

May 2002

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## Pest Control Products Act 2002

### Tales from Down Under

### Legends on the Niagara Golf Course

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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

*photo by Archie Hood  
Legends on the Niagara  
Ussher's Creek, 6th hole*

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



## President's message

Winter fortunately decided to go out like a lion giving us all a much more reasonable start date to open our courses. The extra snow late March and early April seemed to balance out the lack of snow we received late November and December. This gave us all a little more prep time to get our courses ready or to at least put together some clean and organized maintenance shops to start another busy season! From talking to other superintendents throughout the province, the consensus is that most of us managed to over winter pretty well, which is good news.

As we move into the summer season, we remind you to take part in the various industry events throughout the province. These activities are up to date and summarized on our website for each regional association in the "Calendar of Events" section under the "Events" menu. Don't forget about posting your questions on the OGSA discussion forum "Turf Talk" in our "Members Only" section of the website. There were a lot of postings this spring with discussions about spring recovery and the use of Primo Maxx for this season, which were quite interesting.

This is an exciting year for the GTI turfgrass management research program and I encourage members to come out and attend the Spring Field Day at GTI, on Monday, June 24th and see what new projects are underway in the GTI laboratory and turf plots. Dr. Julie Dionne will be available with her graduate students to answer any questions and hear your concerns and suggestions. There will also be a collection of suppliers at the morning events, to answer questions and demonstrate their new products.

The pesticide battle continues on several fronts and receives some new direction with the revised Pest Control Product Act introduced as a bill this past March. John Gravett will provide some further insight on the topic in his article in this magazine. Hats off to those of you who have spent countless hours dealing with this important issue.

### What's else is new with OGSA?

Assistant Superintendents please note the following new programs:

1. The OGSA, in conjunction with the Kirkpatrick family, has developed a bursary program to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishments of Assistant Superintendent Members of the OGSA. The new \$2,000 Kirkpatrick Bursary will be available this fall for an assistant superintendent who is chosen based on their application and essay submission. Applications will be available in June.
2. An Assistant's tournament will be held this fall. Location and date TBA.

*Hope to see everyone at the Spring Field Day!*

**Correction:** Please accept our apologies, due to circumstances beyond our control, the photo of the winning hockey team on pg. 9 of February Green is Beautiful was printed in black & white instead of colour, as provided by Mike Smith.

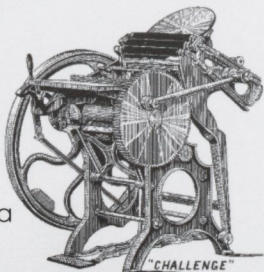
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# Learning curve

by Mike Courneya  
OGSA Director of Education  
and Research

As the golf season begins, we focus our attention on our golf courses and tend to forget about educational seminars and tradeshow. However, this does not mean we should forget about taking time to expand our skill sets and turf knowledge.

One great way to expand our turf management practices is to take the time to visit our fellow superintendents at their course. Naturally, a golf game is a great way to meet this goal but if you do not have time, you can still learn a lot from a 45 minute tour. I always use these types of opportunities to get information about activities off the golf course as well. Simple questions like, "How do you keep track of and monitor your budget?" or "What type of quality control methods do you have in place?" Management off the course is equally as important as management on the course. Yes, Spring is a busy time and it is hard to get away, however by visiting some friends, you may just save yourself hours of work in the future.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Spring Field Day Coming up on June 24. This will be a great time to learn about the GTI and how their research is benefiting the turf industry.

"You don't understand anything until you learn it more than one way."  
- Marvin Minsky



## PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport  
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	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

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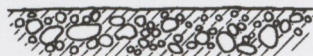
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# Canadian golf superintendents association news

by Bob Burrows  
Rosedale Golf Club



For those of you who attended the recent Conference in Quebec City, this is not news, but by all reports, the conference is regarded as a success! The educational lineup was outstanding, the venue was terrific, and the city was much like New Orleans but with snow. But this is Canada, eh! We are all looking forward to Calgary

next March. Congratulations also to Ontario's own Bill Fach, upon his election to the position of President of the CGSA!

I was encouraged to see the genuine interest by many Superintendents in the municipal Pesticide debate throughout the week in Quebec City, during our roundtable meeting of Provincial leaders, and the two-hour panel discussion. One thing was clear; there remains a big 'learning curve' on this issue. I would encourage each of you to prepare yourself soon, so that a local and unified strategy is developed in the near-term at the

regional level. Many Provincial Presidents took away some good lessons on what the OGSA coalition is accomplishing regarding this issue. The CGSA has compiled a resource booklet on the pesticide issue for the benefit of our members. You are encouraged to call our head office to request a copy. The CGSA will also contribute an additional amount of monies to help the OGSA defer some of the costs of its municipal pesticide efforts.

I have some other great news to report. The Niagara Parks Commission has approved our request, and therefore, the 2003 Fall Field Day will be held at "Legends on the Niagara" facility on September 15th, 2003. I will expect to see a large contingent from Ontario at this event. This year, Nicklaus North GC, Whistler BC, will tentatively host the Fall Classic on September 23rd, 2002.

Finally, may the 2002 season be successful for you and your club, and please do not hesitate to call me at any time. I look forward to seeing many of you this season.



## TURF CARE

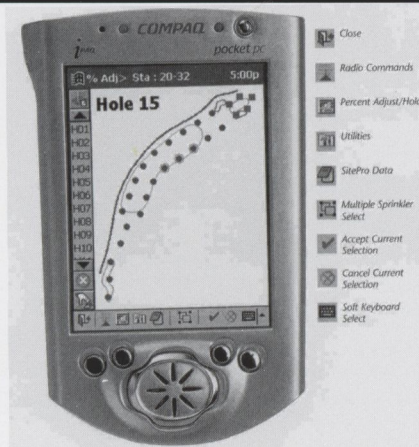


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# Turfgrass management research at the GTI

by Dr. Julie Dionne  
Assistant Professor Turfgrass Management  
University of Guelph [jdionne@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jdionne@uoguelph.ca)



New this month is our Turfgrass Management Research Team website, [www.gti.uoguelph.ca/tmrt](http://www.gti.uoguelph.ca/tmrt). Our logo and a link to our page can also be found at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute web site, [www.gti.uoguelph.ca](http://www.gti.uoguelph.ca). This new site has current information on the people involved that make up our research team. We have also listed our current turfgrass research projects that are underway at the

Guelph Turfgrass Institute/University of Guelph as well as some projects that are taking place in collaboration with Agriculture Canada, Sainte-Foy and Laval University, Québec. Summaries of research projects are also available. Coming soon, we will have recent publications as well as a news section. If you have any questions or comments you can reach us through our contact page. Visit the website often as we will be updating it regularly!

We have just received very good news. The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation and the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation have accepted to fund, for \$50,000 each year, our three year research project entitled 'Genetic Variation in Resistance of Annual Bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) to Snow Molds and Insect Pests and Mechanisms of Resistance'. This strategic research project is a collaborative effort involving participants

from the University of Guelph, Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at Sainte-Foy, Laval University, and the Pennsylvania State University annual bluegrass breeding program. This research project will contribute to the development of IPM approaches to reduce pesticide use and to enhance turfgrass quality on golf courses. Finally, the funding of this project will support our graduate students in the field of turfgrass science.

At this time I would like to welcome our newest graduate student, Karine Paré (M. Sc. Candidate). Karine received her B. Sc. in Agronomy from Laval University, Quebec, in 2000 and has been working as an agronomist in Quebec City. Her research project will be focusing on environmental impact of turfgrass fertilization.

At the end of April, we will have 2 University students as summer students. Chelsea Stroud is a B.Sc. Horticulture student at the University of Guelph, a member of the OGSA, she has worked during the past 7 years at Westmount Golf Club and Oshawa Golf Club. Mathieu Gourdes-Vachon is a student in Agronomy at Laval University, Québec and he will be joining us for this summer.

On behalf of the GTI Turfgrass Management Research Team, I wish you a good season and we hope to see you at the GTI on June 24th for the OGSA Spring Field Day!

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# Health & safety

## LOCKOUT/BLOCKOUT/TAGOUT?

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

Have you checked out your Lockout/Blockout/Tagout procedures at your workplace? Do you understand what you have to do to ensure that your systems are correctly in place and operating? You should also be aware that the Ontario Ministry of Labour is being very strict now about Lockout/Blockout/Tagout. There have been too many deaths and serious injuries caused by improper or unused procedures. Just last summer in Cambridge a worker was killed when a vehicle he was working under fell onto him. It was improperly blocked out while up on vehicle jacks.

One of the most common types of injury occurs when an electrically operated machine is being worked on and someone turns the equipment on not realizing that there is someone working on the unit. Many of you will have heard about the accident in Ayr where a worker was killed while cleaning a concrete mixer, or the case of the student killed in St Catharine's while cleaning a

dough mixer in a cookie factory. Although the equipment may be different in your workplace the outcomes can easily be the same.

### So what is Lockout/Blockout/Tagout?

It is a procedure that ensures that someone else will not accidentally start up or allow a piece of equipment to fall while maintenance or repairs are completed.

The Farm Safety Association has a publication that provides information on how to develop a lockout system for your facilities. It is called Fact Sheet F-021 or you can contact me at [doug.johnson1@sympatico.ca](mailto:doug.johnson1@sympatico.ca).

### The process is in eight steps.

1. Think, Plan and Check. Basically determine which parts of the equipment must be locked out.
2. Training and Clear Communication. Make sure that all workers understand your procedures.
3. Announce Shutdown. Make sure that everyone in the area knows what is going on.

4. Identify all Power Sources, including air, hydraulics, electrical panels, spring energy and gravity.
5. Neutralize all Power Sources. Trip and lock breakers or pull fuses. Block moveable parts. Lower suspended parts. Get the equipment to "zero" energy.
6. Lock out all Power Sources. Ensure that each worker has a personal lock.
7. Tagout all Power. Place your name on a tag on the locked out part.
8. Check the Lockout. Once locked out try to activate the start button. Confirm the Lockout/Blockout/Tagout.

The information here is a quick sketch of the lockout process. Ensure that you and your staff have a complete understanding of the process.

Wherever possible, Lockout/Blockout/Tagout should be an integral part of equipment maintenance. Develop good safety habits by shutting down power and "pocketing the key" before commencing repairs or maintenance on any equipment.

Most equipment related injuries and deaths could be prevented by ensuring that power is "locked out" before service begins.

*Have a safe summer!*

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# On the pesticide front

## THE NEW PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS ACT (PCPA) 2002

By John W. Gravett, Superintendent  
The Granite Club

In March 2002 the Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Health introduced a bill to the House of Commons to modernize pesticide legislation and protect Canadians. The bill is intended to safeguard Canadians, especially children, and will help ensure a safe and abundant food supply. Specifically, the proposed new Pest Control Products Act would:

Strengthen health and environmental protection by:

- Requiring special protection for infants and children;
- Taking into account pesticide exposure from all sources, including food and water, and considering cumulative effects of pesticides that act in the same way; and,
- Supporting risk reduction, for example, ensuring that only pesticides that make a useful contribution to pest management are registered and encouraging the registration of lower-risk products.

Make the registration system more transparent by:


- Establishing a public registry to allow access to detailed evaluation reports on registered pesticides;
- Allowing the public to view the test data on which these pesticide evaluations are based; and,
- Allowing the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to share scientific studies with provincial/territorial and international regulators, which will enhance the process for international joint reviews of pesticides, giving Canadian growers equal access to newer, safer pesticides so they can be competitive in the marketplace.

Strengthen post-registration control of pesticides by:

- Requiring pesticide companies to report adverse effects;
  - Requiring re-evaluations of older pesticides 15 years after they are registered and providing the Minister with the authority to remove pesticides from the market if required data are not supplied; and,
  - Providing increased powers of inspection and higher maximum penalties, up to \$1 million for the most serious offences, when pesticides are not marketed or used in accordance with the law.
- The current act is 33 years old, and although the PMRA has continually adopted the most up-to-date pesticide assessment methods to ensure the protection of Canadians' health and environment, some changes to the pesticide regulatory system could not be accomplished without legislative renewal. The most important change to be made in the proposed new PCPA is to open up the pesticide regulatory system so that it is more transparent, can provide detailed information to the public on pesticides and allows the public to have more say on pesticide registration decisions. As a result, the new PCPA is generally welcomed by industry and the public. The anti-pesticide advocates say that the new PCPA hasn't gone far enough, however, the new act will indeed address their concerns (and ours) with respect to making the pesticide registration and evaluation process more transparent. This is good news for Municipalities across Ontario who have been grappling with pesticide policies. Many of the concerns that they have had around protecting children's health and the environment are now enshrined in this legislation.

There are two key issues that were not covered in the proposed new PCPA. First, the Bill does not include the authority to ban the use of pesticides at the federal government level. It does, however, make reference in the distribution of principal responsibilities to the Municipal

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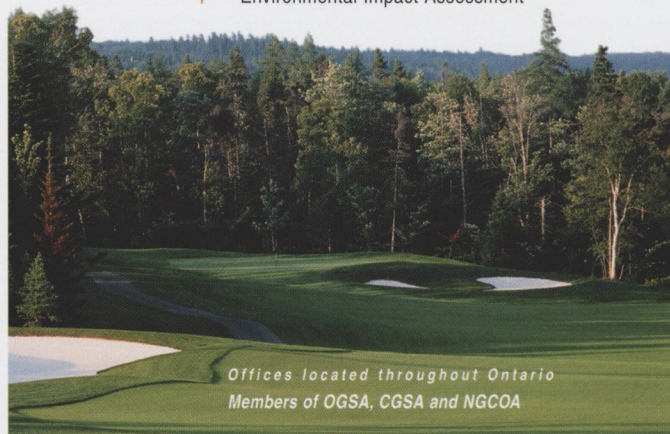
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level with respect to local bylaws for Municipal (and, in some cases, private and residential) lands only. In other words, it still leaves the door open for Municipalities to enact local bylaws. The second key issue in the proposed new PCPA is that it does not make any reference to the 'cosmetic' ban of pesticides. This is a good thing for industry, as the anti-pesticide folks have been lobbying the federal government to include the 'cosmetic' reference. On a more negative note, the proposed new act puts into law the precautionary principle. Under the legislation, in the course of a re-evaluation or a special review, the precautionary principle may now be applied.

The new PCPA recognizes that pest control products are vital elements in Integrated Pest Management programs. The new act should also go a long way in addressing the public's need for information and instill greater confidence in the pesticide registration system. You can view the proposed new PCPA at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2002/2002\\_17.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/media/releases/2002/2002_17.htm).

## MUNICIPAL UPDATE

Over the past few months several Superintendents across Ontario have appeared in front of their local town council or pesticide sub-committees to present their view of the situation. Many Superintendents have embedded themselves onto these local sub-committees to provide them with a credible source of information and environmental stewardship. You can be most effective at the Municipal level by providing your views and offering a true understanding of the issues in your Municipality. Several Superintendents have reported good success with their presentations and are continuing to keep in touch with local issues.

Across Ontario, many Superintendents have already approached their respective Greens Committees, Board of Directors and General Managers on a pro-active basis and posted several notices throughout their club on the pesticide issue and how it may affect golf as we know it. Some Superintendents have attended their local spring home and gardens shows to help educate the public on pesticide use and Integrated Pest Management.



(On the pesticide front cont'd)

We are only just beginning the pesticide battle and it is important to note that we cannot relax our efforts at both the Provincial and Municipal levels. The anti-pesticide advocates continue to lobby Municipal governments across Ontario, attempting to scare them into a by-law. Remember that the proposed new PCPA is something that you should update your local Municipal government on, because it helps them address some of their major concerns about pesticide use. We must be willing to participate in the local pesticide processes of helping the Municipalities develop their education campaigns. Finding common ground with the anti-pesticide advocates is not easy, but if you can find it (ie. More public education, IPM, environmental stewardship, being a credible resource) in some form or another, then your solution will be welcomed by the Municipal government. We are not suggesting you 'give-in' to anyone, however, there are indeed some good news things that we as environmental stewards of the land need to tell our local people.

Municipal governments must understand that a potential ban on the 'cosmetic' use of pesticides on golf courses will have huge economic ramifications. There will be a series of 'green' and 'brown' communities across Ontario if different Municipalities enact different by-laws. We all know where the golfers will go – to the green communities. As a result, a severe erosion of the local tax base will occur, staffing levels at golf courses will drop and tourism dollars will be gone. And yes, how are the Municipalities going to enforce a by-law? Most Municipalities have no idea on how to handle this issue, how to enforce it, or understand the cost of enforcing a by-law. That is why many Municipalities

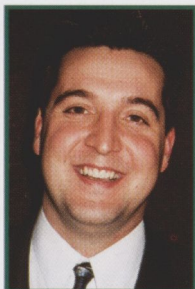
are now realizing that a ban on pesticide use for 'cosmetic' purposes in their jurisdiction may not be the easy answer. With respect to golf courses, the absence of proven effective alternatives for pesticides is a huge concern and a major stumbling block for Municipalities to include golf courses in their by-laws. As well, the term 'cosmetic' use is being challenged for its lack of validity when it comes to golf course management.

Many Municipalities want to educate their citizens more about pesticide use and potential alternative products. IPM is being received in several communities as a solution to these issues because IPM promotes public education.

Across Ontario several Municipalities are "in over their heads" with this complex issue. They lack the resources and expertise on the use of pesticides in their communities. We need to recommend to these Municipalities that they let the experts at the provincial and federal government levels continue to legislate the use of pesticide in their communities. All the control and protection measures are already in place at those government levels – they have the scientific expertise to do the evaluations, and their decisions are based on facts, not politics and self-diagnosed cancer patients. Why introduce another level of legislation in each Municipality? If we don't take the time to "show-up" and inform them, then all the local government officials hear are the scare mongering anti-pesticide advocates. It really is amazing how much time, effort and money is being spent across Ontario on this issue when the turfgrass industry only represents less than 1.5% of the total pesticides used in Canada. Pity.

## Cyber super

by Mark Prieur, Assistant Superintendent  
Markland Wood Country Club



This month's website is from Oregon State University's Terry Miller. The website is called the Extension Toxicology Network or EXTTOXNET and can be found at [ace.orst.edu](http://ace.orst.edu) then double click on EXTTOXNET. This site offers "objective, science-based information about pesticides, written for the non-expert." EXTTOXNET features PIP's (Pesticide Information Profiles), TIC's (Toxicology Issues of Concern) and TIB's (Toxicology

Information Brief's). EXTTOXNET has search engine capabilities but they do not seem to be user friendly.

PIP's are basic information about most chemicals on the US market. Chemical class, modes of action, LD50's and fates of the chemical are just some of the info you will find here.

TIC's contain general information as sent email messages. Some of these are noteworthy such as the possible cause of a 1995 e. coli outbreak with regards to an organic farming compound.

TIB's are an abundance of information on "buzz-words" that you would hear often related to pesticide issues. These TIB's provide solid definitions on items such as bioaccumulation and cholinesterase. There are brief discussions on terms such as epidemiology, fates of chemicals in humans, and movement of pesticides in the environment. These TIB's are very informative and provide an unbiased definition on a variety of topics involving toxicology.

Debates involving the use of chemicals in turf are not going away any time soon. The best way to be prepared for any discussion is to be informed!



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# Golf course highlight

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Fax: 905-295-1599

Email: bglashon@niagaraparks.com,

pgurr@niagaraparks.com

Website: www.legendsontheniagara.com

### COURSE PROFILE

WHAT COUNTY IS YOUR CLUB LOCATED IN?

Niagara

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

Public

NUMBER OF ROUNDS?

Just opening

TYPICAL OPENING AND CLOSING DATE?

April 1 to October 30

NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT?

Bill Glashon

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

Paul Gurr

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A SUPERINTENDENT?

30 years

ARE YOU CGCS OR MASTER SUPERINTENDENT.?

No

LIST OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
(AUDUBON, BOARD SERVICE ETC.)

CGSA Ontario Director

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

3 years

HOW MANY YEAR ROUND STAFF?

8

HOW MANY SEASONAL STAFF?

75

HOW MANY MECHANICS AND ASSISTANTS?

2 mechanics: Cliff Bergman and Jay Whelan,  
2 assistants: Tom Newton and Andy Ramdalus

### COURSE STATISTICS

HOW MANY HOLES?

45 holes

WHAT IS THE YARDAGE FROM BACK TEES AND FORWARD TEES?

Battlefield (18 holes)  
7309 - 5500 yards  
Usshers Creek (18 holes)  
7180 - 5421 yards  
Chippawa (9 holes) 2159 - 1552 yards

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

45 acres - 360° - 6 tees (3A)

HOW MANY BUNKERS?

270

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

7

WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECT?

Battlefield - Doug Carrick,  
Usshers Creek - Tom McBroom

WHAT WAS THE YEAR OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION?

2000-2001

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR MAINTENANCE SHOP?

16,250 sq. ft.

WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Toro Osmac

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

Greens: 12.5 acres  
Tees: 23 acres  
Fairways: 80 acres

WHAT IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GRASS?

SR 1020 / 1119 Dominant Blend  
L-93, Custom Pennncress 50%,  
Providence 50%

HOW MANY USGA GREENS AND HOW MANY LOAM GREENS?

45 USGA greens

WHAT IS THE PREDOMINANT SOIL TYPE?

Clay with a sand cap

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE IN INVENTORY?

Golf Cars:

160 Club Cars

Irrigation:

Toro wall to wall OSMAC computerized  
radio controlled w/site pro  
Flowtronex Pump Station - 2400 gpm

Mowers:

15 Toro GR 1000 walk behinds  
15 Toro GR 1600 walk behinds  
2 Toro 21" Flex Mowers  
6 Toro GM 3100 Riders  
2 Toro RM 3100 Sidewinders  
6 Ransomes Ar-250s  
6 Jacobsen LF 3400s

Traps:

6 Toro Sand Pro w/blade

Utility Vehicles:

22 Toro 2100s  
2 Workman 3200 - Gas

3 Workman 3300 - Diesel

3 Gators 4x6

1 Kawasaki Mule

1 Carry-all Mechanics cart

Sprayers:

2 Toro Multipro 5500

2 Toro Multipro 1250

1 300 gallon field sprayer

Tractors:

2 Kubota 4610

2 Kubota 5700

1 Kubota R-420 w/backhoe

1 John Deere Skidsteer

Other Items:

6 lawn boys

2 Vicon Fertilizer Spreaders

4 Scotts Rotary Spreaders

6 Bannerman Hovermowers

2 Red Max trimmers

4 Stihl Weeders

4 Stihl RR400 Blowers

4 Agri Leaf blowers

6 Stihl BR400 blowers

4 Solo Back pack Sprayers

2 Toro 1800 topdressers

2 Supertilt trailers

1 Ryan Sodcutter

1 Salsco Roller

3 John Deere 800 Aercore Aerifiers

3 John Deere 1000 Aercore Aerifiers

2 John Deere 2000 Aercore Aerifiers

2 8 hp Little Wonder Power Blowers

### LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Drainage, drainage, drainage.

Tree work, predominantly pruning and dead tree removal.

Trying to make 2.5 acre putting course consistent with other greens. There are 44 pot bunkers directly within the green. Implementing an intern program for turf students from Ontario and including out of province.

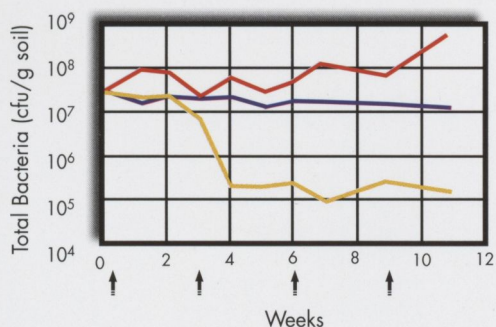


Legends - Battlefield, 5th hole

Photo by Archie Hood



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 ■ Nature Safe 10-2-8 (1lb. N)   
 ■ Synthetic (UHF) 15-15-18 (1lb. N)

↑ = application intervals

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

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

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

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

It's a basic philosophy . . . **Feed the Soil and Let the Soil Feed the Plant.** This tried and true principle with an emphasis on optimizing nutrition and health has been the cornerstone of Griffin Industries' success since our beginning as Griffin Fertilizer in 1943. Through our Nature Safe® Natural & Organic Fertilizers the tradition of quality, consistency and performance continues with a commitment to research and development.

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# Off the fairway

by Daisy Moore



Scars often remain from the ravages of winter including dirt, leaves, puddles, twigs and a lot of brown. Gardens can tend to look wanting, just as growth begins in the spring. These areas can be brought to life early by planting early flowering bulbs and spring ephemerals. Trout lilies, hepatica and bloodroot are some examples of native woodland flowering plants which are first to make a show. If you're really fortunate, these can be followed by Trilliums and

an extensive community of woodland plants. Crocus and daffodils will naturalize nicely in woodlands or snowdrops and bluebells work in open areas for an early display of colour. These might be all you need to brighten up the gardens until leafy growth breaks out.

The best thing about these sorts of early gardens is that they don't need any tending in order to look good. These magical places can sometimes be found in undisturbed areas of the golf course. However, there are many locations on the golf course where the woodland community has been disrupted and weeds have moved in.

Weeds are the biggest threat to gardens for two reasons. Weeds will mask the beauty of a planned garden and the invasive types will out compete and in all probability kill the desirable plants. Garlic mustard, creeping bellflower, coltsfoot, burdock and thistles are some of the more aggressive and difficult to control invaders of disturbed soil. Even worse, dog strangling vine *Cynanchum rossicum*, is a highly invasive vine which can choke out the remaining trees in the woodland.

The best way to keep weeds out is to grow something in their place. The first step is to remove the invasive weeds or at least make a management plan to eliminate them over time. The soil should be covered with a good compost/organic matter mix to stabilize the soil and make a good garden bed. This should be followed by planting a collection of plants which are suitable to the spot. You can choose native plants and attempt to restore what was there before, you can create a formally maintained show

garden or you can land somewhere in the middle of that. My tendency is to lean just off centre and use a mixture of plants that I like, native and non-native, which grow well together in that environment. This includes deciduous shrubs, seed mixes, plants and bulbs.

Choosing native /indigenous plants for your gardens and planting them in a suitable habitat, is a good idea. They thrive and they will surprise you with their glamour in garden conditions. They will tend to look after themselves and invite other local flora and fauna to join them. Native plants are mostly grown by specialty growers although their availability is expanding into many garden centres. If you want a list of native plant growers you can order a handy guide entitled 'Native Plant Resource Guide for Ontario' produced by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Call 1-800-667-1940 and order one for \$5.00. You could also contact me through my website, [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com) and I could point you in the right direction.

While working in my perennial garden the other day I was struck with an overwhelming feeling of fear. I was surveying the status of my plants to see what was up, to weed around them a bit and cut back the remaining perennial tops. My horror was caused by the realization that my worst garden enemy, creeping bellflower, *Campanula rapunculoides*, was poised to take over. It was like coming upon an ant colony and suddenly focussing on the seething mass of life surrounding you. I thought I was one step ahead of this pest and had defeated it last year but it is clear that the battle must continue.

As we try to manage our gardens with methods other than using synthetic pesticides, we are forced to pay more attention to our enemies and find new ways to conquer them. We need to understand life cycles and find the Achilles' heel of the pest in order to find the best control method. In many cases, such as creeping bellflower, even herbicides aren't effective enough. As the climate changes, or even the severity of the winters so too does the growth balance in plant communities. With all this said, weeds will be an issue this season and let us hope that the same doesn't hold true for diseases and insects! It looks like we'll have our work cut out for us in the season ahead.

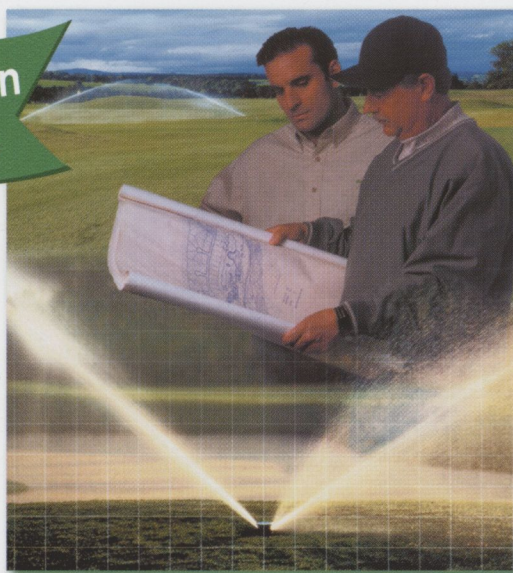
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# The future is now!

by Peter Sojak,  
Assistant Superintendent  
Blue Springs Golf Club

March 13, 2002 marked a turning point in Turf-related learning. On this day, the GCSAA held its first ever seminar Webcast over the internet. "Attendees" logged on to the site to participate in the interactive discussion entitled "Dollar Spot and Anthracnose Management: Beyond the Basics." The seminar was presented by Mike Agnew, PhD. of Syngenta Professional Products and Bruce Clarke, PhD. of Rutgers University. Live audience participation enabled the presenters to poll the attendees, and tailor their presentation accordingly. This ensured that it was very informative and perfectly relevant.

Over 40 computers logged on from all over the United States, Canada, and even Ireland. Not a bad turn-out for a first offering, and as the response was overwhelmingly positive, that number will surely grow in subsequent events. Officially sanctioned by the GCSAA, participants in the seminar earned .35 CEU's towards their certification, and the cost was \$60.00 for GCSAA members, and \$90.00 for non-members (U.S. funds).

On the technical side, the Webcast was administered by a company called Centra. A representative for Centra acted as administrator, and ensured that all ran as smoothly as possible. For this "pilot" event, no live video was used. Consequently, computer system requirements were low. To see if our system was up to par, we ran a System Check by going to: <http://209.202.130.190/main/SystemCheck/SystemCheck.jhtml>. Although we experienced a few minor glitches, the overall effectiveness of the presentation was not hampered. Participants with microphones attached to their computers could ask questions (in turn) in real-time. At the outset, everyone with a mike had an opportunity to test their equipment, but in the future, as attendance increases, this will take up too much time. For those of us without microphones, questions could be easily e-mailed. In either case, answers were provided promptly.

Participant reaction speaks to the seminar's success. "An excellent learning opportunity and a very convenient format. A great way to get education out and more people together," remarked one Webcast attendee. Relevant subject matter, expert presenters, and the convenience offered by such a format ensures that this is the first of many such events. As one participant wrote, "I think that this is the tip of the iceberg. This will become a tool that will save time and money in travel and also make info available to more people."

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# Tales From Down Under

Article & Photos by Chris Nelson,  
Superintendent Markland Wood Country Club

During the summer of 2001 I decided that it would be a great experience to grow grass in another part of the world during the winter. The plan was to secure employment at a golf club where climate and growing conditions were dramatically different to the conditions in southern Ontario. Australia would most certainly be considered as a contrast to what I am currently used to.

I originally tried to make contact with Australian Superintendents by way of email. Receiving a number of dead ends didn't discourage me from wanting to make the opportunity happen. Finally, I made a connection with a fellow Golf Course Superintendents Association of America member who thought it would be great to have a Canadian as part of his staff.



Concrete path relating to tee construction



Mark Parker, the superintendent at Concord Golf Club, was most interested in making this great idea become a reality.

Concord Golf Club was built in 1896 and was the original site of the Royal Sydney Golf Course. This 18-hole private golf club is located in Sydney and is slightly over 6000 metres in length, that's 6500 yards for the non-Aussie. Concord Golf club has hosted many Australian PGA events including the Australian Open in 1991, 92 and in 1993; Ian Baker-Finch was the champion in a playoff over Grant Waite. It has also hosted the New South Wales Open nine times, most recently in 1985 when Greg Norman won.

I arrived in Sydney in early November to begin my internship at Concord Golf Club. I was looking forward to my experience but really did not know what to expect when I arrived at the club. My first day was a pleasant surprise; the greens staff were just a fantastic bunch of guys. They were all very welcoming and instantly made me feel like one of "the crew". During my term at the golf club I had many great learning experiences including a tee reconstruction project which was just one of the best parts of the Aussie golf course experience. Concord Golf Club did a lot of their Capital projects in-house. They had Bermuda tees, A-4 greens and Kikuyugrass fairways. Kikuyugrass could be mowed and beaten but it just would not die. It makes you want to have the grass here in Canada!

Living and working in Sydney just could not be beat. Time off was spent doing various "touristy" things like going to visit the Blue Mountains, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge and participating in a local wine tour. During the holiday season, the hot and dry conditions were perfect for the wildfire that ravaged the state of New South Wales. Following a visit to the National Park at Jarvis Bay, the entire property was burned to the ground. Although the fire did not manage to make its way into Sydney itself, the community always had the smell of smoke in the air. It was a constant reminder of what was happening outside the city.

During my three months in Australia, I had a chance to see and do many different things. The important thing I learned from the entire experience is that I didn't have to have a set plan, I let some things happen without having to worry exactly the outcome of events. In other words, while travelling to Sydney there were a number of uncertainties I had no control of, but what I did know was that I was committed. I would definitely recommend to anyone, if you ever have the opportunity to go for it, you certainly won't regret it.

If you cannot take a trip to Australia or Concord Golf Club you should at least visit their website at [www.concordgolfclub.com.au](http://www.concordgolfclub.com.au).



Completing the project

Finished path with Rubber Rock



Brouwer Sod Harvester at work

#14 Hole at Concord from the naturalized behind tee



Staff finishing concrete path



Wildlife is abundant



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#### FUNDING:

The funding (\$2,000.00) will be made available annually to Assistant Superintendents for the purpose of industry related training or education (Short Courses, Educational Seminars or Conferences).

#### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

Applications will be made available in June, and must be completed and received in the OGSA office by August 30, 2002. All applications to be forwarded to a sub-committee for judging.

#### TO QUALIFY:

1. The applicant must be a class C member of the OGSA in good standing at the time of the application.
2. The applicant must be currently employed as an Assistant Superintendent in the province of Ontario.
3. The applicant must include with the application, a letter of recommendation from his/her reigning Superintendent.
4. The applicant must submit two essays of merit (each 500 words or less):
  - i) Stating his/her goals and ambitions regarding his/her future in the golf industry,
  - ii) On his/her choice of topic relevant to the position as a Golf Course Assistant
5. The chosen applicant will be asked to provide the OGSA with the appropriate information showing the use of the bursary for industry related training or education.

*Applications are to be returned no later than  
August 30, 2002 to:*

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association  
Membership/Scholarship Director  
Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
328 Victoria Road, South  
Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6H8

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by Dean Baker  
North Halton Golf & Country Club

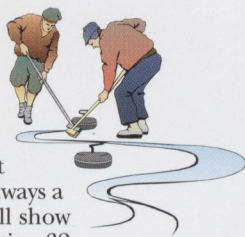
Another golf season fast approaches with early spring conditions, so we thought. The Annual 2002 Curling Day at North Halton Golf and Country Club is always a question mark as to how many people will show up. With such a small venue, accommodating 32 curlers maximum, the die-hard participants that return every year are what make this event such a success.

This year, we had another great mix of industry people with both curlers and non-curlers. The Skips are usually Superintendents who always think they are pretty good in the off season. This year's exceptions were defending champion Mitch Jewell, who not only works at the North Halton greens department, but is also the icemaker. Alex McLeod, from Turfcare was the other non-super Skip.

The day started with the "Early Bird Lunch", giving everyone an opportunity to catch up on 'how they wintered' and 'when they thought spring would arrive'. Then the curling got serious with two, four end games, in which the winners rose to the top, and the losers.....well, they just had far too much fun.

This year, our non-superintendent Skip, Alex McLeod, took his team to the top, undefeated in both rounds, to win top prize. Alex's "A" team consisted of Greig Barker (North Halton G&CC), Patrick Greenman (Oakdale GC), and O.G.S.A. President, Jim Flett (Muskoka Lakes Golf & CC). On the "B" side, Mitch Jewell (North Halton G&CC) defeated curling guru, Rhod Trainor (Hamilton G.C.). The "C" teams, in a split decision were Bernie Von Cube (Cambridge G&CC) team and Jerry Richard (Craigowan G&CC) team.

Congratulations to all the teams for making the day so enjoyable. A special thanks to all those who provided prizes. Good luck to everyone in 2002 season!



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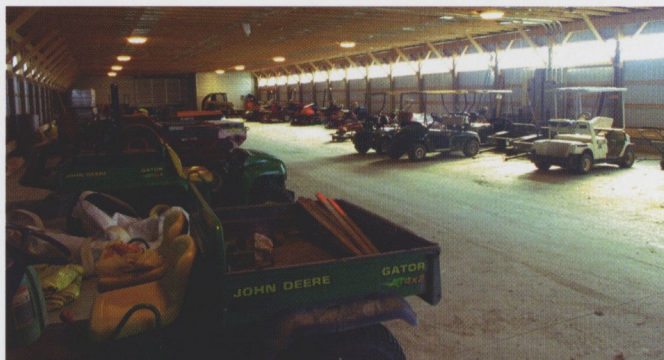
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# Trouble free irrigation start up is no accident

by Dean Cormack, Service Manager  
Vanden Bussche Irrigation

Everything you did in the fall will impact on the amount of trouble you might have starting up in the spring. So often we get wrapped up in the business of the spring, we never get quite prepared for the season. During the busy season I often talk to customers who do not have the parts on hand they need to make even the most basic of repairs. Proper preparation in the spring will make your job much easier and more efficient later in the season. Here are some suggestions that you might look at in order to get a better grip on your irrigation system.

**Inventory of Repair Parts** - Make sure you have a sufficient stock of irrigation parts. Order parts early enough to avoid being ill prepared for possible pipe problems during initial pressurization. Purchase a new supply of glue and throw out the can you were using last year. Primer tends to have a much longer shelf life. Budget about \$500.00 to get your repair inventory started.

**Pressurizing** - Once the weather has cooperated and the risk of freezing has past, it is time to get the water moving. There is a specific sequence to charging the lines. Start by opening up your drain and pressurizing the system slowly to about 40psi. Do not drain or relieve pressure by turning on sprinklers. Throughout the winter the inside of the empty piping network has been drying out. All the dirt and build up tends to harden and fall to the bottom of the pipe. As you put water back into the pipe, the garbage that is in the pipe starts to travel throughout the system. If you turn on heads before properly flushing, all the dirt will be forced into the hydraulic tubes of the heads and you may get some sprinklers that will give you trouble. Be sure to adequately flush the entire system through drains and quick couplers before you test head operation. Continue pressurizing the system to about half your normal operating pressure. I always recommend leaving the system in this half pressure state with the power switched off to your pumps overnight. Check the pressure gauge in the morning to see how tight the system is. The number one cause of wasted water is small leaks in the system that we tend to leave and put up with over the course of the season. By isolating different sections of your system, you will be able to pin point where your troubles are and make the appropriate repairs.

**Sprinkler** - Once the system is holding pressure and you are flushed clean, it is time to check sprinkler performance. During the winter, frost will heave sprinklers and make it necessary to level all heads back to grade before the mowers hit the turf. This exercise will save a great deal of money in sprinkler parts and mower bed knives. Each head on the course must be checked for rotation, a clean nozzle free of debris and proper distribution. Monitoring head pressures is important to make sure that the sprinklers are performing to the manufacturer's published specifications. The use of a small pilot tube attached to a pressure gauge will give you the exact pressure at the head. You will get wet measuring this way but it is a quick and easy process.

**Assessment** - Now that we are well on the way, it is time to look at keeping accurate records of water events and water used. Someone at some time is going to ask the embarrassing question, "How much water are you using?" You will need to know the answer or at least where to go to get this information. Metres, computers or manual calculations, the equipment doesn't matter. The fact that you have usage documented some where is the important thing. An electrical assessment should also be done. Checking satellite boxes for mouse damage is an important spring task. Proper protection against rodents should be taken all season long, but especially in the fall.

Now that your system is up and running at it's maximum efficiency, your shelves are stocked with repair parts and your records are up to date, you can kick back and wait for your tree planting contractor to come and say "My tree spade just hit a main line. Where is the pump house?"

*Here is hoping your system start is a quiet one.*



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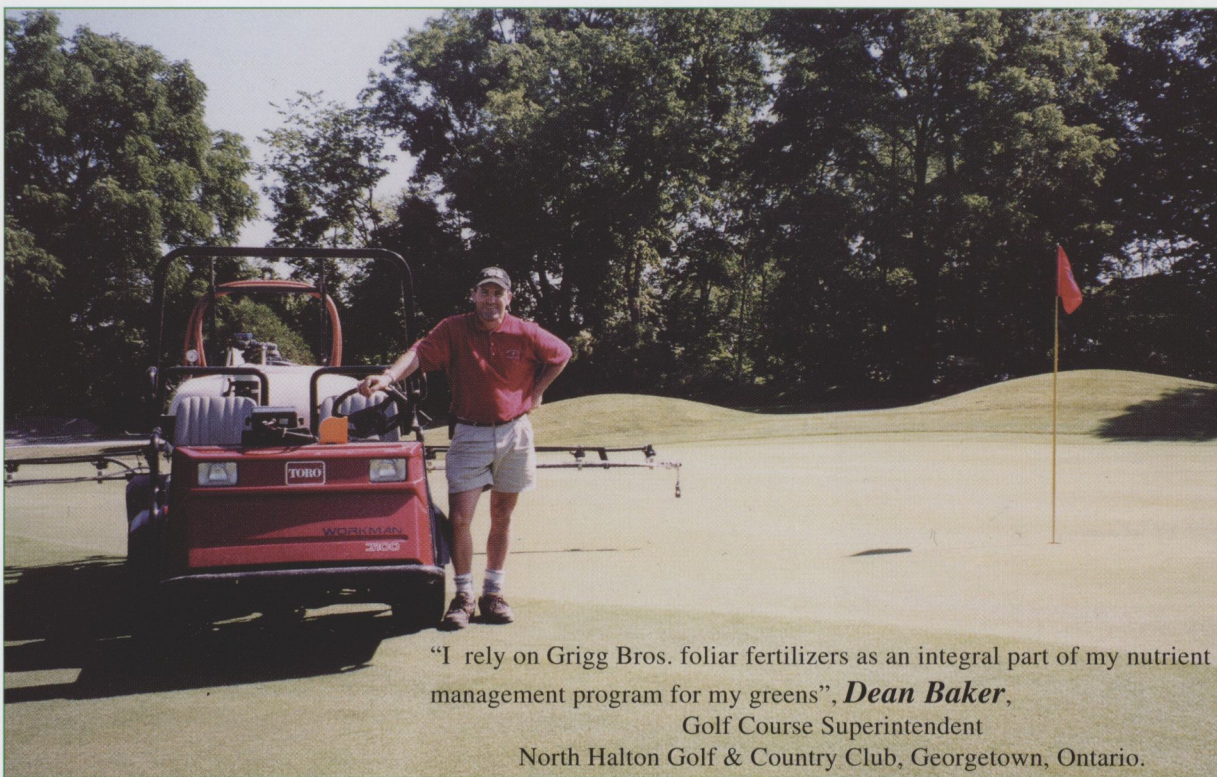
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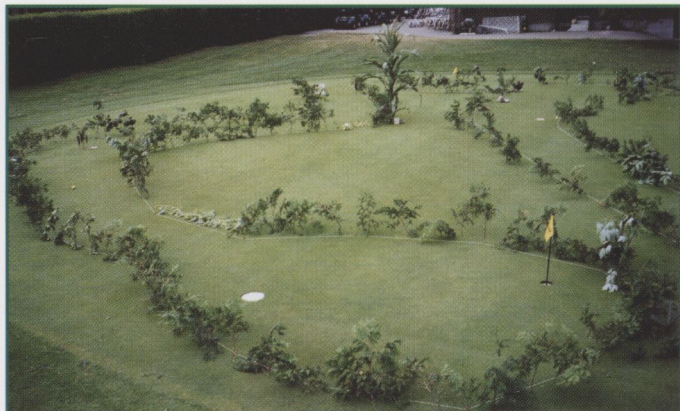


# Putt the fun into fundraising

by Jerry Richard, Superintendent  
Craigowan Golf & Country Club

*H*ave you ever thought of becoming a Golf Course Architect and giving a little more back to the Game than you already do? This might be an opportunity to do both.

Each year at Craigowan Golf and Country Club, during one of our sponsored tournaments, the organizers ask us to add a few features to our putting green so that some extra fun might be had before and after the round. Over time this tradition has grown to the point where the putting contest is almost as orchestrated as the tournament itself.



Competitors pay two dollars to play the 6-hole course, keeping track of their score. When it's all over, prizes are given out to the winners. It is amazing how many times players will try to lower their score, donating to the pot each time...especially after a few libations. Last season we set up another similar course for a day during the Club Championships. Response was warm, and we had to use lights so players could putt into the evening.

This could be a way to raise some extra money for your Club's Junior Golf program.

Let the kids get involved in designing and setting up the course. The Pro Shop can donate some prizes. Promote it a bit and pick a day when the course will be crammed with fun loving golfers and they will flock to give it a try.

We used a variety of branches, rocks, dyed water hazards (cut holes lined with tin foil), sand traps, and small picket fences with 2 different sized cup cutters. Be as creative as you like. Imitate some famous golf holes. Golf tees and strings can be used to define each hole – a ball rolling out of the hole was assessed a one-stroke penalty. Set up time is 2 to 3 hours once you've designed your routing. The next day, to look at it, nobody would know you ever had it set up.



# The referee

by Jerry Richard, Superintendent  
Craigowan Golf & Country Club



*T*his quiz works on the relief rules from 23 to 28 and is intended to get people to read the definitions which helps to understand the rules.

- Which of the following is true?
  - A player may declare his ball lost.
  - A player may declare his ball unplayable anywhere on the course.
  - Casual water does not exist out of bounds.
  - Soft, mushy earth is casual water.
- Which of the following is false with regard to out of bounds?
  - A ball is out of bounds when any part of it is out of bounds.
  - If a line on the ground defines the boundary, the line itself is out of bounds.
  - The out of bounds line extends vertically upwards and downwards.
  - Stakes defining out of bounds are not obstructions.
- Which of the following is not a loose impediment?
  - A worm.
  - An ant hill.
  - Dew.
  - Sand on the putting green.
- A player is not entitled to relief from a drain cover (immovable obstruction) if:
  - The ball is through the green and the drain cover is in a water hazard.
  - The ball and the drain cover are both in a bunker.
  - The ball is on the putting green and the drain cover is on the fringe and it interferes with the player's stance.
  - The ball is in bounds and the drain cover is out of bounds.
- A player must take relief as provided for in the Rules for which of the following situations?
  - A ball that lies on a wrong putting green.
  - A ball embedded in its own pitch mark.
  - A ball that lies on a cart path.
  - A ball that lies in casual water.

Answers on page 25

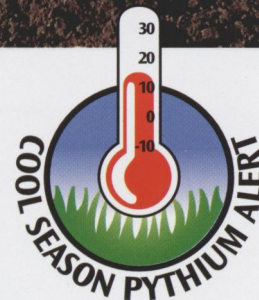




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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Conestoga Golf Course

One of the advantages of never being home during the growing season, apart from the obvious ones like never having to do anything around the house and shirking the yard work to the wife and kids, is that come wintertime, there is a fair bit of well deserved vacation time built up. This year was a particularly good one for me, since it started with Christmas, or as we like to call it at the Breen house: Eatapolooza. I went about ten days in a row without actually pausing in my gluttony. If there was an Olympics of gastronomic endurance and gymnastics, I was in training for all the gold medals. We killed the fatted calf, a fatted pig, three fatted turkeys, a flock of chickens, a school of whitefish and a borscht (whatever that is).

Food is my great weakness. It is, in fact, my only remaining vice and I cling to it with the tenacity of a drowning man to a life preserver. Mmmmmm, lifesavers. If I was a drowning man and my personal floatation device was deep fried, or covered with chocolate, I would go under in about twenty seconds and they'd find me with a content (albeit dead) look on my face. The family and I stayed in a hotel for a couple of nights in January and I went out to buy a \$3,500 bag of chips. At least, that's what the chips cost me once I repaired the 6 foot long dent in the side of my truck where I ran into a light post while singing the salt and vinegar song and doing the happy food dance with my son, instead of watching where I was going.

But eventually, the vacation ended and I had to go back to work so that I could afford to pay for Din, the autobody repairman's trip to Jamaica. After getting

used to sleeping until noon everyday, going back to the golf course was like moving to France. I had jet lag the whole first week, so I was very glad to have the Turfgrass Symposium come along and get me out of the office before someone noticed I was just sleeping in there.

The seminars were excellent this year, as always, but while I was sitting through the reports of what various research institutes were looking into, I must admit that I wasn't really listening. Instead, I was compiling a list of what I think the brainy types in lab coats ought to be researching on my behalf. So, if anyone is listening, here's a couple of things which I think should be on the agenda for next year's OTS:

## Dump Truck Tire Ruts - Fix Them or Use Them as Hazards?

This seminar explores the question, "Why can they find me every time there's a broken weld on the stool behind the pro shop counter, but no one can find me when some idiot is about to drive an 8 million ton truck across the fairway?"

## Wear Area Renovation

Researchers from the University of Minnesota discuss a study which compares the relative wear effects of golf carts versus a herd of angry buffalo on turfgrass.

## Fertilizer Spills Dustbusters - do they really work?

Plus a special bonus...how to avoid an assault charge when you only find out about a week later when there's a big dead spot on the green.



## Hydraulic Leaks - New Cleanup Techniques

This seminar demonstrates new things that you can do to stay busy while the grass is dying and someone is fuelling up the sodcutter.

## Bird Excrement - Tapping into Free Fertilizer

Most animals excrete uric acid, but birds would die in their shells if they did, so they make pure Urea. No slow release technology here - just slippery and readily available.

## Bentgrass Cultivar Trials

This seminar outlines OTRF trials with respect to resistance to snowmobiles, cross country skis and automobile tires. Additional topics include which cultivars are least likely to leave a grass stain on the back of the dress of the aforementioned bridesmaid/aerator.

This is just a partial list, but I think you get the idea. Hopefully by next year's OTS, someone will have an accurate comparison of seagull versus goose feces, or a graph showing which cultivar of bluegrass sod will best survive a long weekend where the staff is more interested in getting to the beach than in irrigation. Either way, I'll be there with bells on, helping suppliers to spend out their expense accounts, ending my vacation with my fellow Superintendents, and, of course, hitting all the receptions for the free food.

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## The referee - Quiz answers

1. C Rule 25 Definitions
2. A Rule 27 Definitions
3. C Rule 23 Definitions
4. D Rule 24 Definitions
5. A Rule 25-3b.



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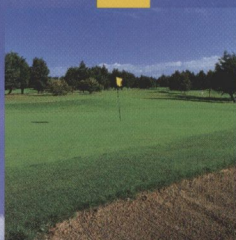
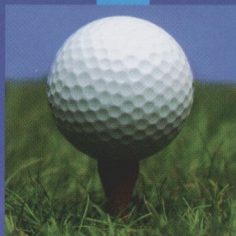
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## Looking back

### THIRTY YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott,  
Nobleton Lakes Golf Club

The Board of Directors in 1972 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**, **E. Charman** and **John Arends** (past pres.). The editorial committee consisted of **Bill Hynd**, **John Arends**, **Ross Haines** and **Helmut Kopp**.

New Members: **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; **Lamont Anderson**, 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 Club, received the highest marks at the University of Guelph short course.

**Jack Abbot**, an Honourary 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

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the OGSA and Western Greenskeepers Assoc. 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 **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 Golf Club. On November 7th, there was a meeting held at the Summit Golf Club and 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 hosted the Greens Chairman/ Superintendent Golf Tournament hosted by **Vince Piccolo**. **Vince** has been the Superintendent at Brantford Golf Club 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 he 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: "The Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association has requested that all gambling in club houses be stopped unless the host Superintendent so wishes at his club. Please respect this rule."



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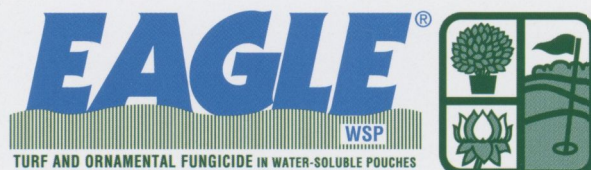




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## Dennis McCracken retires

by James Wyllie

After 34 years in the golf business, Dennis McCracken has retired and McCracken Golf Supplies has been sold to plant Products. Dennis has stayed for 2 years to help with the transition. This April, Dennis decided it was time to enjoy the fruits of his labours. He loaded that blue truck for the last time, called on all his customers (mostly friends) and informed them that he was retiring.

Dennis' father Bill McCracken started McCracken Golf Supplies in 1962 and built up a very successful company until his untimely death in June 1968. Bill, as well as Dennis, was well respected in the golf business. With the sudden death of his father, Dennis had to make a decision as to whether he would take over the business or not, and take over he did. Having grown up in London, Ontario, Dennis did not know the roads of Toronto and surrounding areas, but with a map in his lap and having a photographic memory he soon found most of the courses in the Greater Toronto Area.

As his customers got to know Dennis, most of us soon found out what a gentleman and knowledgeable person he is. He helped many superintendents young and old, make critical decisions during stressful times. I can still remember calling Dennis at home at 5:30 a.m. and his wife Diane would answer with a sleepy voice, telling me I was too late, he had already left. That night he would call and in most cases would be at my club the next morning or drop something off at my house that night. I know that this was the norm for anyone that got caught short-handed.

In 1995 Dennis started the Supers baseball tournament. This tourney grew from a few teams until it became so big and popular that the supers were asking in May if they could put in applications to play. Everyone is hoping that this tradition continues.

Dennis will be missed but his lasting contributions will be remembered. Dennis and Diane are looking forward to happy days on the golf course, and relaxing times together.

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## In Memorium

by Robert Moote

### GEORGE BECK 1914 - 2001

George will be fondly remembered by older superintendents throughout Ontario. He was 88 years of age. He travelled the globe with his wife Elsie, had a Muskoka get-away, wasn't rich nor poor, was well liked by everyone, was able to pursue hobbies in his spare time, had absolutely no stress in his life and was successful at just about everything he put his mind to doing.

George was born in London, England. He married Elsie in 1940 and after surviving the blitz during WWII emigrated to Canada on an old troop ship, arriving on Friday, February 13, 1948, and settled in Toronto. George obtained a job selling golf course equipment, first with Graveley Tractor, then with F. Manley & Sons selling Toro equipment and Milorganite where he developed extensive knowledge in lawn care. After many years he joined Turf-Care who had taken over the Toro agency. After retiring he was retained by Ron Craig.

George was loved by all superintendents. Everyone was important and he always went out of his way to provide service. Elsie recalls two superintendent brothers; one would call at 6 a.m. and the other always after 11 p.m. He never let anyone down. George and Elsie have two daughters, Susan and Debbie, and four grandchildren. They recently celebrated their 62nd Anniversary.

During retirement George took up golfing again having not touched a golf club since coming to Canada. It gave him the opportunity to play on the many courses he sold equipment to and consulted with. He loved model planes, reading and quoting literature. Elsie states that George was the most wonderful, kind and generous man who always thought of others.





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# The Can / Am challenge

*Submitted by Dean Baker*

Most avid Canadian golfers believe they should get out and play golf as soon as the ice melts. If there is no ice or snow, well then we just play right through the winter. The Can Am challenge has always tested the will of the golf industry to see how early we would endure playing golf in the spring. This year was no exception, as many OGSA members travelled across the border to the prestigious Detroit Golf Club. Our host Superintendent, Clarence Wolf from Jr., had the course more than ready, despite the early tournament date.

The weather, as always, was the questionable part of this get-together. The Canadian contingency usually heads down sometime on Sunday, and for most of us, it is a chance to get in the first game of the season. Hats off to the Windsor courses that put us all up for the Sunday game. The weather was cold and damp, but once again, it's those die hard Canadians who have to play for the first time. Monday's weather turned out similar to Sunday, but the hospitality of our American friends helped to warm things up.

The Americans were determined to defend the trophy on their native soil and won the cup with 41 points to Canada's 35 points. The following were the individual winners for the day: Closest to the Pin #3 – Tom Gill, Closest to the Pin #7 – Jeff Stauffer, Closest to the Pin #11 – Oliver Boska, Closest to the Pin # 15 – Steve Connors and the Straightest/Longest Drive was won by Thom Charters.

The OGSA along with the GDGCSA would like to congratulate the winners, and thank both groups for making the annual trek. Despite the cold, wet weather, the hospitality on both sides has always been warm.



Detroit Golf Club

Photo by Jeff Stauffer  
Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

## 2002 Superintendent of the Year Policy

*This year the CGSA has altered their nomination process for Superintendent of the Year in the following way:*

- 1) Only Provincial Golf Superintendent Associations may nominate candidates.
- 2) A new "anonymous" Selection Committee of prominent CGSA members will be choosing the Superintendent of the Year winner.
- 3) The deadline date for submissions has been moved up to May 1, 2002.

*Taking the above changes into consideration, OGSA's Policy will be as follows:*

OGSA Board of Director's will select one person with the best qualifications.

Nomination will last two years. If nominee is not selected within that two years another nomination will be put forward the following year.

Pelino Scenna was nominated last year, and it is our pleasure to announce that OGSA will support Pelino's nomination again this year.





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