage a trade show of this kind. This venture will not be a burden on CGSA operations, and we are looking forward to forging even closer ties with the OGSA. In fact, when the CGSA International turf conference is scheduled to move to Ontario in 2005, it does so with the complete partnership of the OGSA. These are truly exciting times.

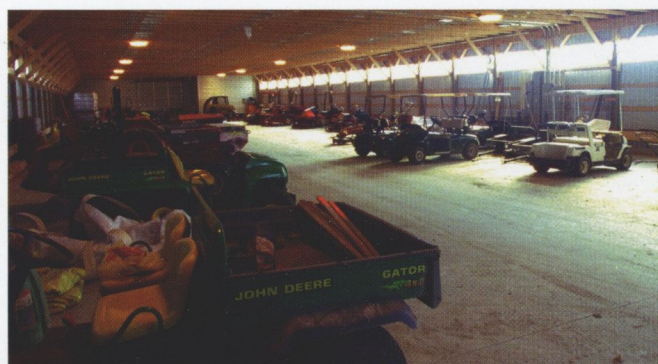
From my family to you and yours, best wishes for a safe, enjoyable and prosperous holiday and New Year!



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Health & safety

Social Host Responsibility

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

During the Festive season, many of us plan traditional celebrations with family and friends. Another common part of the festivities is the company Christmas party, where employers and employees have an opportunity to interact and socialize with their co-workers in a more relaxed setting. However, employers must realize that there are responsibilities associated with hosting a Christmas party or any other company gathering. Company sponsored social events are important for employee morale. By making their employees feel appreciated, the company will often be rewarded with improvements in loyalty and productivity. While companies should continue supporting social events, safety should always be considered as part of the festivities.

Employer sponsored social events where alcohol is being served is the primary area of concern. As hosts, the company is responsible for the safety of their guests, and must take necessary precautions to keep them from harming themselves or others. If they do not take these precautions, the company and its management may be held legally responsible for damages, injuries, or even loss of life.

Take a moment to review examples of recent cases where employers have been held liable for damages that resulted from alcohol-related incidents.

- An Ontario judge has ordered a business to pay an employee \$300,000 for letting her drive drunk after an office party. She suffered permanent physical injuries and brain injuries after hitting another car in 1994. She admitted to having more than the legal limit of alcohol in her system at the time.

In awarding her damages the judge said that her employer was partly responsible by offering an open bar at the party. "The employer should have foreseen that by maintaining an open and unsupervised bar, he would be incapable of monitoring the alcohol consumption of his employee, which led her into the danger in question," said Justice Clair Marchand.

In her lawsuit Hunt claimed her co-workers and the staff at the pub hosting the party should have physically restrained her from leaving. The company said that it had offered to call her husband, at a nearby factory, to drive her home.

- In a British Columbia case, the employer was held 75 per cent liable for providing alcohol to its employee who was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident after leaving work.

On the morning of the accident, the worker had started his normal shift at the warehouse. Then, together with other members of his crew, he drove from the warehouse to Vancouver's BC Place Stadium to construct a display booth for a trade show. He drove his own vehicle from the warehouse to the stadium.

Starting in the early evening, a manager provided the crew with pop, chips, and beer. The manager later provided the crew with dinner and more beer. After dinner, the crew, as well as the senior checker for the warehouse and the manager, continued to drink the provided beer. No efforts were made to restrict the quantity of beer consumed by individual employees. The senior checker had only told the employees not to get drunk. Despite this direction, the worker and two of his co-workers had started a drinking competition that they concealed from the manager and senior

manager.

By the time the crew had finished their work at 11:30 p.m., the worker had consumed eight beers. He and one of his co-workers then went to two drinking establishments where they continued to drink until 1:30 a.m. He returned to his car at the stadium at 1:45 a.m. While driving home, he fell asleep at the wheel and was involved in a single vehicle accident that left him a quadriplegic.

By holding the employer 75 percent liable for his injuries, Madam Justice Risa found that the employer made drinking and driving part of the working conditions on the day in question. Specifically, the employer provided free alcohol in the workplace at the same time that it required its employees to bring their cars to work and knew they would be driving home.

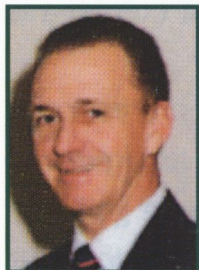
To avoid potential liability there are options an employer can consider while planning a company sponsored gathering:

- Choose to plan events that do not involve alcohol.
- Provide transportation to and from the event if the employer opts to include alcohol in the festivities.
- Supervise the consumption of alcohol by not allowing an open bar, by refusing alcohol for someone who has already had too much to drink, and by ensuring that nobody gets in their car to drive after drinking. *Something to think about!*

*Have a safe and
Merry Christmas!*

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The referee



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

This quiz works on the relief rules from 23 to 28 and is intended to get people to read the definition which helps to understand the rules.

1. Which of the following conditions is ground under repair even if not so marked?

- A) A divot hole.
- B) Material abandoned on the course.
- C) A hole made by a greenkeeper.
- D) A cart path that is not artificially surfaced.

2. Which of the following statements is true?

- A) Casual water should be defined with a white line.
- B) A player may declare their ball unplayable in a water hazard.
- C) All of the ball must lie in a water hazard for it to be in the water hazard.
- D) A gravel covered road is an obstruction.

3. Which of the following is not an obstruction?

- A) A rake in a bunker.
- B) A water hazard stake.
- C) An out of bounds stake.
- D) A golf cart.

4. A player hits their ball from the tee into a large puddle of water left from a recent storm. The player declares that their ball lies in casual water and, even though the player can retrieve the original ball, they play another ball from the teeing ground. What is the ruling?

- A) The player lies two.
- B) The player lies three.
- C) The player lies four.
- D) The player has proceeded correctly and lies one.

5. Which of the following statements is true?

- A) A creek that has run dry is no longer a water hazard.
- B) The margins of a water hazard extend vertically upwards and downwards.
- C) A player may drop a ball within two club lengths of and not nearer the hole than the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of a water hazard.
- D) A player who has dropped a ball in taking relief from a water hazard must re-drop if their stance is still in the water hazard.

Answers on page 17.



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by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC


People Finders

Last issue we discussed how to find places. This month we will find people through the virtual yellow (and white) pages. www.411canada.com is just that, but your PC turns the pages for you. Start your search by entering a name and location (city) and province and the person (or business) that you are looking for is found. Although entering my full name did not yield my address I then "dumbed-down" my query, instead of using Mark Prieur I used M Prieur and I was found. This site is run by Sympatico (which is really Bell Canada) so the information is usually correct. It is just the way you enter your search that can be tricky. BEWARE: This site is not to be confused with

canada411.com in which it automatically links you to a U.S. site that has many pop-ups and ads...but not your Canadian address.

Web site www.411locate.com has both white and yellow pages and even email addresses. Even though it is U.S based, it did find my address and even a simple map to my home, (powered by mapquest) which was a little unnerving. Again, as with 411canada the searches have to be done with shorter names. Upon searching for email addresses it did not work as well as I would have liked, but it may find large businesses, just not residential listings. There is a section where it may ask you to enter your email in order to increase its database; that would be a very bad idea. This would be a free for all for other people to get your vital information (and directions to your house); the spam would be non-stop after that.

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Copper Creek Golf Club, Hole 5

It was this big!

It was a beautiful sunny day and the fish were plentiful when Master's Turf Supply and Floratine Canada held their 1st. *Annual Customer Appreciation Day*, on Lake Erie, aboard the charter boat, S.S. Powell.

Fellow superintendents enjoyed the company of each other as they competed

in a friendly, fishing competition. "Who could catch the most fish?". After such a hectic summer, it was a nice change to relax on the lake, barbeque, and do a little fishing.

The top fisherman was Mike Creed, of Wyldewood Golf Club, who hauled in 12 beautiful Perch. Close behind was;

Dave Tascone, of Granite Ridge Golf & Country Club; and Chuck Ashely, of Norfolk Golf Club, both with 7 Perch each.

Thank you for making our first year at Master's such a success. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2003.

Chuck Ashely
Norfolk Golf Club
Lydia Vanasseldonk
Tillsonview Fairways

Scott Mitchell
Aurora Golf Course

Everett Nieuwkoop
"Master's Turf Supply"

Blair Rennie
Diamond Back
Golf Club

Mike Creed
Wyldewood Golf Club

Mike Creed
Wyldewood Golf Club

Dave Tascone
Granite Ridge Golf
& Country Club

OGSA requires pesticide licenses

The following memo, from Jim Flett, was sent to all A, B, and C members on November 12th. Several members have

already submitted a copy of their license for our records; however, there are still many outstanding. If you have not yet sent in a copy of

your pesticide license to the OGSA office, would you please do so as soon as possible.

NOTICE

At the time of application, all OGSA Class A, B, and C members are required to submit their pesticide license numbers as part of becoming a new member. With the pesticide debate that is now going on throughout the province, this requirement of membership has elevated in importance more than ever before. As a result, the OGSA directors have recognized the need to revise our policy and now require all Class A, B, and C members to submit a hard copy of their pesticide license to the OGSA office by mail, fax or email. The due date for this requirement is no later than Dec 15, 2002.

We hope you understand the importance and urgency of this matter and forward this information to OGSA headquarters without delay.

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- **4" Pop-Up Height**
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- **Spike-Guard Solenoid**
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 - ▶ No special tools required and no threads to strip.
- **Conversion Assemblies**
 - ▶ Upgrade your existing 600 and 700 Series heads easily without using substandard imitations.



TURF CARE

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Golf course highlight

Marvel Rapids Golf Course

234 Jeff Road

Apsley ON K0L 1A0

Golf Course Superintendent: Doug Osborne

golf@marvelrapids.com

www.marvelrapids.com

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Peterborough

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort ,municipal?

Public

Size of membership?

n/a

Number of rounds?

13,000

Typical opening and closing date?

1 May to 31 October

Name of Superintendent?

Doug Osborne

How many years have you been a superintendent?

5

Are you CGCS or Master Superintendent?

No

List other accomplishments (Audubon, board service etc.)

n/a

How many years have you been an OGSA member?

3

How many year round staff?

0

How many seasonal staff?

8

How many mechanics and assistants?

1 mechanic

How many gardening staff?

1

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

9

What is the yardage from back tees and forward tees?

3,008 from back tees and 1,594 from the forward tees

What is the size and length of driving range and range tee?

250 yards - 12 acres

How many bunkers?

20

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?

4 ponds and Eels Creek in play on 4 holes

Who was the original architect?

Helen, Gord and Doug Osborne



Marvel Rapids Golf Course Holes #1, 2, 8 & 9

Photo by Robin Oliver from his ultralight

What was the year of original construction?

1998-1999

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

1,200 sq. ft.

What type of irrigation system?

Toro LTC - 3 years old

What is the size of the greens, tees and fairways?

Greens: 1 acre, Tees: 1 acre,

Fairways: 22 acres

What is your predominant grass?

Greens: Bentgrass, Tees and Fairways:

Kentucky Blue

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?

12 Loam Greens

What is the predominant soil type?

Loamy sand/sandy loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

1 Aerator - BA4 Fairway

1 Greens Aerator

2 Toro Greensmower-Walkers

2 National Triplex Mowers

1 Jacobsen Greensmower - electric

1 Garden Tractor - Sears

2 Ransome Mowers

2 Stihl Chainsaws

2 Stihl Weedwackers

1 Honda Blower

1 Turfco Top Dresser

1 Tractor

1 Box Scraper

1 Yard Rake

1 Power Broom

1 Land Pride Overseeder

1 Onyx Ball Picker

17 Yamaha Gas Golf Cars

1 EZGO Gas Golf Car

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

Renovation of #3, 6, 7, 8 & 9 tees

Extension of #2 fairway, plus an

additional new green

Additional bunkers on #1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8

Additional ponds on #2, 6 & 8

Improvements to cart paths

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?

Add 9 more holes

Continued improvement of existing cart paths

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Moose and deer on the greens!

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PRACTICES

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?

No pesticides used on fairways and tees.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Golfers positive response to no pesticides and enjoyment of birds, wild flowers and dragonflies, frogs and newts.

In first year (2002), 70 participants in our Junior Future Links program - lessons and tournaments.

Third year of our Inter-lake Sunday Best Ball Tournaments with cottagers from 13 area lakes involved.

AREAS OF CHALLENGE

Educating some golfers to accept diversity of plants due to lack of pesticide use.

OGSA takes a stand

By Jerry Richard, Superintendent, Craigowan Golf and Country Club

Town Hall Meeting Re. Non-Essential Pesticide Use in Kitchener-Waterloo - Nov. 12/02

This meeting, in council chambers was an open forum to discuss the use of cosmetic pesticides in the region of Kitchener-Waterloo. Present were council members, approximately 60 speakers representing both sides of the issue, interested citizens and supporters. The speakers, to name a few, included activist leaders, toxicology experts, University professors, professional applicators, golf superintendents, and concerned citizens. Each speaker was given 5 minutes at the podium. Needless to say it was a long evening. Woodstock was well represented with Don Sifton from The Weed Man and Jordan Lavin from Nutri-Lawn, each delivered presentations. The councilors and administrative staff present showed incredible attention and courtesy during presentations that were often dry and repetitive. This report is based on the first 45 speakers, as our time constraints did not permit us to listen to the final 15 speakers. Concerned citizens spoke both for and against banning pesticides, although there were more speaking for a banning by-law. To convey the messages of all the speakers would be difficult, but the following key points were discussed:

Green Care Industry

- Enacting a by-law restricting pesticide use on residential properties could not be enforced by the city and would not restrict home owners from purchasing and applying products themselves.
- Application of pesticides would be essentially taken out of the hands of the professional and left to the home owner, if bans were implemented.
- There is absolutely no scientific evidence to support pesticide bans.
- Pesticides are safe when applied properly.
- In Canada, there are only 7 registered turfgrass pesticides for home lawn use, out of several thousand in the world, tested and governed under our very strict regulatory systems.
- Integrated Pest Management principles are greatly helping to reduce pesticide use in several municipalities already, including Woodstock and others.
- Pesticide bans would cause several businesses in the region to suffer from economic loss.
- Organic alternatives to synthetic pesticides are expensive, not as effective, and not widely preferred by home owners.
- We need to continue devoting effort towards research instead of banning the use of legal products.
- City councils should not have to debate whether pesticide use is unsafe to humans. As the third level of government, to do so would be a waste of tax dollars when other more important issues exist.

Activist Groups

- Pesticides are dangerous to all living things and should be banned in the region.
- Spray drift and odor from treated lawns is unacceptable to residents who do not want to be exposed to pesticides.
- Integrated Pest Management does not reduce pesticide use necessarily.
- The continued use of pesticides is being driven by money and big business.
- There needs to be more education about organic products available.
- There hasn't been enough testing of these products on humans.
- Green lawns are a 'thoughtless tradition' and there are alternatives.
- There needs to be a product shift for current pesticides.
- Certain businesses in the city are treating with pesticides on dead turf when they are not needed.
- Many people suffer severe physical discomfort from contact with pesticides within this region.
- The Precautionary Principle applies in the case of pesticide use in the region because people are in danger.

Doug Breen, Superintendent of Conestoga Golf Course and OGSA Member was one of the speakers. He made an excellent presentation, and spoke with great conviction.

The speakers generally stayed on their time allotment with a few exceptions. It was evident that most of the people lobbying for pesticide bans tended to be citizens or members of organized lobby groups. The presentations that were against banning, tended to be from lawn care companies, related business professionals, and members of the

scientific community. Speakers were sometimes questioned by councillors. Interestingly, at times it seemed like the most qualified and distinguished experts were queried about the legitimacy of their qualifications and whether or not they themselves were being funded by chemical companies. The anti-pesticide arguments at times seemed based on emotion and hearsay with little proven data to back up bold statements. The most qualified individual lobbying for bans made an obvious erroneous statement regarding the use of atrazine

on golf courses, something which councillors and the audience quickly picked up on. On the other side, lawn care professionals carried themselves well and were able to back up most statements with relevant data and experience.

As a professional in the Green Care Industry, I am confident that we were well represented and accurate, within this open forum. In my opinion, the lobby groups generally failed to present sufficient evidence to back their claims, and did not have representation equal to the Green Care Industry side.

**OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

NEPTUNE ROOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003

5:00 PM

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2003

**REGAL CONSTELLATION HOTEL
PATIO BALLROOM**

6:30 P.M.

FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

**Ontario Turf Symposium
Pre-Conference Seminar**

Monday, January 20, 2003

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Ken Pavely, IPM Council of Ontario

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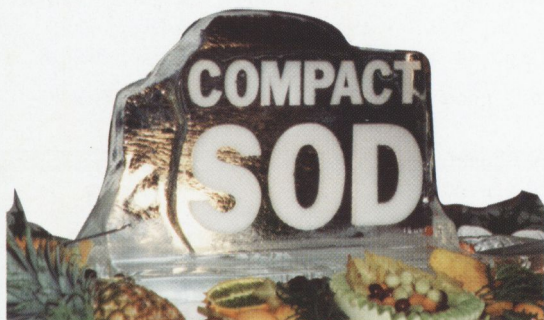
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Compact Sod Celebrates 25 years.

25 years ago Richard Schiedel, started "Putting Down Roots" which became the theme of their original advertising campaign. Today this slogan still applies and has become the theme of their 25th Anniversary, celebrated a short time ago. (08/24/02)



Shown above is a beautiful Compact Sod Ice sculpture which adorned one of the banquet tables.

Richard Schiedel comes from a heritage of farming that dates back to 1802 when his great ancestors from Pennsylvania purchased huge tracts of land along the banks of the Speed and Grand Rivers.



In addition to being thankful to all employees and customers, Richard praised his wife Shirley for always being there to run the administrative tasks that never end in a growing corporation.



Compact Sod's Founder, Richard Schiedel, reminisces about the early days of laying his own roots. Although the Schiedel Family have a heritage of farming in Waterloo Region since the early 1800's the "roll over" to Growing Sod came 25 years ago.

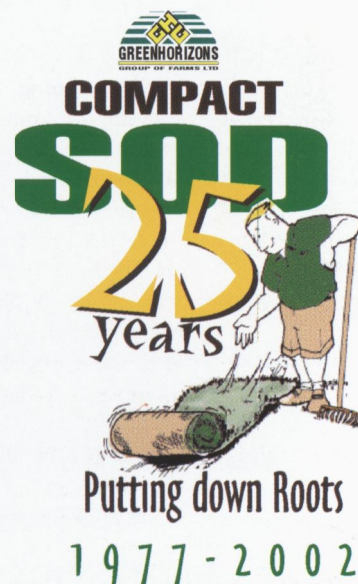
(For more history see their web page at www.justsodit.com under the "contacts" pages)

Richard remembers the early years of Compact Sod, having crews of workers lined up to pick rocks by hand, unheard of by today's standards.

They hand-bombed rolls on to flat beds trucks for delivery too.

He also told a story of one of his earliest landscaper customers, who picked-up his Sod in a Volkswagen. Today they are among Compact Sod's biggest customers.

A long way off from the multi-million dollar business that they have grown to today. It seems they know how to grow more than just sod.



Around the tents, of the party site at the Schiedel's ranch style home, was an impressive display of all kinds of farm machinery and harvesting equipment. While the Blue Grass band entertained, Compact Sod employees, customers, suppliers, invited guests and neighbours had a great time catching up on old times.



Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

I'm going to take the opportunity to rant a little bit about my recent experience trying to protect trees from construction injury. Warning: I have been behaving like an irate golf club member. What I

have learned from this fiasco is that arguing after the fact is a reasonably fruitless exercise: once you have been categorized as a radical, you are avoided at all costs. I got worked up to a frenzy, making matters worse, but what they didn't want to hear or know was that they shaved 10 years off the life of my trees.

I'm not an activist, nor do I want to be one. But all of us, as professionals, do need to be able to do something about the general lack of knowledge and understanding of plant growth. Construction workers do as they are told, but they need to be told more. "Tidy this area up" is just not good enough when you are working with a 'plant community' or a garden or a large tree. I will describe what happened in my case.

The township paved the road in front of our Elora home. This type of construction can have a profound effect on the trees on the street just as construction activities on your golf course affect the surrounding areas. The drainage is different, the grading is different and roots are sacrificed for the construction. Fair enough. I have five mature sugar maples which run the length of the property along the road which sustained a major hit of root loss. Even though the roots on the street side of the tree were damaged already, it was still important to reduce the blow as much as possible. In my case, after the road construction was completed, they elected to scrape away the top layer of soil and sod from all the way around the trunks, including the previously undisturbed portions. When I arrived, I was met with a gnarled up mess of roots where there used to be a grass habitat overlying a large section of sugar maple feeder roots.

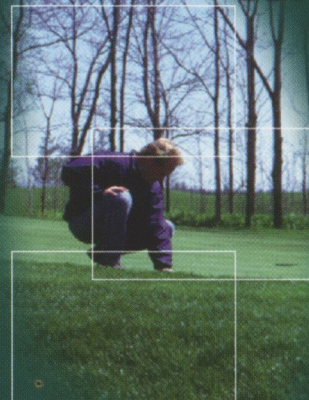
What were they thinking?

On a slightly brighter side, I now have new garden at the front of the house. They will be sodding it, since it is now so nicely 'graded', and I will need that sod in the back to replace what is now a grub habitat. I may spread a seed mixture beneath the sod so that is raring to go when I remove the sod in the spring. Something good needs to come of this.

In another case, despite my request, protective fencing was not placed around the trees adjacent to a construction site, and so soil was piled right up to the trunk of a tree. The tree is a mature Norway Spruce with a girth (diameter) of about 4 feet. It has suffered enough without this and will in the future. When I asked the contractor about the lack of fencing he replied that he was told that trees aren't growing at this time of year (that is November) and therefore you can't damage the root zone. It could probably be argued that root growth is the most active in the fall with the water and nutrient uptake providing the lifeline for the trees in the following year. Barriers are a nuisance in construction operations and the contractor chose to hear what he wanted to hear which was, the trees aren't growing so you can't hurt them. "A little learning is a dangerous thing."

All of these incidents have fed me with lots of ideas for my weekly radio gardening show. I have been talking a lot about trees lately. Tree selection, how to look after them, how to protect them and how to help them adapt to the stresses and strains of urban living. I invite you to listen to the show and participate, if you like, since it is also a call-in. *Daisy Moore on Gardening* airs Saturday mornings 9-11am on am900 chml; for those in the western GTA, am980 for those in southwestern Ontario and on the web at www.900chml.com for those outside the radio frequency. Every now and again I could use your back-up when I'm trying to make a point or to help people understand and make the right choices. I have several guests surrounding the pesticide issue lined up for the winter months and I hope for some lively discussion and debate.

Visit my website: www.daisymoore.com.



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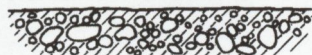
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OGSA would like to give a warm welcome to Deborah Badger, who has recently joined our office team. Deborah is a resident of Guelph, and brings with her, not only office skills, but also a great deal of experience in the opportunities and challenges that working for a small office can provide. So if you hear a new voice on the telephone, the next time you call, say hello to Deborah.



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3- C R24 Definitions

4- B Rule 25-1b(i)
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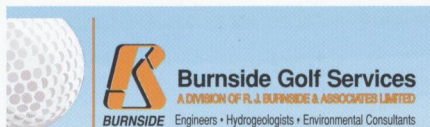
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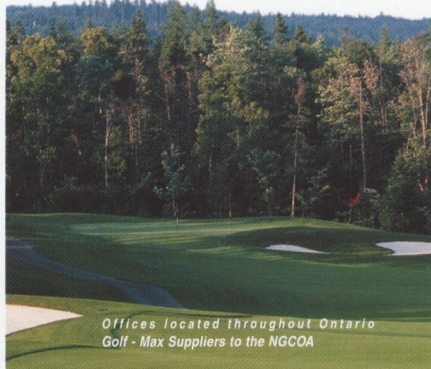
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Pesticide Exposure and Human Health (Part Three)

By Donna L. Houghton, Ph.D.

Technical Registration Manager, Toxicology
Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.

This article, the final of a three part series, will address allegations that pesticide exposure causes asthma, disruption of endocrine (hormone) systems, and neurological effects in children. Suggestions regarding exposure mitigation will be provided, as well as conclusions pertaining to the entire three part series. References are footnoted in the text and are available on request from "Green is Beautiful" magazine.

Pesticide Exposure and Asthma

Many articles in the press have stated that pesticide exposure is responsible for an increase in the incidence of asthma in children. While the incidence of asthma, particularly among children, has been increasing over the past decade, there is no definitive evidence that pesticide exposure increases the incidence of this disease^{10, 11}. The increase in incidence itself is somewhat confusing because physicians have long debated which symptoms warrant a diagnosis of asthma. In addition, awareness of the disease has grown which could account for a portion of the reported increase in incidence.

Research indicates that factors known to cause or exacerbate asthma are as follows: a family history of the disease, gender (males are more prone), and exposure to tobacco smoke, household dust, dust mites, cockroach integuments and feces, and damp environments^{10, 12}. Diet may also play a role. The fact that we have tightly sealed homes is an issue. Recent research is suggesting that it is an underdeveloped immune system that is responsible for the development of asthma in children. Current thinking suggests that we are actually keeping our environments *too clean*. Challenges to the immune system early in life (exposures to viruses, bacteria, animal dander, dog hair, dust etc.) are required for proper development of the immune system¹³. Through the frequent

use of antibiotics, and keeping our homes extremely clean, we may have prevented the immune systems of many children from developing appropriately. Children from rural areas, where pesticides are commonly used, have a much lower incidence of asthma than children from urban environments^{14, 15}. Farm children are exposed to dander from pets and farm animals, as well as pollens, dust and dirt from an early age. There is no definitive evidence to indicate that pesticides increase the incidence of asthma in children. The use of pesticides may actually help to alleviate allergic reactions among individuals whose condition is exacerbated by exposure to weed pollen.

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (Hormone mimics)

For the past decade, the news has been flooded with articles on endocrine disrupting substances and the havoc they are creating in the environment and potentially in our children; however, the scientific literature does not support effects in humans. Pesticides have been implicated in the media as endocrine disrupting substances. Almost everything, including the food we eat, contains natural chemicals that act like hormones. The endocrine system is extremely sensitive and can even be affected by the amount of daylight received by the living organism. It will be extremely difficult to sort out what affects, and what doesn't affect, hormone systems because many things (natural and man-made) affect the endocrine system. W.J. Waddell, an MD, professor, and Chair of the Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, published a review of epidemiology studies, and the effects of environmental estrogens and concluded "the data available at present do not lead to the conclusion that endocrine-modulating substances account for worldwide trends in

these epidemiological studies"³⁴.

While some researchers have hypothesized that pesticides act as hormones in the environment, a direct association at environmentally relevant concentrations has not been established. In addition, exposure to pesticides is extremely low in comparison with exposure to endogenous hormones such as 17-B estradiol and estrone, naturally occurring hormones such as estrogen (e.g. phytoestrogens in food such as cabbage), and therapeutic hormone supplementation (e.g. hormone replacement therapy and contraceptives); therefore, this hypothesis is unlikely. Wood and paper products also contain estrogenic substances of natural origin.

Dr. Stephen Safe, of Texas A&M, has authored many papers indicating that the endocrine modulating hypothesis is flawed^{35, 36}. His publications also point out flaws in the hypothesis that endocrine-disrupting industrial chemicals have caused a reduction in sperm counts among men.

The National Research Council (NRC) Report on "Hormonally active agents (HAAs) in the environment" concluded that prenatal exposure to HAAs may affect development and nervous system development but more research is required³⁷. The report stated that data available are inadequate to assess whether exposure affects immune systems in humans; and concluded that post-natal exposure to HAAs has been shown not to increase the risk of cancer in endocrine organs.

While more research is certainly needed on this controversial subject, the exposure incurred by applicators and bystanders to pesticides is so minimal that an association between pesticides and endocrine effects in humans is unlikely.

Pesticides and Neurological Effects in Children

A 1998 study conducted by Guillette et al. suggested that pesticide exposure causes effects on the developmental/neuromuscular function and fine motor skills in children³⁸. The authors studied children of two separate villages in Mexico – one located in an agricultural valley where pesticides were frequently used, and the other located in the foothills where ranching was practiced and pesticides were not usually sprayed. There are many flaws in this study including lack of proof of the genetic similarity of the two populations studied, and failure to conduct chemical analyses of food, water, environment, blood or urine to confirm pesticide exposure and to rule out the possible contribution of other contaminants such as PCBs which are known to cause neurological impairment. The children of the two villages do appear to differ in terms of their fine motor skills and neurological development; however, the data do not prove that pesticide exposure is the cause of the difference. Eye examinations were not even given to the participants. Guillette et al. did not collect samples to identify what substances the children were actually exposed to, nor did they attempt to adjust or even identify confounding factors such as parental alcohol and drug abuse, parenting skills, level of parental education, genetics etc.

Exposure Mitigation

The best way to mitigate *occupational exposure* to pesticides applied to turf is to read and follow the label directions, apply the correct application rate, wear the recommended personal protective equipment (gloves, respirator, chemical-resistant coveralls etc.), change respirator cartridges frequently, launder clothing daily and follow proper hygiene practices.

To reduce *bystander exposure* to pesticide treated turf, the recommended application rate should never be exceeded, spraying should never occur during conditions conducive to drift, surfaces must be dry before allowing contact with treated turf (obey re-entry intervals), and bystanders must not be allowed in the area when pesticides are being applied.

Conclusions (of this three part series)

Pesticides are thoroughly tested and the data reviewed by the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) prior to registration. Pesticide products that PMRA concludes have incomplete databases or that cannot be used safely are not granted registration and cannot be sold, imported, or used, in Canada. Our country has the most stringent regulatory requirements in the world. Pesticides, like prescription drugs, can be used safely, provided label directions are followed. The recommended personal protective equipment should always be worn when

handling and applying pesticides.

The benefits of using pesticides on turf include reduced potential for allergic reactions caused by weed pollen and insect stings and bites, positive health benefits associated with increased participation in outdoor sports such as soccer and golf, fewer sports injuries, reduced soil erosion resulting in less pollution of waterways etc., and the psychological benefits of improved esthetics. The use of pesticides on residential property is a matter of personal choice which should be respected. Reviews of sound, scientific, peer-reviewed data, indicate that allegations suggesting occupational and bystander exposure to pesticides is associated with health effects such as asthma, cancer, endocrine disruption, developmental effects and neurological impairment in children, is currently *unfounded*. Unfortunately, the media's presentation of possible associations between pesticide use and health effects has served to create an irrational fear about pesticides among the general public.

As mentioned in Part One of this article, any pesticide ban approved by a municipality is a political decision based on emotion and not one based on sound science. This fact should be clearly communicated to the constituents of the municipalities involved.

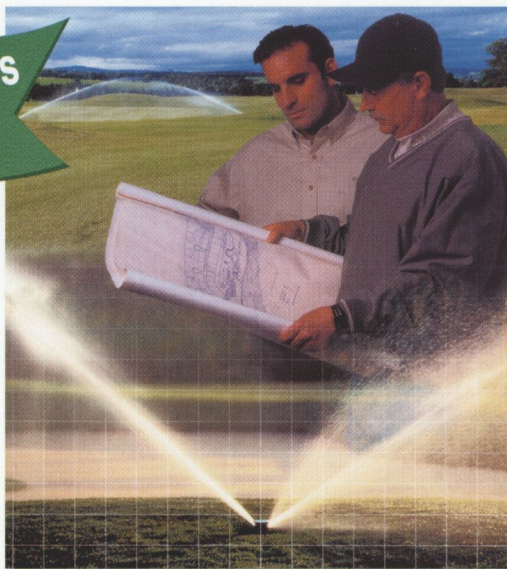
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OGSA Update...

Calendar of events

For current, up-to-date information on events check out "Calendar of Events" on our website. Information will be posted there as it becomes available.



The Stork Has Arrived

Congratulations to Rob and Glennis Ackermann on the arrival of little Alex Justin, on November 5, 2002, weighing in at 7 lbs. 13 oz.. A little brother for Sydney. The Ackermann family are thrilled and all doing well.

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Christmas Holidays

OGSA Office will be closed from Tuesday, December 24th through to Monday, January 6th.

*Best wishes to you and your family
for a Happy Holiday Season
from O.G.S.A.'s
Office Staff
Dorothy, Pat and Deborah*

OGSA Announces

2004 Golf Course

Management Conference and Trade Show

The Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (OGSA) today announced its intention to stage the first annual Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show in Toronto in 2004. The event will be staged over a two day period in late January and will include a two day trade show, keynote speakers and an educational program with separate streams for superintendents, golf course mechanics and horticulturalists.

Jim Flett, President of OGSA, said in announcing the inaugural event that the OGSA was excited about the opportunity that this would provide for superintendents and their staff from across Ontario to network with colleagues and take part in current leading edge educational activities. Flett announced that, as part of the 2004 event, OGSA will provide a free, one-day training seminar on the Tuesday prior to the conference for all OGSA members.

Conference Chair Rob Ackermann, Superintendent at the Weston Golf and Country Club, noted that an agreement has been reached with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) to manage the conference and trade show on behalf of the OGSA. "This arrangement will allow the OGSA to minimize its costs and CGSA to better utilize its existing technical and staff resources to ensure a quality product and maximize the funds available to the OGSA to re-invest in the profession", said Ackermann.

Ken Cousineau, Executive Director of the CGSA, stated that the CGSA Board of Directors unanimously supported the "partnership" with OGSA and that the arrangement should benefit both of the organizations, their members and industry. "It should be easier for industry to deal with one source for two major golf sector events and hopefully this will lead to greater co-operation within the industry on a number of fronts" said Cousineau.

The OGSA will participate in the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in 2003 after which it will concentrate on the implementation of the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show inaugural event in 2004. Details of the event dates and location within Toronto are currently being finalized and should be announced early in the New Year.

For further information related to this event please contact:

Ken Cousineau at 905-602-8873 ext.222 or Rob Ackermann at 416-241-5551

Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Conestoga Golf Course

There has been much hullabaloo over the past year about the Supreme Court's decision regarding the right of municipalities to ban the use of pesticides within their boundaries. I have an opinion on everything, and boy, do I have an opinion on this one.

Now I could go on for pages about how the Supreme Court is, as usual, overstepping its bounds as a result of our impotent and inactive federal government, which would rather let unelected judges hand down laws from their ivory towers than take control of lawmaking at Parliament Hill and risk any political repercussions. And I'm not just slamming the present group of poll worshippers, because political parties, not unlike banks, have all jerked us around at least once; but this decision is really something. It is based on an international law which states that if there's a perception of a shred of a chance of a possibility that something might be dangerous, it is better to ban it. Obviously, I'm paraphrasing, but the crux of it, is that municipalities have been given the right to ban the use of pesticides by our overzealous court system even in the absence of any conclusive evidence that they are dangerous if properly used. Isn't that wonderful? Just because I can't *prove* that aliens are controlling my thoughts through my cell phone, that's no reason to stop municipalities from passing a bylaw to knock down all the towers in my township and sell them for scrap.

The other odd thing is that your local council can ban the use of pesticides at their whim, but not their sale. You can't use them, but you can sell them. Ironically, the Supreme Court looks at prostitution in exactly the opposite way.

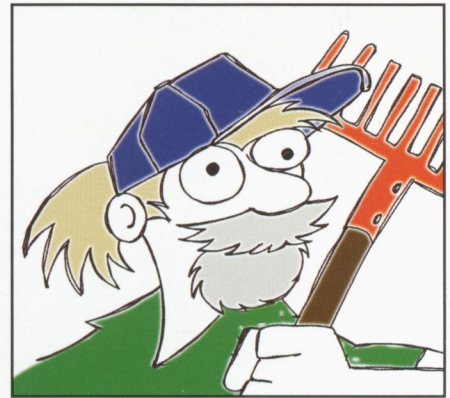
There is such a massive variance within the lexicon of pesticides with respect to use, formulation, persistence and toxicity that it is ridiculous to discuss them as a group anyway. Banning pesticides is like trying to ban everything with feet, or everything that happens to be brown. My dog has feet and it's brown, but apart from the fact that you can race and bet on them both, that's where the similarities end between him and my wife's brown horse which is also blessed with the normal compliment of feet. A quick survey of the Conestoga shop showed that the most toxic products in stock were the antifreeze on the shelf and the cleaners under the bathroom sink. The locked, signed and legally stored pesticides were all of lower toxicity.

If I was a municipal councillor (and I am, by the way), I would see this as voluntary downloading. Municipalities have been complaining for years about the Federal and Provincial levels of government downloading services on to them. Here is an issue where both levels of government are ready, willing and able to legislate, endorse and oversee the use of pesticides, but cities and townships all over Ontario are falling all over themselves to take on additional expense and responsibility just because they can. There are literally hundreds of biochemists, toxicologists, medical experts, environmental scientists and the like, spending millions of dollars each year studying the effects of these products at the higher levels of government. What the anti-pesticide lobby has done, is to bring the debate to the level of government least capable of making an informed decision, and

most likely to be influenced by special interest groups. So, when Cletus the councillor, who only got elected because his brother owns the gas station and

sponsors the girl's fastball team in East Beetle Spit, has to make a decision on this bylaw; instead of having hundreds of PhD's at his disposal, he's got Willie the dog catcher. Furthermore, how prepared is he to debate with Destiny Moonchild, the local environmental activist, who does have a PhD and a big grant from a foreign multi-million dollar charity?

So what do we do from here. We need to make our municipal councillors aware of the fact that there are already two levels of legislation dealing with pesticides and that any concerns of their constituency can, and ought to be, dealt with through existing legislation. The MOE can fine me \$25,000 / day and the golf course \$100,000 / day under the pesticides act. They can throw me in jail, for Pete's sake. The ratepayers are not well served by the wasting of tax dollars on redundant, unenforceable and ad hoc bylaws which would be inconsistent across the province. This is a provincial sized issue, they have the resources and the staff to deal with it, and that's where it should stay. Please contact your local council and make sure they know how you feel. Let's get the three part series published in the past three issues of *Green is Beautiful* into the hands of every councillor in Ontario. Please attend any local public meetings, inform the OGSA when they come up and don't be afraid to speak out. We use these products, not as poisons, but as plant medicines. It's only one tool in our tool box, but it's an important one, and we don't want to lose it.



WILLIE STARTS HIS DAY AT THE EAST BEETLE
SPIT P.U.C. GARAGE

TURFTOONS

BY DOUG BREEN

Looking back

THIRTY YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott,
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

In 1972 the Board of Directors were as follows; **Bill Hynd** (pres.), **Jim Wyllie** (vice), **Ross Haines** (sec), **Bob Heron** (tres.), **Bob Lamb**, **Ron Allen**, **Roy French**, **Paul Dermott**, **Helmut Kopp**, **Ted. Charman** and **John Arends** (past pres.). The editorial committee consisted of **Bill Hynd**, **John Arends**, **Ross Haines** and **Helmut Kopp**.

New Members were: **Paul White**, Kanawaki Golf Club; **Jacob Hallman**, Chestly Lake Camp Association; **C. P. Smith**, Brooklea Golf Club; **C. Miller**, C. A. Miller Construction LTD; **Bill Robinson**, Bill Robinson Turf Supplies; **Cameron Cairncross**, Foxwood Golf Club; **Paul Dodson**, Mississauga Golf and Country Club; **Les Kelly**, Royal Ottawa Golf Club; **John Hutchinson**, Warkworth Golf Club; **Lamonte Anderson**, Midad Golf Club; **Hugh Kirkpatrick**, Conestoga Golf Club; **Stewart Mills**, **R. Allen**, Highlands Golf Course; **Ron Weire**, Welland Valley Golf Club; **Dennis Pellrene**, Glen Abbey Golf Club; **Walter Windjack** and **Edward Rubski**, co-owners of Brock Golf and; **Calvin Fairhall**, Westmount Golf Club; **D. Elliott**, Westhill Golf Club; **Nick Panasiuk**, Hideaway Golf Club; **A. C. Pratt**, Bracebridge Golf Club and **B. S. Evans**, Agincourt Golf Club.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held on January 10th at Northwood Country Club, hosted by **Gord Witteveen**. The registration fee was \$10.00, which included lunch and dinner. On March 17 the RCGA Conference was held at the Skyline Hotel.

Gord Witteveen was nominated as a director of the GCSAA at the forthcoming conference in Cincinnati. **Kimmo Salonen** broke his leg while skiing in Austria. **Ron Allen**, Superintendent at Donalda Golf Club, received the highest marks at the University of Guelph short course.

Jack Abbot, an Honorary member of the OGSA, passed away on February 9th. He farmed the property known as the Islington Golf Club, which was built in 1924. He supervised the building of the course and continued as Superintendent at this club from 1924 to 1938. He then accepted a position at the Rosedale Golf Club from 1939 to 1950. Following a brief retirement he returned to Islington as Superintendent until 1960, when he finally retired at the age of 76. He was one of the originators of the OGSA.

A meeting was held at St. George's Golf Club, on March 16th and the speaker was **John Campbell**, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. On April 11 there was a combined meeting between the OGSA and the Western Greenskeepers Association, at Cherry Hills Golf & Country Club, hosted by **Charlie Benm**. Cherry Hills is the host for this year's Canadian Open, held from July 6 to July 9. On April 17, there was a meeting held at Essex Golf Club hosted by **Dave Moote**. In June, the Galt Country Club and the University of Guelph held the spring field day, hosted by **Paul Scenna**. **Bill Hynd** was first low gross, **Bob Hall** low gross and **Hugh Kirkpatrick** was third low gross. **Bob Heron** was first low net and **Helmut Kopp** was second low net. On May 9th, there was a meeting at the Oakdale Golf Club, hosted by **Bob Moote**, and the speaker was **Robbie Robinson**, golf course architect. First low gross was **Bob Heron**,

second **G. Tombs** and third low gross **Whitey Jones**. First low net was **Keith Nesbit**, second **Dan Uzelac** and third **Cam Cairncross**. **John Grightmire** hosted a meeting at Rosedale. On November 7th, there was a meeting held at the Summit Golf Club and on December 5th the annual meeting was held at the Aurora Highlands. In August, the Pro Superintendent Day was hosted at Islington Golf Club.

On July 21, Brantford Golf Club held the Greens Chairman/Superintendent Golf Tournament, hosted by **Vince Piccolo**. **Vince** has been the Superintendent at Brantford for the past 15 years. They started playing golf at Brantford in 1879 and it is the fourth oldest golf club in Canada. They wore red jackets trimmed with brass buttons and membership was exclusive by ballot. If one blackball ballot was presented that person was denied membership. The game was not expensive, with the annual dues being only \$3.00. Brantford was one of the first golf clubs to have irrigation.

There was a warning sent out to all members of the OGSA regarding gambling at meetings it read, "*The Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association has requested that all gambling in clubhouses be stopped unless the host Superintendent so wishes at his club. Please respect this rule.*"



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tomorrow is a mystery,
today is a gift,
that's why it's called the present!"*

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Remain in Your Hearts
All Year Long!*



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