

February 2002

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

The rebirth of Bigwin Island

The Ontario Turf Symposium

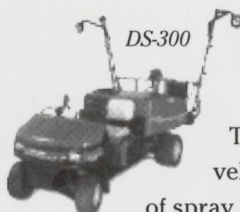
OSC / Nutrite Seminar

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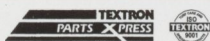


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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Photo by: Bruce Burger
Lakeview Golf Club

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

President's message

It's the 1st of February, the buds are out on the trees and spring is in the air. What's wrong with this picture? Mother nature seems to be stuck on random mode and any weather could be in the mix. In the back of our minds we realize that spring is just around the corner as we start to prepare ourselves mentally for the season that lies ahead.

Last month, many of us participated in this year's Ontario Turfgrass Symposium held in Toronto. The revised format, featuring "The Business of Turf" was well received by turf professionals. With over 100 more pre-registered participants over last year to take in the education opportunities and trade show, the event was deemed a great success.

As we look into the future (2005) we can't help but see the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) returning to Toronto for their conference and show. The OGSA and other industry representatives recognize the benefits and necessity for "one big show". It's nothing new for the provinces of British Columbia and Quebec, which have already been running joint shows with CGSA. OGSA is currently negotiating with involved parties to make this dream a reality.

It's a pleasure to welcome aboard two newly elected board members to the association. Greg O'Heron, Peterborough GC and Jeff Alexander, Parry Sound Golf & Country Club. The OGSA has an excellent representation of superintendents from across the province and I look forward to working with them over the next year.

As you prepare and recharge your batteries for the season that lies ahead, take a moment, if you haven't already done so, to explore our website www.golfsupers.on.ca. The discussion forum, in my opinion, hasn't reached it's full potential. So, before the busy season starts, take a moment and post a question or answer concerning challenges at your facility. You may get the answer you are looking for! Once more members start using this feature it will become a valuable resource.

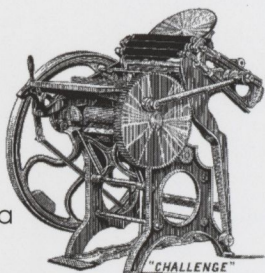
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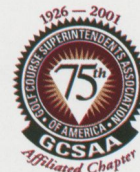
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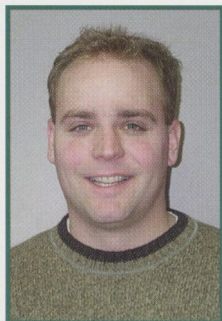
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Editor's message



Jeff Stauffer
Credit Valley G&CC

I was dreaming of a white Christmas, but for those of us in the Greater Toronto Area it didn't happen. At the time of writing this message, there still wasn't any significant accumulation of snow in the GTA. Where's the snow? I'm hoping for some snow, so I can get out with my kids and create some Snow Art.

What is Snow Art, you ask? It's a great activity to get you outdoors with the kids and all you need are some clean recycled spray and squirt bottles, water, food colouring and of course, a good ground covering of snow.

Fill the bottles with water, add several drops of food colouring, put the tops back on the bottles and give them a shake. Now, bundle up the kids and head outdoors. Spray or squirt the coloured water on snow and create away. Make funny faces, create fancy flowers, and maybe design a future championship golf course. Most of all have some fun!

All the best for the New Year!



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport
Provided by Ministry of the Environment

	YEAR 2001	
	Average	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
October	63.0 mm	108.8 mm
November		
(rain)	64.3 mm	75 mm
December		
(rain)	38.3 mm	33.0 mm
(snow)	31.1 cm	10.2 cm
(total)	65.5 mm	40.6 mm

Learning curve

by Mike Courneya
OGSA Director of Education
and Research

Continuing education is a huge part of being an effective superintendent. The OGSA recognizes this and is committed to continuously improving the education and research we offer to all our members. As part of this effort, we will be publishing "Learning curve" to highlight upcoming educational opportunities in the different regions of Ontario. If you have any opportunities you would like our members to know about, please make the OGSA Office aware of them and we will do our best to get it into this section. If you have any ideas for research or education, please let the OGSA office know and we will respond to your request. Thank you and happy learning!

Do you want some affordable education where you do not have to travel? Go to the OGSA website at www.golfsupers.ca.on and click on Turf Links. Then click Education, then click Distance Learning Courses, and then click GCSAA e Learning Courses. Here you will find a number of seminars that can be ordered through the Internet right to your office. To make this more affordable or if you are not on-line, get together with some superintendents in your area and chip in to pay for it. Everyone can watch the seminar together!

"If you think education is expensive - try ignorance." - Derek Bok



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

Chris Andrejicka	Class A
Essex Golf & CC	
Bill Ball	Class A
Hawkrigde Golf Course	
Steven Campbell	Class A
Renfrew Golf Club	
Jeffrey Coward	Class C
Devils Pulpit Golf Association	
Robert Eagleson	Class F
The Toronto Board of Trade	
Paul Evenden	Class C
Brantford Golf & CC	
Luke Fawns	Class B
Martinwood Resort	
Anthony Frake	Class C
Cranberry Resort Golf & CC	
Chris Hudswell	Class A
Sanctuary Golf Club	
Chris LeCour	Class C
Toronto Board of Trade CC	
Mitko Marinov	Class C
Lionhead Golf & Country Club	
Alex Marra	Class D
Seven Lakes Golf Course	
Mark Obee	Class C
Springwater Golf Course Ltd.	
Jennifer Pedersen	Class B
The Fairways & Kerri Glen G	
John Rupnik	Class F
Grey Silo Golf Club	
Jason Tyler Ruest	Class C
Angus Glen Golf Club	
Mike Schwartzentruber	Class C
Grey Silo Golf Club	
Mike Weiler	Class C
Grey Silo Golf Club	
Fertilect Ltee/Ltd.	Class E
Jacques Gosselin (St. Nicolas, Qc)	

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news

by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club



As this is the first issue of the year, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year! The Seminar on December 17th with Dr. Frank Rossi and his thought-provoking presentation on Poa control and management were well attended, with about 55 attendees. Thank you to those who made the trip into Toronto. Plans are underway for another seminar. Congratulations to Mr. Ron Heesen of Monterra GC,

Collingwood, Ontario for winning the Toro Environmental Achievement Award.

CGSA members in Ontario should have received the Quebec City Conference brochure in October. If you have not registered as yet, do so very soon. The proceedings look excellent! There are direct flights from Pearson Airport to Quebec City and the Conference Center is connected to the Hotel. Bring your skis and plan to make a mini-vacation out of this event.

As you may have heard, the CGSA has retained Mr. Ken Cousineau as the new Executive Director, starting February 11, 2002 replacing Mr. Vince Gillis upon his retirement. Please introduce yourself to Ken, as I know he wants to meet each member personally. He brings to our Association a wealth of knowledge and ideas. Vince will also be in Quebec City to help with the tran-

sition, and this will be our last opportunity to say our 'good-byes' to him as he completes twelve years of distinguished service.

Ken Cousineau
Appointed CGSA Executive Director

Jay Leach, President of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, announced today that Ken Cousineau, CAE, has been selected to succeed the incumbent, Vince Gillis CAE, who is retiring January 9th, 2002.

The selection of Mr. Cousineau followed a process that took several months, involving a professional executive recruitment firm, to identify qualified candidates

Mr. Cousineau brings to the CGSA strong association management experience, both in managing internal administrative functions and external relationships with government and stakeholders.

He currently is completing 14 years with an Ontario based not-for-profit association, also based in Mississauga.

Mr. Cousineau will assume his new duties as of February 11th, 2002.

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association is a professional society founded in 1966, of more than 1600 men and women who are responsible for the management of golf courses across Canada.



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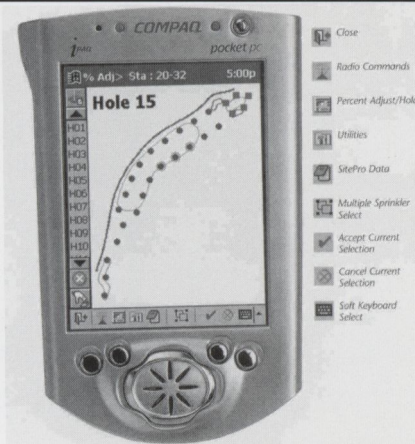
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Turfgrass research at the GTI

by Dr. Julie Dionne
Assistant Professor Turfgrass Management
University of Guelph jdionne@uoguelph.ca



This new year is particularly exciting for the GTI turfgrass management research program; major projects are underway in the GTI laboratory in collaboration with OTRF and OGSA and four graduate students have joined our turf research team.

We are updating and equipping the laboratory at the GTI with the generous financial support of the Ontario Turfgrass Research

Foundation and the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association. The \$50,000 donation is currently being spent on small equipment and supplies, growth chambers, and computers for the laboratory. This improvement of our research facilities is necessary as it will allow us to attract many turfgrass research projects for the coming year. This is certainly the first major step for developing a strong internationally recognized turfgrass research program at the GTI in both applied and basic research aspects. Moreover, this new laboratory is accommodating the four graduate students that have joined the turfgrass management research program at the GTI in January 2002.

We are very pleased to welcome the following graduate students:

Martha Cunningham (M. Sc. Candidate) received her B. Sc. in Plant Biology from the University of Guelph in 2001 and she also worked for the past 5 years at Deer Ridge Golf Course. Martha will be working on genetic variation in resistance of annual bluegrass to snow molds.

Guillaume Grégoire (M. Sc. Candidate) completed his B. Sc. in Agronomy at Laval University, Quebec, in 2001 and worked in turfgrass research for two years as a summer student. Guillaume's research project is on organic fertilization of turfgrass.

Louis Simard (Ph. D. Candidate) obtained his B. Sc. in Biology from the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec and in 2001, received his M.Sc. in Plant Science from Laval University, Quebec. Louis started his doctoral studies at Laval University last year and he will be completing his Ph. D. on the biology of turfgrass insect pests on golf courses and on the development of alternative methods for insect control at the University of Guelph.

Guillaume Thibault (M. Sc. Candidate) received his B.Sc. in Biochemistry from Laval University, Quebec and started his graduate studies at Laval in 2000. Guillaume worked in turfgrass research for two years as a summer student and is currently assistant superintendent at Le Golf de Lévis in Quebec. Guillaume will be in Guelph for the next two months in order to write his thesis on the physiological effects of anoxia on annual bluegrass during cold acclimation.

On behalf of the GTI research team, I wish you a very Happy New Year !

Photo taken by Erica Gunn, Research Assistant G.T.I.



L - R Guillaume Gre'goire, Guillaume Thibault, Martha Cunningham, Louis Simard



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Health & safety

THE JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

Welcome to the mid winter chills! By the time that you read this article you should be starting to think about the golf season ahead. This means the beginning of the planning for the existing staff and the new staff you will be bringing on for the summer.

This is the perfect time to start organizing your health and safety program at your club. This organization doesn't necessarily start with you, but as the superintendent you are one of the most exposed people at the club. You are the one responsible for ensuring that all the equipment is in good working order and that any hazards in your area of responsibility are considered and dealt with in a timely and efficient manner. And you are responsible for ensuring that your workers work in a safe manner.

This is the time that you should ensure that the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) is operational and functioning in a manner

that can be of benefit to you. Where do you start? What should you do? How can you make this work for you? All important questions.

The first step is to ensure that your General Manager and the Board of Directors understand their exposure if they don't have a safety program in effect. The second thing you can do is ensure that you have solid representation on your JHSC. You or someone from your department should be on the Committee. This person should be someone who is capable of voicing your concerns and promoting your issues. The Committee is one of the tools you can use to promote and develop your safety philosophy. This is the vehicle that allows you to make recommendations for change in your organization.

If you use the JHSC properly to identify hazards and make recommendations to management you can alleviate some of the potential exposure to charges under the Act.

Here are some of the things you can do to ensure that your JHSC is working properly.

- Make sure that there are well understood terms of reference for your Committee.
- Make sure that the JHSC members and the General Manager/Board of Directors understand their involvement with the Committee. Ensure that you have a solid Terms of Reference.
- Ensure that the Committee members are doing their inspections each month. This is not an imposition it is another set of eyes helping you to identify issues in your workplace.
- Ensure that the Club House and Food Service are involved with the Committee. This JHSC is not a Greens Committee, or Kitchen Committee it is a committee that is dealing with all aspects of hazards in the workplace.
- Don't let an accident happen and then start to scramble to develop a JHSC.

I am presently working with an organization that waited too long and now they are facing a surcharge from WSIB of over \$32,000.

No Program, No Committee, No Fun!!
Happy New Year!!

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Eighth annual golf course hockey challenge

by John Taylor,
Hunters Pointe Golf Course

After a long, hot, dry summer, January's cold temperatures and snow turned many a golf superintendents focus to their next greatest passion, hockey.

January 15 and 16 saw the return of hockey action in Fort Erie Ontario as the 8th annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge was held. Twelve teams, eight representing locations across Ontario and four representing various locations through the U.S. competed in the annual two day round robin tournament.

The tournament featured a party hosted by Club Car Inc. on the Tuesday evening, which was attended by almost all the competitors. Over 170 superintendents, assistants and suppliers, as well as referees and timekeepers were involved in this year's tournament.

Industry sponsorship was tremendous again this year, according to Scott Dodson of the Park Country Club in Buffalo, one of the organizers. With Club Car sponsoring the party, Turfcare again sponsoring the ice time for the 8th year, Vanden Bussche Irrigation and Ontario Seed Company looking after post game refreshments and John Deere and Duke Equipment donating draw prizes at the party, all we had to do was draw up the schedule and wait for the time to come.

Many other local sponsors were involved with their local teams helping out with such things as travel, hotel costs and sweaters etc.

After two days of hard fought hockey action, the team from Northern Ontario called the "Georgian Storm" again captured the

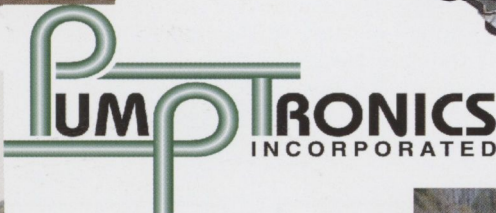


Photo taken by Mike Smith,

Coaches - Doug Hubble, Mike Smith, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.
Players - Caleb Howald, Jason Reid, Sean Lavin, Steve Campbell, Brent Wickett, Derek Wickett, Jim Flett, Steve Wilkinson, Jeff Alexander, Sean Desilva, Chris Bruning, Roy Mundy, Chris Goodman and Steve Mann.

coveted "Reel Cup" as the "A" division champions defeated team Toronto in a hard fought final game. The "B" division championship was captured by team New York in a close win over team Kitchener.

Thanks again to all our industry support which has made this event a great success and one every Superintendent looks forward to in the off-season. Thanks also to all the competitors, referees, timekeepers and spectators who came out to cheer on their teams.



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Cyber super

by Mark Prieur, Assistant Superintendent
Markland Wood Country Club



This link is courtesy of Dr. Frank Rossi, a turfgrass extension specialist at Cornell University, whom I had the pleasure of meeting this winter at the OSC Seminar at Westmount GC. It is appropriately named the Ultimate Turfgrass Links Page (UTLP) and it can be found in the Michigan State domain, the URL is www.msu.edu/user/karcher/turflinks. It is supposed to be moved to the University of Arkansas but will remain as a seamless link until further notice.

As the URL suggests, Professor Doug Karcher has compiled some of the best websites related to the turfgrass industry. The UTLP has it all from associations to weeds; everything can be found here. The site is easy to navigate, fast and it has no ads. The site also uses icons to indicate a "must see" or "new" site added and uses country's flags to denote an international entry.

The categories also include suppliers, weather, travel and even software! In addition, it contains fact sheet publications on current issues that are direct links to where you need to go. No more messing around with different search engines. Also the browse feature lets you find what link you need to find even faster, or you can search the web for what the UTLP does not have. This site is worth visiting and should be bookmarked.

The next site is the members-only portion of OGSA website. It contains items such as the Employment Referral Service (ERS) and Turf Talk. Turf Talk is a members-only feature that is basically a bulletin board in which members post messages (or threads) and other members respond to them. It is a powerful tool for communication and is a great way to find out how other members solve problems in their area. Just imagine, shop talk on the Internet. The bonus is that it is in a secure area (you need a password to get in). As an OGSA member you have access to this portion of the website but must have a registered email address with the OGSA, please contact them for further details. The OGSA website is www.golfsupers.on.ca.

Mechanic's corner

by Larry A. Murray, Pheasant Run Golf Club
President of G.E.T.A.O.

Winter is here, or is it? What is the spring and summer going to be like, and are we prepared for upcoming changes, and challenges? Superintendents and mechanics usually have the winter months to rejuvenate their bodies as well as the fleet of equipment for the start of an ever-changing year. An important item to consider is educating us to be prepared for changes. Manufacturers, and industry make changes and make these known through trade shows, and service schools. I, personally value these functions as important tools for not only what they offer but also for what knowl-

edge we glean from our peers. Many service schools are happening right now for benefit of those who want to be informed. There is no age limit, education requirement or expensive tuition to be paid. All that is required of each participant is a desire to learn how to do their job better. Advance registration is usually required, so do not delay.

The Mechanic's Association held it's annual meeting in December and some changes have occurred. Dan Ens has joined the board of directors and will serve as vice-president. Clint Smith and Joe Atkins have agreed to be regional

directors. They will be able to assist the association with local news and new membership. Clint Smith has offered to work with the board on improving our web-site and keeping it updated.

The association is celebrating its tenth anniversary in February. There is 24 original class A members and three class C members who will be receiving their ten-year plaque at a special meeting in February. For information about the Mechanic's Association, please contact me at l.a.murray@sympatico.ca or call Eddie at (905)889-7620 ext.503.



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D. Robert Hendricks, Golf Course Superintendent

Aart Vanveld, Owner, OGSA Member

COURSE PROFILE

WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR CLUB LOCATED IN?

Brighton

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

Public (Opened August 2001)

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT?

D. Robert Hendricks

TYPICAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATE?

April 1 to Nov 30

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT?

15 years

ARE YOU CGCS OR MASTER SUPERINTENDENT.?

CGCS

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

18 years

HOW MANY YEAR ROUND STAFF?

2

HOW MANY SEASONAL STAFF?

10

HOW MANY MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS?

2

HOW MANY GARDENING STAFF?

1

COURSE STATISTICS

HOW MANY HOLES?

18

WHAT IS THE YARDAGE FROM BACK TEES AND FORWARD TEES?

Back tees: 6633 yards,

Forward tees: 5160 yards

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

300 yards long tee deck 10,000 sq. ft.

HOW MANY BUNKERS?

80

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

4

WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT?

Golf Plan & Associates

WHAT WAS THE YEAR OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION?

1999 to 2001

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR MAINTENANCE SHOP?

3000 sq. ft.

WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Toro Decoder - 1 year

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

Greens: 130,000 sq ft,

Tees: 120,000 sq ft,

Fairways: 30 acres, 45 acres rough

WHAT IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GRASS?

Bentgrass and Dwarf Bluegrass

HOW MANY USGA GREENS AND HOW MANY LOAM GREENS?

USGA: 19 - Loam Greens: 0

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT SOIL TYPE?

Sandy

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE IN INVENTORY?

2 Jacobsen GreensKing IV Triplex
Greens Mowers

2 Jacobsen Model LF128 Lightweight
Fairway

1 Jacobsen PGM22" Walking Greens
Mower

2 Jacobsen 1900D TriKing Triplex
Trim Mower

1 Ransomes 723 Outfront Rotary
Mower

1 Smithco Easy Rider Sand Trap Rake

1 Plow Blade for Sand Rank

1 Ryan GA24 Aerator

2 Cushman Model 662 Turf Trucksters

1 Smithco 225 Gallon Spray System

1 Cushman TD1500 Top Dresser

1 1-1/2 Tonne Dump Wagon

2 Jacobsen Model 1110 Utility Turf
Vehicles

1 Lastec 721XR-7 Gang PTO driven
Rotary Mower

1 Greensgroomer Top Dressing Brush

1 Foley Model Accu-60 Manual
Bedknife Grinder

1 Foley Model Accu-Pro Automatic
Spin Relief G

1 Ryan Jr. 18" Sod Cutter

1 Ford TC35 Tractor

1 Ryan Jr. 18" Sod Cutter

1 Ford TC35 Tractor

1 45 HP Oliver Tractor

50 Club Car gas carts

3 Club Car utility carts

3 Point hitch fertilizer spreader

Sod roller

1 Rotavator

Roller spiker

3 String trimmers

1 21" Push mower

1 21" Hover mower

1 38" Garden tractor

COURSE PROJECTS

WHAT PROJECTS HAVE YOU RECENTLY COMPLETED?
Construction of course

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Survive!



Hole #2

Ontario Turf Symposium 2002

by Dorothy Hills
Photos by Mark Prieur

The OTS, being held three weeks later than the usual, immediately following New Years, appeared to be a tremendous success. Unusually good attendance may have been due to the timing change with children back in classes, and the inordinate mild temperatures. Many of our members not only attended but were also active as speakers and chairpersons.

OGSA was on hand, with their booth and website set up for display and comment, in the Banyan Lounge with the other Associations. Traffic was particularly heavy and we were able to talk with many prospective members and existing members. Thanks for dropping by.

O.G.S.A. Annual Meeting

John Gravett chaired the annual general meeting and smoothly directed the proceedings on Wednesday, January 23rd. As voting members had previously submitted committee reports well in advance of the meeting, each director briefly highlighted some key components of their portfolio.

Thanks to Ian Bowen for conducting the Annual Election, in which nominees Jeff Alexander from Parry Sound Golf & Country Club and Greg O'Heron from Peterborough Golf & Country Club were elected to Office. We take this opportunity to welcome Jeff and Greg to the Board of Directors. Previous Directors and Executive up for re-election, Jim Flett, Mark Piccolo and Bob Burrows, were re-elected for another two year term.

The highlight of the meeting was the announcement of the 2002 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary. This is an Assistant Superintendent Professional Development Award. The OGSA and the Kirkpatrick family have developed this bursary to recognize the effort and commitment of Assistant Superintendents. This is an annual award to be given to a chosen OGSA member Assistant Superintendent for the purpose of furthering industry related education and training. The bursary will be awarded based on the decision of the sub committee. Applications will be made available soon, so watch your mailings and website for further details.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dick Kirkpatrick and the Kirkpatrick family for providing the seed money to make the *Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary* possible.



John Gravett turning over the Presidency to Jim Flett

Our outgoing Directors were presented with a plaque by John Gravett. Dave Cours, Jeff Burgess and Dean Baker were recognized for their dedication and service on the OGSA Board.



Top L-R: Greg O'Heron, Paul Scenna, Jeff Stauffer, Rob Ackermann, Randy Booker, Jeff Alexander, Mike Courneya, Dorothy Hills (office admin.) John Gravett, Jim Flett, Sean DeSilva, Mark Piccolo
(Bob Burrows missing from photo)

2002 Executive and Board of Directors

Past President, John Gravett

President, Jim Flett

Vice President, Mark Piccolo

Treasurer, Rob Ackermann

Secretary, Paul Scenna

Directors:

Bob Burrows,
Jeff Stauffer,
Randy Booker,
Mike Courneya,
Sean DeSilva,
Jeff Alexander and
Greg O'Heron

5th Annual O.G.S.A. President's Reception

The President's reception, an ever popular membership social event, in the Patio Ball Room, immediately followed the Annual General Meeting. The official part of the meeting included an introduction to the 2001 board of directors and presentation of the following awards.

25 Year Members

Jim Flett presented plaques to honour our long standing members.

Ted Hartwell of Hartwell/ Muskoka Mists and Graham Shouldice of Highland Country Club received 25 year plaques. Alan Shantz and C.W. "Shorty" Jenkins, were recipients of Life Member Plaques. Shorty was called away on business and was not present.



L-R Ted Hartwell, Jim Flett, Graham Shouldice, Alan Shantz

2001 OGSA Heritage Scholarship

Mike Courneya, our Education Director presented Lindsey Dick with a plaque in recognition of her scholastic accomplishments and as recipient of the 2001 Annual Heritage Award. Along with the plaque Lindsey has received a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to further her education. Lindsey is the daughter of Dick and Cherlyn Dick of Pro Turf/Nugro. Lindsey is attending Brock University where she is taking a BA Honours program in "Child and Youth Studies" She says, "I hope to receive my honours and Education degree concurrently. It is a specialized program related to elementary education for which I feel my many past experiences have truly prepared me!"

Congratulations Lindsey, and good luck on all your future endeavours.



Lindsey Dick accepting the Heritage award from Mike Courneya



Tyler Patroch accepting the Turfgrass Award from Mike Courneya

2001 OGSA Turfgrass Scholarship

Tyler Patroch is the recipient of the Turfgrass Award Plaque, together with a cheque in the amount of \$1,000.00 to help further his education. Tyler is currently enrolled in the University of

Guelph's diploma in horticulture program and is employed with Forest City National Golf Club. Upon graduating, his goal is to further his education by attending seminars, short courses and eventually upgrading his status to Master Superintendent through the CGSA and becoming certified through the GCSAA. Tyler has recently become a member of the OGSA.

Congratulations Tyler on your accomplishments!

2001 Turfgrass Short Course Award

Mark Halloway was the recipient of the short course award of \$200.00 in June of 2001, with the highest overall average of 91%. Mark was not at the reception

2001 Green Is Beautiful Article of the Year Award and Photo of the Year Award

Green Is Beautiful editor, Jeff Stauffer was on hand to announce the winner of the Article of the Year Award and Photo of the Year Award. Unfortunately, the recipients were unable to attend the reception and no photos are available.

The Barry Endicott Article of the Year Award went to Dean Baker for his article "Tiger Mania Comes to Glen Abbey" which appeared in the December 2001 issue.

The Photo of the Year Award went to Jeff Parker for his photo of Fort William Country Club, which appeared in the Golf Course Highlight Feature in the December 2001 issue.

In addition to the plaques each recipient will receive a letter from Dean Cormach on behalf of Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment, advising them that \$250.00 each would be donated in their name to the OGSA Turf Research Fund

We would like to congratulate Dean and Jeff on their awards and for their active participation in our publication, Green Is Beautiful. We also would like to thank Vanden Bussche Irrigation for recognizing the importance of Green is Beautiful to our members and for their generous contribution to our Turf Research Programme.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the 5th Annual President's Reception. Without their support, this would not have been possible. Thank you!

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The rebirth of Bigwin Island

by Scott Heron

*Superintendent at Bigwin Island Golf Club near Huntsville, Ontario, Canada
GCSAA member for 6 years & 7 year OGSA member*



Hole #3

*T*he magnificent Bigwin Inn, once billed as North America's largest and most luxurious summer resort, halted operation almost three decades ago. Once a playground of the rich and famous, the Inn has stood empty for 30 years. Bigwin Island, near Huntsville, Ontario, Canada, was named after a noted Ojibway warrior and hunter, Chief Joseph Big Wind, who lived a short distance from the island in the first half of the 20th century. The island was used as a trading post for beaver, marten, bear and raccoon pelts.

In 1911 C.O. Shaw and John McKee bought 562 acres of Bigwin Island for \$3,000. John Wilson, of Collingwood, Ontario, designed the Bigwin Inn with Shaw, to make it enormous, luxurious and fireproof, but there were many delays due to World War I. Most of the construction was done during the winter, moving the equipment and material and workers across the ice to the island. On June 26, 1920, the 55,000 square foot dodecagon shaped building opened its doors for business. There was no smoking or drinking, and covered walkways connected all

formal entrances to the resort, which were built by German prisoners of war. On July 1, 1922, the golf course designed by renowned Canadian architect Stanley Thompson opened for play. The original golf course closed in 1970.

The Bigwin Island team

Back in the late eighties, Alan Peters and a group of investors bought the Island. About ten years ago, Jack Wadsworth, an American businessman, purchased a stake in the partnership and began a study to see if the island could support another golf club. The Wadsworth family has spent summers in Muskoka, Ontario, since 1904. In 1992 Wadsworth bought Port Cunningham Lodge, located on the mainland a half mile from the northeast end of Bigwin Island



Hole #5

Wadsworth hired KPMG Golf Practice, under the direction of Stephen Johnston, to do a feasibility study and business plan for the proposed golf project. KPMG also acted in an advisory capacity throughout the construction period.

The Golf course is situated on a 670 acre island on Lake of Bays near Muskoka. It is 1 mile from shore on one side, and only a 1,000 feet from shore on the other side. The island has more than 200 feet of elevation change and a dense stand of hardwood trees. The north side of the island is where we bring all of the supplies by barge to the island.

Golf course architect Doug Carrick was hired to design the course to be one of Canada's best. Carrick's past designs include Angus Glen in Markham, Ontario, (Golf Digest's 1995 Best New Course) and King Valley in King City, Ontario, (Golf Digest's 1991 Best New Course), Carrick has done renovations at some of Canada's best golf clubs, including Capilano Golf and Country Club, Toronto Golf Club, Weston Golf and Country Club, Rosedale Golf Club and many more. Doug Carrick designed

Bigwin, a Par 72, to range from 5,400 yards to 7,200 yards. We have four sets of tee decks on every hole, there are 3 acres of tees, 3 acres of greens, 42 acres of fairways and 80 acres of rough. The greens were seeded to Providence 1019 & 1119. Pennncross, Pennneagle and Providence were used on tees and fairways.

I have been very fortunate to have worked in the golf business for 19 years, and have worked for some of the best superintendents in the business. I have an associate's degree from Penn State University and also completed the golf course technician program at Seneca College in King City, Ontario. I was involved with construction at three different golf courses in two countries, was an assistant at two courses and assisted with the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

Bigwin's director of golf is Paul Kennedy, a Class A member of the Canadian PGA. He was previously director of golf at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario, for 16 years. He also qualified for the Canadian Open five times.

The coordination of all contracts regarding course and clubhouse are handled by Alan Peters, with assistance and guidance of KPMG.

Our goal was to build a high-end, private golf club which opened June 30, 2001.

Beginning of the project

There are many trials, tribulations and headaches involved with building a golf course on an island. When construction started, we could still see the pushup greens and small tees from the original course, with more than 30 years of tree growth throughout the fairways.

In March 1999, I was dropped off on the island. When I moved into my 12-by-12 room in a 1930s condominium with 500-foot hallways and red carpet, I couldn't help but think I was in the movie the "Shining." Island life is definitely not everyone's cup of tea. Eventually, I got used to bringing my groceries from the car to the boat then into the golf cart then to my room on the third floor by stairs.

In the winter of 1999, we started cleaning and grubbing trees on the island. The summer of 1999 was relatively dry. With a shortage of equipment and personnel, we had a great deal of work started but completed very little before winter was upon us. When the contractor left we had a golf course that was mostly exposed soil. I stayed on the island all winter to monitor snow melt and water runoff. We had areas identified to store water once the suspended soil had settled. The water then could be released to the lake. There were five pumps in operation, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during certain times in February and March 2000.

As a construction superintendent, I oversaw the plans and installation of the drainage and irrigation systems, seed types, staff, hydro and potable water. I also coordinated with contractors on fertilizer preplants, blow out drains for bunkers, greens mix, finish grading, etc. Obtaining equipment quotes and assessing the types of equipment needed was also a large aspect of my work. In addition, I selected maintenance, chemical buildings, bridges, etc.

A very important top soil screening operation took place on the island and was ongoing over the past two years. We stripped all native soil and screened it before placing it back on finished grade. Doug Armour of Aqua Turf Canada (formally Holmes Irrigation) was the contractor who installed our Toro LTC Plus irrigation system. They did an excellent job and were able to meet all of our demands. The system began working Sept. 2, 1999. It took us from Aug. 20 until Sept. 1 to complete a run of 1,200 feet of 8-inch and 12-inch pipe from the pumphouse to join up to the course because we ran into bedrock and had to do a considerable amount of blasting. Due to all of the rock, we put bedding sand in and around all of our irrigation pipe and heads.



Barge for all materials

Island logistics (barging and boating)

To bring equipment and materials to the island, we used a barge that is 55-feet long, 24-feet wide and has a capacity of 80 tons. We had to supply two people to run the barge 12 hours a day, five to six days a week. Preventative maintenance of this piece of equipment is absolutely one of the most important parts of the operation. When we were sodding during the summer we were laying 7,200 rolls a day. It seemed everyday the sod came it was 90 degrees Fahrenheit, which made it tough to keep up with hand watering because we do not have irrigation in the rough. Over the past two years we have delivered approximately 3,500 loads by barge. In 1999, we brought more than 1,000 loads of various products, and in 2000 it was approximately 2,500 loads. In 2000 some examples of loads were 18,000 tons of green mix, 5,000 tons of bunker sand, 8,000 tons of gravel, 2,500 tons of asphalt and 21,000 tons of sand for two fairways. It was a scheduling nightmare dealing with the golf course construction needs and the club house construction. Most days three dump trucks waited on the mainland for the barge to help speed up the production and reduce time that the barge was docked. The fuel cost alone to run the barge is approximately \$115 a day, but it's a very exciting piece of equipment to operate. One day the barge operator didn't show, and I had to take the controls. I brought over a road grader, concrete trucks and bunker sand. I guess now I can add barge operator to my resume.

The first load of fertilizer took 4 1/2 hours to get from the mainland to the island. We had to unload the truck on the mainland, load it on the barge, then deliver it to the island, unload and return for more. However, this was only four skids of fertilizer; I wouldn't let this happen again. Now when we order fertilizer, we specify the truck and the amount of the load, and the truck rides on the barge over to the island to unload then goes back, and it only takes me 5 minutes to sign the packing slip.

Unusual situations

Working on an island can produce some unique challenges. One day we had to waste concrete. There were five trucks waiting on the mainland, when a local decided to protest the new barge landing on the island and didn't let us enter the barge landing. There were many occasions with boats stalling in the middle of the lake, and we had to paddle to shore. Have you ever been lost in the fog going to work? We were lost one morning and couldn't find the island for 45 minutes.

Every spring and fall, getting back and forth to the island is a major chore. We have a snowmobile and two airboats (go on

water and ice) during the dangerous winter periods. One day in early spring 2000 when there was water on the shores and ice in the middle of the lake, we came down after work to find our airboat in the middle of the lake. The airboat had been parked on the beach not tied up and drifted away. There we were only two of us on the island at the time and the other person had never driven a boat before. We had to borrow a boat, drive out to the airboat and jump from the boat to the airboat and drive both back to shore.

In late winter, we were doing our daily rounds and noticed that the barge was floating away from the island. Rick, the irrigation technician, and I had only our tree climber's rope and quickly made a lasso, throwing it several times to try to catch the cleat on the front of the barge. We

managed somehow to catch it and were able to pull it to shore and secure it properly. Just one of the many unusual occurrences of island golf.

How would you like to be on an island with one staff member and are out of gas to fill the pumps used to regulate water flow from the golf course into the lake? We faced this problem during the winter of 2000.



Airboat transportation

We still had eight weeks before we could get the barge in the water to bring fuel. We investigated using a helicopter, but that was too expensive. All we had for equipment at the time was a tractor, backhoe, and four-wheeler and two golf cars. So, we had the fuel company bring us four, 45-gallon drums of fuel to the mainland. Rick and I used an old fertilizer skid, a rope used for climbing trees and a four-wheeler, and dragged one barrel at a time over the ice in mid March. After learning the hard way, we have planned better this year and now have three times more fuel than we expect to use through the winter. Our maintenance facility is heated by propane, so we got an oversized tank to make sure that we had more than enough propane to heat the shop during the winter.

In the winter of 2000, we had to find enough pumps to maintain water run off levels. We have a pump system on hole 18 that pumps all the surface water and drainage water from a holding area to the driving range, where it is filtered before it enters the

cont'd on page 23

Off the fairway

by Daisy Moore



When people ask you "what do you do in the winter?", what do you say? Rather than looking at them in horror, the correct response might be that you don't know how

you'd cope without the winter. Since the demands are so great during the growing season, the winter is a necessary time to look back and review what you did and why and learn from that. It is a time to take in new ideas and approaches so that fresh ideas and solutions emerge. Take advantage of the winter months to read and listen to thought provoking ideas. As we approach spring, get ready to sweep cobwebs away and get the creative juices flowing.

To officially kick myself into gear, I attended the Landscape Ontario congress in early January. I flowed systematically up and down the rows and tried to take in as much as possible. Where I started, I found myself in an odd mixture of machinery and boutiques offering decorative garden hardware. This was interesting but I could barely wait to get to the part of the show where I am the most comfortable and familiar: the growers, the fertilizer companies and the horticultural suppliers involved with growth. These are my roots and I'm very glad I have them.

I discovered some things that I want to talk to my radio show listeners about. I had an inquiry about potting soil, so I chatted with George White from All-Treat Farms. He gave me a brief run down on all the different soil products they carry and what they are useful for. It is amazing how much you learn when you ask the question. Packaging information can be very confusing for home gardeners and sometimes they need someone to just tell them what they need to know, what's the bottom line?

Trade shows are useful for networking and finding the people in the know. I found a new source of information about the exotic, tropical plants that people won't be able to resist wanting to grow. 'Brugmansia', sometimes known as Angel's trumpet, will be the next big hit in the garden, I predict. This is classified as a patio plant because it is planted in a pot and brought indoors for the winter. The patio is also the perfect spot for it. It grows 3-6 feet tall, in an umbrella shape and is dripping with yellow trumpet-shaped flowers. I am now prepared for the "where did I go wrong?" questions from those who didn't find its culture as easy as promised.

I chose to attend the show on the day when the seminar 'Designing Ideas' was being presented by Julie Moir Messervy. I knew she would give me lots to talk to my golf course clients about. She is known for her collaboration with the famous cellist, Yo-Yo Ma in the creation of the

Toronto Music Garden. She is also an author with her most circulated book being 'The Inward Garden'. This might not seem to have any connection to golf courses, but to create a successful garden anywhere, it is important to understand what people like, what they like to look at, and what makes them feel comfortable. For example, patios are more intimate when they are enclosed by a hedge. People won't want to sit down and linger if there is no hedge and planters because they will feel exposed. Things like Brugmansia can be added as focal points to look at once someone's settled and stopped to look. Messervy talked about contemplative places and how the landscape affects your feeling of security. In a way, this means that we should be providing a garden experience at each tee for the golfer to ponder their next shot!

The Landscape Ontario show was a great beginning to the process which begins in the winter and that is the creation of new ideas and the plans to implement them. I look forward to all of the meetings and seminars teed up during the winter months and allowing these influences to shape what I do and say in my various horticultural roles.

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

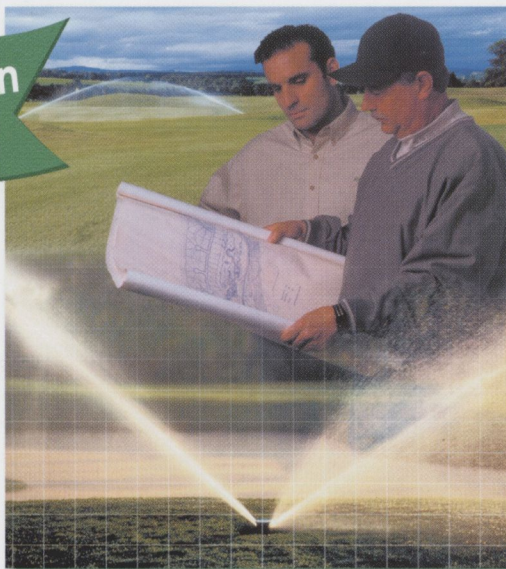
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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF MEDIA RELATIONS

Follow these tips to improve media coverage of your business, profession, project or cause.

by David Leonhardt

Mr. Leonhardt spoke at the O.T.S. on "Defining a Positive Media Message". For those of you who were unable to get to his talk, he has briefly outlined some important points to remember when talking with the media.

Have you ever seen somebody interviewed on television and thought, "No, that's not how this industry works"? Have you ever faced criticism in the media of how you manage your turf?

The media act as a filter for society. It is the battleground in the war of public opinion. After 3,000 media interviews, I've learned a few things about the media. What follows are the Ten Commandments of Media Relations. They will lead you to greener pastures – and golf courses – in the war for public opinion, and boost your credibility among potential clients and the public.

1. Thou shalt not waste a journalist's time. Believe it or not, journalists are busy people. Editors wade through hundreds of news releases each day. Reporters struggle to assemble a story by deadline. The whole team works to edit for space or time, check spelling and grammar, choose headlines and visuals, and bring it all together. Send a news release only when you really have something to announce. When calling a journalist, make it short and sweet; give the journalist the information he needs and respect his time as you would want yours respected.

2. Thou shalt build relationships with reporters. Of my three strategies to attract media attention, this is the one most likely to give you recurring benefits. This is the fertiliser that can make an "expert" out of you in the public's mind. And the one that gives you the heads up when a future trouble spot is brewing in the media. In my online Make some NOISE! course, I propose a four-step process to build relationships with journalists. This takes some effort – and like every other relationship, it has to be built on trust.

3. Thou shalt stick to thy message. This seems obvious, but so often media spokespeople fail to stick to their messages. For instance, if your statement is about the quality of turf at your course, focus on quality. Don't try to also sneak in messages about the environment, your expanding market share, or some award your course has won. (And it is not your responsibility to defend pesticide companies, or anybody else, just how you handle pesticides responsibly.) Define your message, and make sure

everything you say supports that message. Similarly, if a journalist tries to put words in your mouth or get you to wander away from your message, don't let her get away with it. Sand isn't the only trap. Answer the question in a way that bridges back to your message.

4. Thou shalt not be a dead end. So the reporter calls you with a question you cannot answer. Should you hang up? If you are a reporter's dead end, she'll be unlikely to call you up again. If you can't answer her question, refer her to someone who can (preferably not a competitor). So if a reporter asks a question about residential lawn care, refer them to someone who is an expert in that field. Or promise to call her back with the information. Or give her some other information that may be useful for her story. But don't send her away empty handed.

5. Thou shalt not advertise. Is the media there to provide you with free advertising? No way. It's there to deliver news to its audience. Erase from your mind the attitude that you are advertising. Don't write news releases to sound like marketing pieces. Don't speak to the camera as if you were taping a commercial. The credibility media coverage gives you comes from the fact that it is NOT advertising. And journalists will feel no responsibility to do your marketing for you.

6. Thou shalt not have another spokesperson. This is the only NEVER I offer in my online course and in my live seminars. NEVER let someone else be your spokesperson. It's fine to hire someone to write and distribute a news release or to set up interviews, but nobody else carries your credibility in the media. It has to be you. Your expertise is golf turf management. A P.R. firm's expertise is P.R. Guess which one the reporter will trust when seeking expert advice on golf courses.

7. Thou shalt comment. So a reporter asks a negative or embarrassing question. What do you do? Avoid saying, "No comment." No answer you can give will look worse in the media than a report that you refused to comment. Provide an answer in your own words; don't repeat a reporter's negative answer. Say as much as you can. Explain why you cannot divulge more (client confidentiality, the information will be announced later, etc.) When confronted with bad news, the best thing to do is what the makers of Tylenol did in 1982 and 1985. The company pre-empted media questions about the dangers of some poisoned tablets by announcing the safety steps it was taking.

8. Thou shalt shout "fore". If you want the media to cover your story, give them notice. They need time to reserve a camera. They need time to do background checks and find other sources to comment. Making last minute announcements is not a good way to cut naysayers out of the story. It is a great way to kill the story. The "naysayers" give the story balance – and without balance, the journalist has no story. When my book, *Climb your Stairway to Heaven: the 9 habits of maximum happiness*, was nearing its publishing date, I sent out an advance notice to reviewers. I sent out a reminder note again that the publishing date was fast approaching.

9. Thou shalt not fake it. Here's an interesting scenario. The reporter asks you a question. You don't know the answer. Do you try to fake it or do you just admit you don't know the answer? A former boss of mine answered a question incorrectly before a parliamentary committee, when he knew he had no idea what the right answer was, leaving me to pull up his weeds. You are more impressive saying, "I don't have those statistics in front of me, but here's what I do know ..." than to prove to the world that you don't have a clue what you're talking about.

10. Thou shalt piggyback. Wow! You received great coverage in the morning paper. But did the local radio station see the story? They did if you forwarded a copy. Did all your potential clients see the story? Make sure they do. I was impressed by a marketing kit I received from a high-end caterer. I opened the folder, and there I was faced with two items: a letter of introduction and a pair of press clippings. What about other things you do? Do you have a newsletter? Have you added key media contacts to the distribution list? What about a home page on your web site? Do you advise the media when you make major changes? Piggybacking means getting more for your efforts. It's one of several bonus tips I offer in my online course.

Now that you've read this article, are you ready to become a media spokesperson? Well, there's still a lot more to learn. But this article does give the most important information you need to know – the Ten Commandments of Media Relations.

For a copy of David Leonhardt's special report *Get In The News*, send \$15, or for the video *It's your message*. That's what counts, send \$25 to 417-711 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, M5G 2J8. Or visit him at www.leonhardttonline.com.



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LUCKY #13 – OSC / NUTRITE SEMINAR

By Alex La Belle CGCS - Paris Golf & Country Club
Photos provided by Dave Schmelfske, O.S.C.

Ontario Seed Company and Nutrite have co-sponsored another successful annual seminar for many members of the turfgrass industry on November 29, 2001. This informative seminar and delicious lunch was held at Westmount Golf and Country Club, in Kitchener. This annual event is provided for their customers in appreciation for supporting their companies and the products they offer. Participation has steadily increased to the point where the attendance was over 200 people, representing 130 golf courses as well as sod growers, landscapers, golf course contractors, and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Mr. Andy Galer, the assistant superintendent of Westmount, welcomed all the participants. Andy had a challenging year on the greens this year after the untimely demise of Hugh Kirkpatrick, the longtime superintendent of Westmount. Hughie certainly would have been proud of Andy's accomplishments this year. It was Andy's pleasure to introduce the new superintendent, Mr. Cory Janzen. Cory took over the position in early October, after several years at the Toronto Board of Trade Golf Course. Dave Schmelfske of OSC spoke for a few minutes about Hugh and how he will be missed both personally and professionally.

It certainly was a year with record occurrences of drought and high temperatures; a complete turnaround from the record rain-falls of 2000. Appropriately one of the seminars took us through the "New Provincial Initiatives" for low water management in Ontario, offered by Chris Crozier, senior engineer of Burnside Golf Services. It was an eye opener, explaining the different criteria used to determine the three levels of emergency. Chris also addressed how long it takes to move from one level to the next and who/what

is affected. Now is a perfect opportunity for the members of the turfgrass industry to become pro-active and assist Water Response Team to interpret the water policy laid down by the MNR. Greg Aljoe, of Deer Ridge Golf Club, has already begun the process of liaison with the Grand River Conservation Authority to facilitate ways in which the various golf courses, that draw upon the Grand River, might be able to communicate with one another to coordinate their use of this precious resource in a controlled and balanced manner. Communication, coupled with automation seems to be a key - relationship.



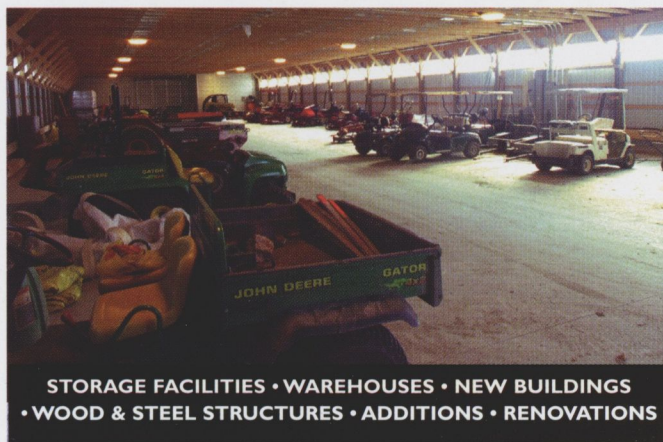
L-R Dave Cours, Cory Janzen, Phil Brown - Panel Discussion



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Being pro-active was also the message from John Gravett, of the Granite Club, with regards to the recurring nightmare of pesticide regulation and the attempts to ban pesticides throughout the province and indeed the country. Recent rulings by the Supreme Court in Quebec served as a wake-up call to the industry and a rallying point for environmentalists who show up with sprinkler hats and programmed children reading poetry, bemoaning the end of life on earth. The response is: be respectful, speak to the issues, state the truth and you may even want to compliment the others on their "nice hats". The issue of pesticide use/control/bans affects agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, employment, taxes: it affects more than the turfgrass industry alone.

It is up to us to educate the public and especially the councillors who depend upon reason and input to make a decision that affects the majority rather than minority special interests. Jerry Richard, of Craigowen Golf Club, attended the London area meeting and he saw personally the emotional tactics used by the anti-pesticide lobby, sprinkler hats and all. The message from the lawyers in attendance was that they weren't even sure whether it was within their scope to ban substances, which were already approved through legislation. The final decision was to adopt a strategy that we are all familiar with and that is IPM, Integrated Pest Management. We all know what IPM is, but many of those in attendance did not realize that such a strategy or practice existed. This is where we fall flat on our faces! Everyone should be made aware of what we take for granted and the special talents/training/education that we possess! Let your councillors know that we are licensed, that we employ Integrated Pest Management and Best Management Practices regularly. We have to show that cosmetics are a consequence or byproduct of environmental and personal health. Insecticides are for control of cutworm as well as West Nile Virus, and if you lose it for one or the registration lapses then there are wider repercussions. Herbicides are sometimes the most effective way to control erosion and loss of valuable topsoil and if the aesthetics improve as a result then that's a bonus!

The OSC/NUTRITE Seminar series has always presented topics that flow seamlessly from one aspect of the business to the other. Just as low water management flowed to pesticide regulation, so too did Marie Pompei's talk on "Selecting Turf Varieties for Superior Golf Course Turf." Her talk demonstrated ways in which Jacklin Golf (SEEDS) has been busy with improved varieties of turfgrasses that grow better in shade, require less water and withstand drought, traffic and insect stresses. These are stories that should be remembered and repeated to show our commitment to lower and lower usage of pesticides.

The opening speaker certainly is no stranger to us. An entertaining and riveting speaker, Dr. Frank Rossi, of Cornell University, made his third appearance in the past five years to bring us up to date on the latest findings on putting green nutrition and environmental issues as they pertain to golf courses. Dr. Rossi was identified by Golf Magazine as one of North America's most influential people in golf, under the age of forty. Many interesting changes occur when



you start cutting grass as low as the Cornell research green at .065 inches!! Don't try this at home! It obviously results from the newer varieties of bentgrass that have as many as 375 plants per unit area versus old pennncross' 75 plants. It was found that with adequate quantities of K & P, nitrogen increase was the controlling factor in changing the tissue quantities of the other two major nutrients. So, is it necessary to use balanced fertilizers if a mere increase in the nitrogen

applied would accomplish the desired result of increasing potassium uptake for example? Did you realize that, in foliar feeding, only 30-60% is absorbed through the leaf and that 15% is lost through volatilization? Did you know that a ten-fold increase in the C.E.C. only yields a 17 % increase in growth or that an increase from 2 pounds per thousand to 5 pounds per thousand only increased the leaching potential by 1.0%? Did you know that Poa annua roots don't grow deeper than 4 inches or that including thatch in the soil samples increases the nutrient content as much as 3 or 4 times that of the soil alone? Were you aware that there are three tests, the Bray 1, Olsen and Mehlich III tests for soil nutrient levels and that the Mehlich III tests uses higher values? These are just a few examples of the information that can be absorbed from this valuable seminar series.

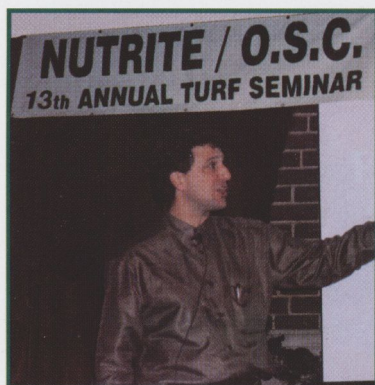
Dr. Rossi was also critical of the sugar supplements in various "Fairy Dust" products, suggesting that the sugar served more as a food source for microbes by altering the C:N ration enough to allow the little critters to increase metabolism thus allowing nitrogen reduction to occur more quickly? Be sure to double check on these observations by accessing the Cornell Website. The day ended with a lively panel discussion led by four superintendents: Dave Cours of Erie Shores Golf Club, Cory Janzen of Westmount Golf & Country Club, Rhod Trainor of Hamilton Golf Club (site of the 2003 Canadian Open) and Phil Brown from the Summit Golf Club. Greg Aljoe, superintendent from Deer Ridge, Kitchener, was the moderator. The panel discussion was terrific, allowing all in attendance to ask questions, express opinions and receive well-considered responses to serious questions.

It was a great day, sponsored by well respected and hospitable people. Appreciation should also be shown to the many co-sponsors.

Thank you OSC/ NUTRITE, and we look forward to next year's seminar!

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Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University

Curling Anyone?

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North Halton Golf and Country Club is once again hosting a curling day for all those interested.



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Time: 12 Noon Start

Host: Dean Baker

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Lake of Bays. In 1999-2000, we didn't have such equipment so we had to bring the pumps over in a canoe towed behind a four-wheeler.

Hydropower is something that I took for granted before working on an island. On the island the power supply is old and frequently goes off, which is a major inconvenience. We didn't have hydropower, water or a shop until August 2000. Now, we have a generator that automatically comes on when we get a power failure and will run for three days on one tank of diesel.

Scheduling, getting to work

We have employees that come from both sides of the island, which can be a huge scheduling nightmare. The south side of the island is farther from the shop, so they must leave the mainland exactly 20 minutes before their shifts start or they miss work for the day. The north side of the island staff must leave the mainland 15 minutes prior to their scheduled shift. We must make sure that there are at least two boats at all times on each side of the island, during the season.

The maintenance shop is close to the barge landing so that deliveries can be made easily. We have fought long and hard, but finally won the battle to build staff accommodations on the island. The cost of living on the lake is very expensive in the summer months, and we prefer staff to be able to stay on the island. This will help us to hire and maintain better quality staff.

In spite of all the hardships, this has been a wonderful experience. The Island is home to an abundance of wildlife, clean air, wonderful view, much history and unusual challenges. I do not think that I will ever be in the same situation again. I would like



Hole #14

to thank my father Bob Heron, CGCS at Beacon Hall Golf Club, for guiding me along the way and the KPMG Golf team for its support throughout the project. I was really excited to see the course open last year. Everyday has been an adventure!

The logistics of building a golf course on an island is not for the faint of heart.

However, I believe this golf course, will be one of the finest in Canada. Doug Carrick has built a supreme test of golf, an enjoyable experience for all golfers and the beauty of it all is beyond description. Despite the problems and pain that this project has caused the entire team, the end result has been worth it.

This article was originally written for Golf Course Management magazine and will be included in a future issue.

O.G.S.A. Calendar of events 2002

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Wed., Mar. 13th: | Curling Day — North Halton Golf &CC |
| Mon., Apr. 29th: | Border Cities - Can/Am — Detroit Golf Club |
| Mon., June 24th: | Spring Field Day — GTI & Victoria Park GC East |
| Thurs., May 16th: | Pro Super — Wooden Sticks |
| Mon., July 15th: | Presidents' Day — Thornhill CC |
| Tues., August 20th: | OTRF Fund Raising Tournament — Royal Woodbine Golf Club
(this is not an OGSA event - contact OTRF for details (Cindy Charters at 416-234-0425)) |
| Mon., October 7th: | Alex McClumpha Memorial Tourn — Weston Golf &CC |

For current, up-to-date information on these events and other Association events check out "Calendar of Events" in our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca. Information will be posted there as it becomes available

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Conestoga Golf Course

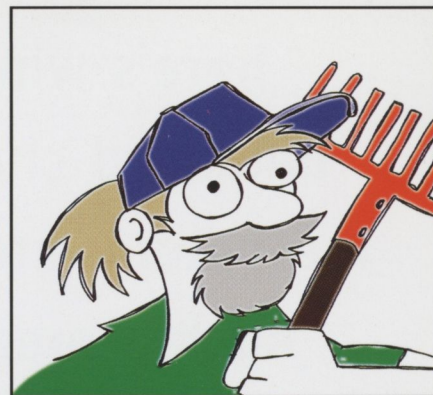
I once watched the highlights of golf from the Yukon on TV. That's right, the Yukon. The "Midnight Sun" tournament is played annually on the longest day of the year. Now, historically, there have been some strange celebrations on the summer solstice. The Incas in Peru used to sacrifice hundreds and hundreds of guinea pigs, the Druids in ancient Britain would dance buck naked around the stonehenge, and in Whitehorse, they play golf.

There are 24 hours of daylight up there around the 21st of June, and they tee off at midnight and play until breakfast time. There are only two months of the year when turf will grow at all, so the greens and tees are artificial. The rest of the course is beach sand and every golfer carries a tiny chunk of driving range mat from which the ball is struck. A perfect lie every time, but zero roll, and all the sand your Nikes can hold. The Superintendent painstakingly maintains a twenty foot ring of real turf around each green and, as if this wouldn't already be the toughest grass in Canada to grow, there is a golf cart parked right on the narrow strip of apron in every camera shot. The only real turf within a thousand miles and they still have to drive between the bunker and the green.

There are lots of unusual courses out there. In the deserts of the Middle East, where one of my eight million cousins works for an oil drilling firm. He plays on a course which is 100% sand. There is no putting, you simply chip the ball into an old tire to finish the hole.

The sand greens of the northern prairies were once commonplace throughout the world, but due to improvements in turfgrass varieties, they are now found only under the most extreme conditions. Could you imagine trying to get permission from the Ministry of the Environment to pour gallon after gallon of used motor oil on packed sand until it looked like asphalt? I am told by the few people either geographically or chronologically challenged enough to have played one of these environmental nightmares, that it makes a good putting surface. I know a guy who tried to make a driveway that way and ended up with a \$50,000 bill for the cleanup.

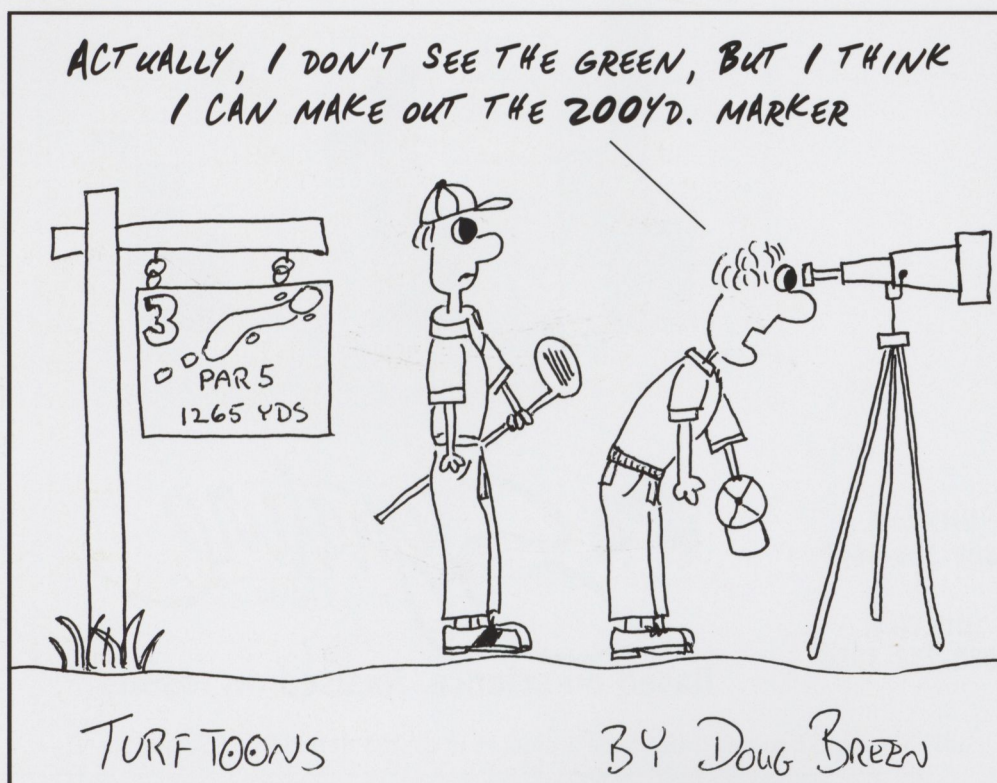
There are also courses with 12 holes, 20 holes, 11 holes, holes that cross each other and holes with multiple greens. There are chip and putts under 1800 yards and courses so long that you need to camp out overnight because it's a two day hike to the halfway house. In the original layout here at



Conestoga, there was a 666 yard, par 5 and the locals can still name every one of the handful of golfers who ever shot par on it.

Which brings us to skiing. Stay with the tour, folks, I know where I'm going. Fifty years ago, there was a tremendous variety in the style and substance of ski clubs. Like golf at the time, they were mostly private clubs where the size and affluence of the membership dictated how the operation was run. Some were little more than toboggan hills with a shack for warming up. Others were exclusive mountain resorts which rivaled their European counterparts. Eventually, the technology of snow-making came along and everything changed. The revenue of public skiers was required and smaller operations became extinct. Now, two generations later, all ski clubs look exactly the same. The same lifts, the same groomers, the same Swiss Chalet chalets, the same ratio of hard to easy runs, and the same percentage of hills dedicated to knuckle dragging, baggy pants, falling down, snowboarders.

My point, and I do have one, is that ski clubs are now designed and operated with the freedom of a McDonald's franchise. The bad news is that golf is not too far behind. The great golf architects were not concerned with what some marketing weasel felt was the template for a marketable course in the regional demographic socio-economic schism. He was an artist who went out and found the course that was hiding in an empty field or river valley. Few would support building a 15 hole course now, or a hole nearly 700 yards long, or a par 65 and I, for one, think the game is the worse for it. My hat is off to the bold visionaries who dare to be different and build away from the cookie cutter courses that are becoming ubiquitous. Kudos to the greens committees with the sense to leave their 'quirky' holes alone so that the next generation of players will have the diversity of courses to play that we presently enjoy. Variety truly is the spice of golf.



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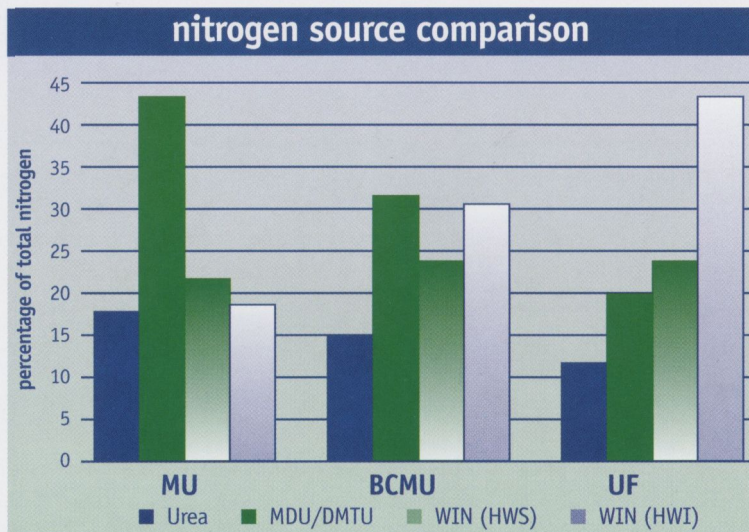
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Looking back

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott,
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

In 1967 the directors of the OGSA were: **Bob Moote** [pres.], **Dave Gourlay** [vice], **Bill Hynd** [sec.], **Dave Moote**, **Gord Witteveen**, **I. Williamson**, **John Grightmire**, **Whitey Jones**, **Jim Wylie**, **Alex Chisholm** and **Herb Creed**.

New members were **Carl Disney**, Whitby Golf Club; **Ross Haines**, Humber Valley Golf Club; **Paul Dermott**, Chinguacousy Country Club; **Fred Klomp**, Detonia Park Golf Club, **Ed Ortlieb**, Bayview Golf Club; **Mike Donahue**, Don Valley Golf Club; **Louis Formosa**, Lake View Golf Club and **Jerry Rietveld**, Pleasant Valley Golf Club.


Meetings were held at Credit Valley Golf Club hosted by **Doug Suter**. First low gross was **Bill Hynd** with an 83 and the guest speaker was **George Clifton**, the pro at Pine Valley Golf Club. On June 12, there was a meeting held at St. Georges Golf Club hosted by **Bill Hynd**. St. Georges was the 1968 host of the Canadian Open and the course was lengthened to 7,000 yards by building 4 new greens and some new tees. The McClumpha Tournament was held at Aurora hosted by **Whitey Jones** with **Bill Bowen** winning the tournament with a 76. On February 15th, there was a Western / OGSA joint meeting held at Dundas Valley Golf Club. **Fred Grightmire**, Superintendent, was absent because of a car accident but his son

John, from the Beverley Golf Club, acted as host on his fathers behalf. On January 10 there was a meeting held at Tam O'Shanter.

On November 14, there was a meeting held at Markland Wood Golf Club hosted by **Bruce Woolley**. **Bill Hynd** was the winner of the CGSA tournament held at Carling Lake. On Tuesday November 28, Manley's Annual Conference and Equipment Show was held. On September 19th, the first Turf Conference organized by the OGSA was held at the Oakdale Golf Club. **Bill Hynd** also won the Western's Taylor Barnes Tournament at the Port Colborne Golf Club hosted by Superintendent **Bill Robertson** (Bill Hynd had quite a year!). There was also a meeting at Westmount Golf Course hosted by **Herb Creed**, in August. The GCSAA Conference was held in Washington on February 5 and **Keith Nesbit's** name was submitted as a candidate as director in the GCSAA. The RCGA Turf Conference was held at the Skyline Hotel on March 15th. The CGSA annual dinner was held at the Northwood Golf and Country on March 31st. The Greensmaster, formerly belonging to the OGSA, was sold to the CGSA for the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar) It will be the official publication of the CGSA.

Jim Wylie, former Superintendent at Bayview Golf Club, passed away at the age of 57 on January 17, after a short illness. **Alex McClumpha** also passed away. Alex was farming the old York Downs course when it was purchased for a golf course. He then worked for the Architect, as the course was being built. He then stayed on as Superintendent. Alex later moved to the Elms Golf Club in Weston and later Thornhill Golf Club, where he retired in 1963.

Congratulations were sent out to **Bill** and **Alice Hynd** on the birth of their daughter. **Rene Muylaert**, who for 5 years was Superintendent at Chinguacousy Country Club, left the business as a golf course superintendent and became a golf course architect.



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