

August 2003

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

INSIDE:
2004 OGSA
CONFERENCE
INFORMATION

Presidents' Day

How a Golf Course Achieves a Top-100 Rating
The Fraz "Media Day"

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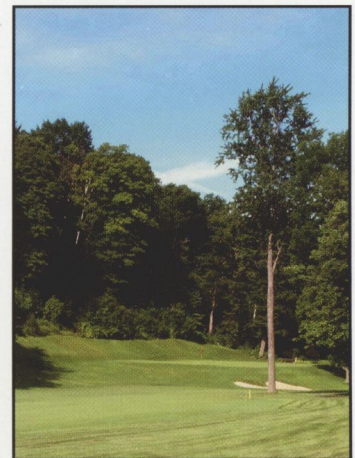
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Credit Valley Golf Club

#16 Green

Photo by Jeff Stauffer

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

President's message

Since our last issue of *Green is Beautiful*, the OGSA has been host to the Spring Field Day, at the Springfield Golf & Country Club and the Presidents' Day, at Credit Valley Golf Club. Thanks to Ray Dlugokecki and Jeff Stauffer for the superbly conditioned golf courses and their time spent helping the OGSA organize the events.

IPM Accreditation is now available. Several of the OGSA Board of Directors were used as a pilot group for the exam and are among the first to be accredited. See the update inside the magazine for all the details.

Progress continues to be made towards Ontario's first Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. Booth space is filling up and the educational program is nearing completion.

The University of Guelph and the Guelph Turfgrass Institute has suffered what I feel is a major set back, with the loss of Dr. Julie Dionne. Julie has moved on to the national level, working on behalf of the RCGA. Even though research continues, the void that is left sets back aspirations of raising the level of research and education in our field. We need to offer support, guidance and criticism. In addition to donating funds, we must

communicate our needs and place the same demands on researchers and the University, as is placed on us. The issues of today must be at the forefront of research.

Findings must be communicated to help support the superintendent to do their job and we must be willing to listen to what is being said. Turf schools in the North Eastern United States have huge resources to produce incredible findings and it might be unfair to make comparisons, however Ontario is beginning to draw more and more from the south to fill the void. A big part of this is the influence the USGA has, not only in the United States but also throughout the world. The new *Two Year Turf Program*, at Guelph has been modeled after these schools and we are very excited about it. This is a very positive change for the turf industry. Many of us would like to see similar strides made with research. The challenge is being made. We need to work together to fill the void!



by Mark Piccolo
Galt Country Club



ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Guelph Turfgrass Institute
328 Victoria Road South
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Green is Beautiful 2003

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Editor's message

by John Bladon
 Editor, Director of Research & Education

I trust the season is progressing and being kind to all. Golf course ranking systems have always been a subject of great discussion and debate amongst all involved in the industry. *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an interesting submission from KPMG's Ryan Spring, on the processes of ranking golf courses in both the US and Canada. The IPM Accreditation program is now fully underway. Ken Pavely has provided us with an update in his article "Accreditation avenue".

Also, as per some input from members, we are working to make the magazine available online. By entering the OGSA website and tabbing on "*Green is Beautiful*" you can view issues online. As time progresses, more issues will be downloaded and become available. A search engine has been built into the site whereby you can search for articles pertaining to a certain subject.

As we wind towards the shorter days, education and conferences begin to creep into all of our minds. The educational season this year is filled with promise. The OGSA is set to host its first annual conference in Toronto and the program looks phenomenal. Also, enclosed with this edition of *Green is Beautiful* is a mailer on the University of Guelph's Turf Managers Short Course. Independent Study at the University of Guelph also offers a wide array of horticultural, turfgrass management and golf business courses. These all can be done online from the comfort of your own home or office. Check the website for more information (www.horticultureonline.net) or call the Independent Study office at (519) 767- 5050. They are all worthy of consideration as the educational portion of the year approaches.



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport
 Provided by Ministry of the Environment

YEAR 2003

	Average	Actual
January		
(rain)	24.9 mm	0.0 mm
(snow)	31.1 cm	41.4 cm
(total)	52.2 mm	35.4 mm
February		
(rain)	22.3 mm	22.6 mm
(snow)	22.1 cm	23.6 cm
(total)	42.6 mm	46.8 mm
March		
(rain)	36.7 mm	27.8 mm
(snow)	19.2 cm	24.0 cm
(total)	57.1 mm	50.0 mm
April		
(rain)	62.4 mm	34.8 mm
(snow)	5.7 cm	15.2 cm
(total)	68.4 mm	60.8 mm
May		
(rain)	72.4 mm	152.8 mm
(snow)	TR cm	0.0 cm
(total)	72.5 mm	152.8 mm
June		
(rain)	74.2 mm	63.8 mm
July		
(rain)	74.4 mm	66.2 mm



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

- Trevor Clark** Class C
Cardinal Golf Club
- Roger Faubert** Class F
Katrine Golf & Country Club
- Steve Gendron** Class B
Baldoon Golf Club
- Ross Moore** Class F
Gait Country Club
- Dave Paterson** Class F
Magna Golf Club
- Dennis Porteous** Class C
Galt Country Club
- Ken Sarjeant** Class A
Couchiching G&CC
- Blair Smith** Class A
Bancroft Golf Course
- Jonathan Smith** Class S
Grey Silo Golf Course
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Victor Freiberg Ken Graham
 Trevor Hunter A. Kent McDonald
 David Schmelefske

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows CGCS
Rosedale Golf Club

I am told that the Fall Field Day at Legends on the Niagara is now completely SOLD OUT. That's the good and the bad news I suppose, but it's still a nice problem to have.

I will be hosting two pre-Fall Field day seminars on Sunday, September 14th at the Niagara Falls Hilton. These half-day seminars, in the morning, are free for those registered in the event and still allow you enough time to play a round of golf in the afternoon, or just see the sights. If you have not registered as yet, you will probably be left out. This event has proven to be a very popular venue. Both Paul Gurr and Bill Glashan, host Superintendents at Legends on the Niagara, are eagerly anticipating the arrival of their friends and colleagues from across Canada, on Monday September 15th. The Toro Company will again be hosting the Fall Classic reception on Sunday evening. The OGSA is also planning a welcome reception on Saturday 13th at Pillitteri Estates Winery. Please confirm with the OGSA office by fax if you will be attending this event in order that adequate food and transportation can be arranged. An agenda for the weekend is contained in the registration confirmation. If your spouse is planning to attend, there will be ample opportunities to mingle informally and tour the sights with others of significance from across Canada.

The Bell Canadian Open moves to Hamilton Golf & Country Club in early September where Rhod Trainer is the superintendent. Admission is complimentary for CGSA gold cardholders, so plan to attend.

Plans for the Annual March Conference in Halifax are well under way, and the local group will certainly provide an excellent supply of education and hospitality. Preliminary plans are also being formulated for the 2005 CGSA conference in Ontario. This will be a joint event with the OGSA.

Regional Focus groups are being planned for November in order to obtain input on mandatory educational requirements and re-aligned membership classifications as they relate to our National Occupational Standards. I will keep you posted on the relevant facts as they unfold. Our targeted marketing campaign is now released, and will elevate the exposure of our profession. You are encouraged to review our policy statement with respect to drinking water on golf courses, and specifically the use of portable coolers. You are also strongly encouraged to provide the CGSA office a copy of your pesticide license for your membership renewal, if you have not already done so.

Let's hope that reason will prevail in the City of Toronto Pesticide debate, as it turns to a "Pesticide Advisory Committee" which will report to council in the fall. Rest assured there is a flurry of activity on our collective behalf. "Not in my back yard!!"

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Health & safety

PREPARING YOUR CLUB FOR SAFETY

by Doug Johnson,

SAFETAID and Health and Safety Consulting

First Aid and Safety Supplies and WHMIS Training

How does your health and safety program stack up? Has your club put together a health and safety program that covers the entire club? Has your club ensured that all the workplace participants understand and follow the health and safety rules as identified in the Occupational Health and Safety Act or by your club? Has your club established written work procedures that include health and safety? Do you have a clearly identified system of communication and enforcement for the rules that are established at your facility? Do you have very specific rules that your contractors must follow?

This is one load of questions. The issue is, can you or the club ownership answer yes to all of them? And this is just the start of health and safety on the job. The club must ensure that there are written rules for health and safety in the same way that there are written rules for any other aspect of the job.

You may say, "Well, we don't have written rules at our club, so why should we have written health and safety rules?" A good question, and the answer lies in the Act.

The management of the club, including you as the superintendent, is required to ensure that you are doing everything reasonable to ensure that the workers are working safely. This is stated in the Act in Sections 25 and 27. This is called "Due Diligence" and do not, for one moment, think that you are off the hook just because the club management has not done their job. Ask yourself if you have done everything

reasonable. Ask yourself if all your workers are following safe work practices all of the time. Yes, the ownership may be taken to task if something goes wrong. But if that error is found to be in an area under your jurisdiction then you may be held responsible for the actions of your workers.

Attempting a defense that says I told them again and again is not going to be adequate. The judge is looking for your written documentation, your discipline procedure and the equitable enforcement of your written rules.

There are never any consequences when things are going well. There are however consequences if something goes wrong.

Are you prepared to stand up in a court of law if one of your workers is critically injured and tell the judge that you did absolutely everything to ensure the safety of the worker, or will you be left hanging out to dry if someone at your facility is critically injured or killed?

Think about these questions and honestly review the situation at your club. Take the time now to plan for the coming year. Don't get caught out. Remember, "Due Diligence" is never having to say you are sorry!

Have a safe autumn!

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Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

This month's site is *The Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment* (RISE). The URL to the main website is <http://www.pestfacts.org> where one can view

many benefits for the responsible use of pesticides. This is a pro-pesticide website that includes plenty of articles on the benefits of them. There are articles and links that are all worth looking at. The site is great to visit due to its speed and no pop-ups. It is nice to see that some of the links are GCSAA and NGCOA.

The next site is the one I really want to highlight. Being a first time parent, who happens to possess an applicators


license, I sometimes find myself between a rock and a hard place with respect to the overall impact of chemicals on children. However, this sight is aimed at changing even the worst skeptics. It is a slight variation of RISE's parent site, <http://www.schoolpestfacts.com> targets the responsible use of pesticides in schools and parks. There really are plenty of good articles by credible authors that explain, in layman's terms, how pesticides benefit everybody. Some articles go further in explaining the positive impact of IPM and how government imposed bans on pesticides are doing more harm than good. It is apparent that the overall reduction in pesticide use has caused overall pest populations to increase, and with that comes the health problems associated

with them. These articles carry a lot of weight due to the fact that they are Ph.D. written, complete with references. There is also a link to a site on "school IPM" that is endorsed by the EPA and is trying to be enacted as a bill. Again, as with RISE's main site, there are no ads or pop-ups.

Last, but not least, for those of you who cannot get enough from CNN. An extension from the last column I wrote, additional resources on the West Nile Virus can be viewed at the U.S. based site <http://www.westnilevirusfacts.org>. This site is a watchdog that tracks potential cases of the virus. Again, as with the Provincial and Federal sites, there is information on the risks and what you can do to prevent the disease ad nauseum.

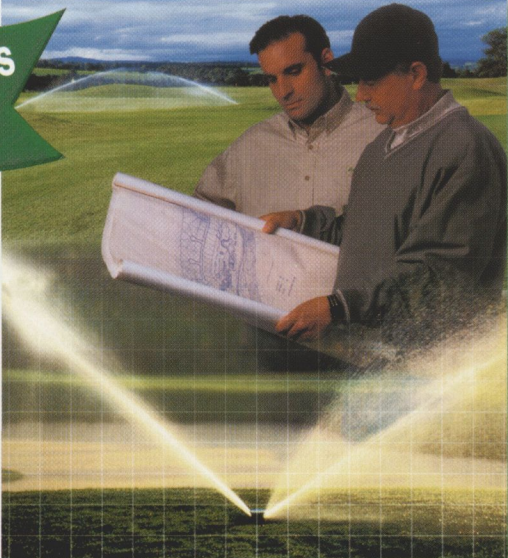
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Mechanic's corner

by Larry A. Murray, President G.E.T.A.O.
Equipment Manager, Pheasant Run Golf Course

911...911 alert! What is the nature of the emergency? It is the annual golf tournament at Banty's Roost Golf Club. It will be a memorable day for participating mechanics, superintendents, assistant superintendents and anyone related to the golf industry. The tournament date is September 11th, 2003. John Flooryp, from St. Andrews East has informed me that the team of the East and Valley are prepared to defend their trophy. That sounds like a challenge!

Pre-registration is a must, so don't delay. Call Eddie immediately at (905) 889-7620 Ext. 520, or email me at

l.a.murray@sympatico.ca. The cost is \$95.00 which includes golf, cart, steak dinner and prizes galore.

Something new this year, we have received several sponsorships from Turfcare, G.C. Duke Equipment, Utica and Podolinsky dealerships. The sponsorships will allow an equipment manager to attend the tournament without worrying about the tournament fee. If the cost of registration is holding you back from attending, please contact me immediately. You will definitely reap the benefits!

Until I see you at Banty's Roost, keep those wrenches clean, swing those clubs and practice yelling FORE!

Accreditation avenue

By Ken Pavely
Pavely Horticultural Services

Much has been accomplished with the IPM Accreditation program, and it is now fully underway. Vito Cirone and Mark Scenna have been selected as the auditors for the desk review portion. Both gentlemen have excellent qualifications to conduct professional reviews.

The desk review criteria are now set with documentation required for monitoring, staff training, equipment calibration, and hot spot management. Feedback from those working with the industry on environmental issues is pleased with the scope and direction of the desk review.

The exam portion of Accreditation has been vetted by the OGSA Board of Directors and is ready for testing. Ridgetown College, the administrator of the IPM program can now schedule exams in six different regions across the province. This enables the superintendent to not have to travel long distances to get started in the program.

The municipality of Caledon now requires Accreditation for courses in its township, and we expect Port Perry to do the same in the next month or two. The quality of the

program is second to none, and will help restore some faith with our municipal regulators that the golf industry is taking proactive steps to deal with a highly emotional issue.

Last but not least, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has formally requested the province to take leadership on this issue by requiring IPM Accreditation. With bylaws now in existence in Ontario, all different in their requirements, it certainly will be an interesting time in the coming months. Now that Toronto has passed a bylaw which includes requirements for golf, many municipalities feel "safe" that they can go ahead and do the same. The legal challenge by CropLife has not stopped some from forging ahead, while others are adopting a "wait and see" attitude. With some 440 municipalities across the province, it is anybody's guess where the next bylaw will emerge.

You can enroll in the IPM Accreditation program by calling Ridgetown College at 1-866-385-4762. The first step is to schedule and take the exam, followed by the desk review. Information can be obtained from Ridgetown.



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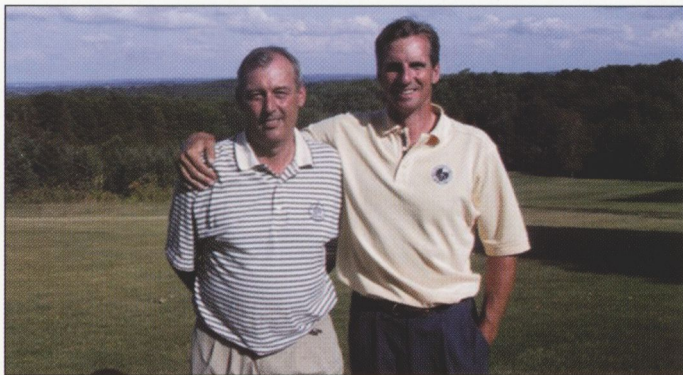
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What's new

The Toronto Society of Golf Superintendents

The society conducted its annual golf championship at the Mono Hills Golf Club, hosted by Superintendent Doug Suter. The unique, private layout presented lots of challenge for the superintendents, and after stiff competition Chris Dew from the National Golf Club of Canada and Tom Murphy, from Lambton Golf & Country Club came out as low gross and low net winners, respectively. All participants enjoyed refreshments and a barbeque after the event.

The traditional round table discussion concerning water restrictions concluded the day.



L-R Tom Murphy & Chris Dew

Future Toronto Society meetings are open to members only.

August 11	The National	Woodbridge
September 15	Lakeridge Links GC (near Whitby)	Brooklin
October 2	Maple Downs Golf & CC	Richmond Hill
December 17	Thornhill Country Club	Xmas Luncheon

11th Annual Mechanic'S Golf Tourney

When: September 11th, 2003 9:00 am
Where: Banty's Roost Golf Club
Price: \$95.00 (includes everything)
Who: All members and their guests

Reserve your space and your foursome by calling Eddie at 905-889-7620 Ext: 503 before Aug.23, 2003
<mailto:eddie.konrad@ladiesgolfclub.com>

Penn State Certifies Syngenta's Marie Thorne as Turfgrass Specialist



R. Marie Thorne

Guelph, Ontario (July 22, 2003) – R. Marie Thorne, Senior Turf Specialist with Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, recently completed the prestigious World campus Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State University. Penn State is recognized as one of the preeminent turfgrass authorities in the world.

Penn State's Program, affiliated with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, provides comprehensive instruction in turfgrass cultural systems, pest management and turfgrass edaphology. It also offers an internationally recognized case study course in advanced turfgrass management and problem solving.

Marie's achievement places her amongst only a "handful of people" in Canada accredited to offer this professional level of expertise. Syngenta congratulates Marie on her accomplishment and is pleased to be able to offer Canadian Golf Course Superintendents an even higher level of customer commitment and technical support.

Originally, a Science graduate of the University of Guelph, Marie has over 20 years experience in the professional and consumer turfcare industries. She is an active member of several regional, as well as the Canadian and U.S. Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

Marie may be contacted at (519) 837-5327 or by email at marie.thorne@syngenta.com.

O.G.S.A.'s 2nd Annual Assistants Golf Tournament

When: Tuesday, September 23rd, 2003
Where: Osprey's Heathland Golf Course, Alton
Price: Members \$100.00/person
 Non Members 110.00/person
Who: Assistants, 2nd Assistants, Foremen, and Industry Reps are welcome

Registration forms have been mailed out. Full details can be seen on our website under menu heading *Calendar of Events*

Continued on Page 10...

Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

When: Wednesday, October 8th, 2003
Where: Taboo Golf Club, Gravenhurst
Price: TBA
Who: All OGSA Members

Registration forms will be mailed by end of Aug.
with Membership Renewal Invoices

Full details can be seen on our website under
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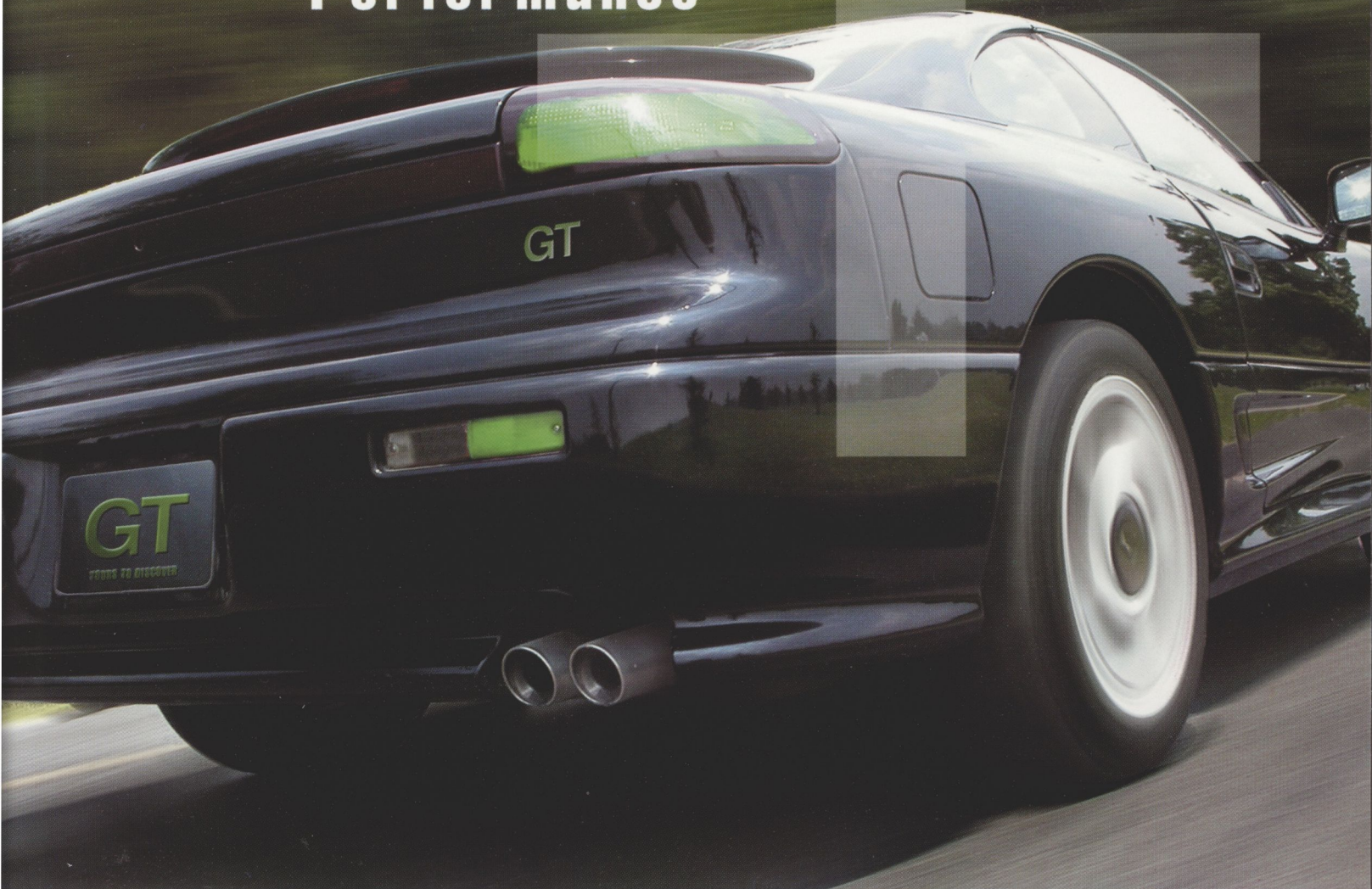


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Media Day



Saluting the sports journalists who helped make the Greater Toronto Area, the number one Golf Market in North America.

Canadian golf and golfers lost a great friend and supporter in 2000 when Toronto Star golf writer Rick Fraser, known to the golfing community as, 'The Fraz' passed away. To perpetuate his memory, the annual GTAGA Media Day, which promotes the City Championships for Men and Women in the Form of the Toronto Star Amateurs, is named in his honour.

Rick also wrote for the Barrie Examiner, The Globe & Mail, and the Toronto Sun during his career.

O.G.S.A. a Welcome Addition to the GTAGA annual Media Day 'The Fraz'

by Paul White

OGSA Past President 1980

A record number, 45 media (25 print/20 broadcast) participated in the 4th annual "Fraz" media day, on June 3, 2003, at the historic Scarborough Golf and Country Club. Also in attendance were Canadian Legends and Amateurs of the Century, Marlene Streit and Gary Cowan, along with members of the OGSA executive, which included: Jim Flett, Immediate Past President; Paul Scenna, Treasurer; Rob Ackermann, Vice President; Jeff Stauffer, Director of Government Relations; Sean DeSilva, Director of Public Relations, Jeff Alexander, Director of Golf & Events; Randy Booker, Director of Membership and Paul White, Past President 1980.

Glenn Goodwin, president and founder of the GTAGA, who we all know is a huge supporter and proponent of the OGSA, found a way to invite our organization into this high profile and fast growing media day, and we could not be more pleased with our involvement.

In addition to a well scripted inserts, by Paul Scenna on "The evolution of the golf course superintendent" and "Golf courses and the environment", which were included in the very professional media kit, the OGSA supplied hats to all the competitors displaying the OGSA emblem on the front and 'The Fraz' embroidered on the back.

The hats were a big hit, with most of the media wearing them during the tournament. In terms of exposure, being a sponsor of this special day, along with; Buick Dealers of Ontario, Rogers SportsNet, Scarborough Golf & Country Club, TaylorMade/Adidas/Maxfli, Toronto Sun, Toronto Star and Globe & Mail, was too good to be true. It provided our organization a subtle way of being involved

with the right people in the media and the long term benefits should prove to be invaluable.

Dorothy Hills, our tireless and dedicated cheerleader took part at the registration table by greeting and distributing hats to the 72 maximum participants (Note: the GTAGA has a waiting list of media wanting to play in "The Fraz") and, as always, represented us wonderfully. She is truly a class act!

One of the real surprises to the day was during announcements being made to all the competitors, before the start of play (scramble format). Glenn Goodwin surprised all of us by stating, "To all our sponsors, we thank you for making today's 'Fraz Day' our largest yet, and to our newest supporter, the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association, an organization that Rick Fraser and I have always been big fans of - I think you will all enjoy reading the insert in the media kit from them."

Well, not only was that a surprise but so was the terrific story written by the Star's Golf Columnist, Dave Perkins, published just a few days earlier (Saturday, May 31 in the Star) titled "Pesticide by law a plague for our golf courses".

It seems to me that the timing of the story and our involvement with 'The Fraz' was not just a coincidence, but was a sign that we have a few really good friends out there and one of them happens to be a caddie from Union, Ontario, by the name of Glenn Goodwin, also known as 'Goodie'.

On behalf of the 300+ OGSA golf superintendents, we look forward to being part of next year's 'Fraz Day', at Devil's Pulpit, a day too good not to be part of.



Scarboro Golf & Country Club



Glenn "Goodie" Goodwin

'The Fraz' 2003 GTAGA Media Day Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Brian Bourke	CFCA-FM / CKKW-AM	Skip Johns	Kitchener Waterloo Record
Lisa Bowes	CBC	Brian Kendall	Freelance Golf Writer
Robin Brown	CBC Radio One	Brent Long	Freelance Golf Writer
Bryan Carey	CITY-TV	Don Martin	Global TV
Wayne Chamberlain	Niagara Falls Review	Ted McIntyre	Ontario Golf Magazine
Ian Cruickshank	Freelance Golf Writer	Garry McKay	Hamilton Spectator
Gary Dalliday	CHEX-TV	Jim McKenny	CITY-TV
Pete Dalliday	On the Links Radio/TV	Joe Mercer	Barrie Examiner
Mike Day	TSN	Mark Milliere	TSN
James Deacon	Maclean's	Scott Morrison	Sportsnet
Hans Deryk	Toronto Star	Barry Milavsky	Cangolf.com
Gerry Dobson	Sportsnet	Peter Mumford	Fairways Golf Magazine
Darren Dreger	Sportsnet	Bridget O'Toole	CBL-AM
Bob Feaver	Peterborough Examiner	Graham Parley	Toronto Star
Ken Fidlin	Toronto Sun	Dave Perkins	Toronto Star
Grant Fraser	Golf Access	Bob Pronyk	CKCO-TV
John Gordon	Freelance Golf Writer	Dave Rutherford	The Score
Pat Grier	Toronto Sun	Gary Salewicz	Toronto Life
Wilf Hughes	KRUZ Radio	Steve Simmons	Toronto Sun
Jim Hunt	Toronto Sun - The Fan	John Tenpenny	Golf Canada
Jeff Hutcheson	CTV	Tim Wharnsby	Globe & Mail
Ian Hutchinson	Toronto Sun		



Time to relax. After the Tournament



Keith Rasmus, Host Superintendent

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MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

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Golf course highlight

Credit Valley Golf Club

2500 Old Carriage Road

Mississauga ON L5C 1Y7

Website: www.creditvalleygolf.com

Golf Course Superintendent:

Jeff Stauffer

Email: jstauffer@creditvalleygolf.com



COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Peel Region

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

Number of rounds?
35,000 annually

Typical opening and closing date?
Early April to early December

Name of Superintendent?
Jeff Stauffer

How many years have you been a superintendent?
4 years

Are you CGCS or Master Superintendent?
No

List other accomplishments (Audubon, board service etc.)
Current Board Member of the OGSA
and past editor of *Green is Beautiful*

How many years have you been an O.G.S.A. member?
10

How many year round staff?
6

How many seasonal staff?
13

How many mechanics and assistants?
1 Mechanic: Mike Janssen
1 assistant: Scott Sleep

How many gardening staff?
1 Gardener: Megan Phillips

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back tees and forward tees?
6737 yards from the back tees and
5412 yards from the front tees

What is the size and length of driving range and range tee?
5 acres – 250 yards

How many bunkers?
56

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

Who was the original architect?
Robbie Robinson

What was the year of original construction?
1971

By whom and when was the course remodeled?
Doug Carrick - ongoing

What major tournaments held?
CPGA in 1993 (winner Steve Stricker)
Canadian Amateur in 2001 (winner Gareth Paddison)

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
10,600 square feet

What type of irrigation system?
Toro Network 8000 – 12 years old

What is the size of the greens, tees and fairways?
3 acres of greens
3 acres of tees
22 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Bent / Poa

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?
19 loam greens

What is the predominant soil type?
Top bench: silty loam and valley: loam/rock

What equipment do you have in inventory?

- 2 – Toro GM 3150
- 1 – Toro GM 3100
- 4 – Toro GM 1600
- 3 – Toro GM 1000
- 3 – Toro RM 5400
- 2 – Jacobsen HR 4600
- 1 – Toro 3100 – D
- 3 – Toro Workman
- 1 – Toro 325-D Groundsmaster
- 1 – JD Aercore 800
- 1 – Toro Aerifier
- 1 – Multicore Fwy Aerifier
- 1 – Aerway
- 1 – Verti-drain
- 10 – Clubcar XRT
- 1 – Toro 5500 Sprayer
- 1 – Toro 1250 Sprayer
- 1 – JD 5300 Tractor
- 1 – JD 4700 Tractor
- 1 – Ford Loader/Backhoe
- 1 – Bergal Turf Vac
- 1 – Agri-metal Blower
- 1 – Salsco Roller
- 1 – Bannerman topdresser
- 1 – Tycrop MH 4400
- 1 – Bannerman Dimple seeder
- 1 – Promark stump grinder
- Assorted Misc. Power tools

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
16,000 linear feet of fairway drainage 1997
Valley road construction 1998
Tee construction hole # 12, 2000
Tee Construction hole #'s 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 2001
Path construction 2001

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

- Planning to upgrade pump house and wet well configuration to variable speed capabilities.
- Landscape clubhouse grounds following clubhouse expansion/renovation.
- Re-configure main driveway entrance and re-locate putting green.
- Maintenance facility.
- Fairway drainage
- Driving Range renovation
- Tree replacement program

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

- Credit River poses threat of flooding each spring and during heavy rains.
- Lack of topsoil underneath fairways and roughs in valley.
- Maintaining adequate turf conditions on driving range tee decks due to amount of abuse they receive.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any Success stories?

- Enlarging the teeing areas on hole #'s 7, 8, 10 and enjoying grass all season long!
- Regular verti-draining of the greens has broken up the layers within the soil profile and with sand filling the holes, has improved the movement of nutrients, water and roots downward.

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PRACTICES

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?

- Initiated a fairway topdressing program along with aerway slicing for aerification. This allowed us to break up the rock layer found beneath the fairways and incorporate the sand material down into the profile. To date, we have been successful building upon the subsurface layer with an average of one inch of sand on all fairways. This has drastically improved the playability, drainage, and overall consistency of the fairways. An aggressive overseeding program is also completed twice each season on the fairways as part of the topdressing program.
- The success of the aerway on the fairways has lead to its use on tees each fall season and the greens late fall before dormancy sets in.

Presidents' Day

Despite the threatening weather, the 2003 Presidents' Day, hosted by Credit Valley Golf Club, is one that will be long remembered by the 36 participating teams.

Our host, Golf Course Superintendent Jeff Stauffer, helped create an absolutely perfect day with the rest of the Credit Valley Team! All staff members of this fine facility should be commended for their attention and warm hospitality extended to all the participants from the time they entered the front entrance, to the time they left.

Registration started at 11:00 a.m. with a table set up for a pari-mutuel game, run by Paul Scenna and Keith Bartlett. Thanks men!

After a lovely deli buffet lunch, it was off to the practice range and then to the assigned starting holes for a 1:00 p.m. shot gun.



#15 Green

The Credit Valley course is an extremely challenging one. The first five holes have variety to say the least. Tree lined, sloping fairways and well guarded, huge slippery green sites makes club selection crucial to get your round started in the right direction!!!! After the first five, it is down into the Credit Valley where the Credit River crosses eight of the thirteen holes that lay waiting for you. Again large fast greens makes you utilize the pocket pro booklet quite often. The Clubhouse that overlooks the valley blends in with the canopy of mature trees stabilizing the valley walls, which gives that real Country Club feeling. The stonework throughout the property blended nicely with the flowing Credit River stone banks that have been eroded through time.

The golf course was in fantastic condition and just a real treat to play, especially for the William Sansom Trophy, for top

honours.

After golf there was time to socialize, with friends and colleagues before being seated for a five-course meal that was fitting to the day.



#17 Fairway

After the meal, OGSA President, Mark Piccolo welcomed everyone and enlighten us with the history of the Presidents' Day and talked about William Sansom, our first OGSA President, from 1924 through 1932.

We where also welcomed by Jerry Boyko, a Member and Director of Credit Valley Golf Club, expressing how it was an honour to host this special event for the OGSA.

Jeff Stauffer also addressed the crowd and updated us on the IPM Accreditation Program that he has been very involved with over the past year.

Thanks again to all the staff members of the Credit Valley Golf Club for a great day! Special thanks go to Jeff Stauffer, Golf Course Superintendent, who helped co-organize the event and provided us with outstanding golf course conditions for us to play. Thank you to Dorothy Hills for all the preparation she occurs before any OGSA Event.

Hope everyone had a great day!



#7 Green



L-R Jeff Stauffer receiving plaque from Jeff Alexander



Jerry Boyko, Director of Credit Valley Golf Club



Mark Piccolo, OGSA President



L-R Jeff Stauffer, Host Superintendent with the Winning Team from The Donald Club - Andy Krausz, Bryan Sparks, Mike O'Connell and Superintendent Paul Scenna

Congratulations to all our winners!

First Place Winning Team

Donalda Club
 Superintendent: Paul Scenna
 Directors: Andy Krausz, Mike O'Connell
 and Bryan Sparks

Second Place Winning Team

Brampton Golf & Country Club
 Superintendent: Martin Kopp
 Directors: Ian Edward Cairns,
 Warren Dudley and Bryan McMahon

Third Place Winning Team

Twenty Valley Golf & Country Club
 Superintendent: Steven Muys
 Directors: Gary Hunter, Rick Dupuis
 And Ivan Foster

Fourth Place Winning Team

Granite Golf Club
 Superintendent: John Gravett
 Directors: Randy Weisz,
 Peter Empey and Shawn McReynolds

Tied Fifth Place Winning Team

Saugen Golf and Country Club
 Superintendent: Mark Schneider
 Directors: Paul Zorzi, Mark Rosner
 And Brian Crabbe

Tied Fifth Place Winning Team

St. George's Golf & Country Club
 Superintendent: John Gall
 Directors: Jim Jolly, Mart Raigla
 And Brian Lucas

Closest to the Pin #4

Maple Downs Golf & Country Club
 Player: Steve Holmes

Closest to the Pin #7

Hamilton Golf & Country Club
 Player: Cathy Carter

Closest to the Pin #11

Mono Hills Golf Club
 Player: Jim Torrance

Closest to the Pin #15

Credit Valley Golf Club
 Player: Terry Garbutt

Long Drive #9

Dalewood Golf & Country Club
 Player: Jean Beath

Long Drive #16 (0-10)

Summit Golf & Country Club
 Player: Ron Bogart

Long Drive #16 (11-18)

Thornhill Country Club
 Player: Keith Bartlett

Longest Drive #16 (19+)

Mississauga Golf & Country Club
 Player: Bill Coyle

Making The Grade—How a Golf Course Achieves a Top-100 Ranking

(A comparative look into the ranking process in the United States and Canada)

by Ryan Spring

Have you ever looked at a ranking of the top golf courses in your country and wondered, "Why is golf course X included on this list?", "why is golf course X ranked so highly, relative to golf course Y?" or "why is golf course Z not on this list?". The answers to these questions can be found by bringing to light the processes that are involved in compiling the list of the top golf courses in a country.

Golf course rankings have been a topic of discussion for avid golfers and industry experts for many years. Due to the individual and subjective nature of ranking one's favorite courses, any published rankings will undoubtedly be open to scrutiny, criticism, and controversy amongst the readers. Despite the various bodies that perform golf course rankings, this analysis will focus solely on *Golf Digest's* ranking of "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses," and *Score Golf's* ranking of "Canada's Top 100 Courses." Arguably, these publications are the most recognizable in their respective countries. Additionally, they also employ vastly different methodologies and are, in my opinion, the best candidates for a comparative analysis.

In discussions with the editors of these publications, both have expressed that the purpose of the rankings is to provide interesting reading material and to incite spirited discussion amongst the readership surrounding the golf course rankings presented. The fact of the matter is that every reader will have a different view of which courses are the best. As such, achieving consensus amongst the readers of these publications would be next to impossible. As golfers, we will have our own thoughts about what golf courses should be included and which ones should not be on any list. That being said, although it is not possible to quantify, golf course rankings have an effect on those that view the lists. These rankings may affect where they play golf, where they vacation, and, to a lesser extent, which country club they may choose to join. Thus, golf course rankings may indirectly have an effect on the business of individual golf course operators. In my opinion, publications that produce golf course rankings have a responsibility to produce the most representative and consistent result possible, and these results should also be fully disclosed to the public.

Much of the controversy and criticism regarding golf course rankings stems from the fact that certain golf courses in the top 100 can move as much as 50 places between rankings (with rankings occurring every two years). Particularly in the *Score Golf* ranking system, where the movements are more dramatic and results of the ranking processes are not fully disclosed, the unfortunate truth is that there is a perception in the golf industry that undue

influence can be placed on golf magazines vis-à-vis golf course rankings. For instance, it is not uncommon to hear suggestive commentary that owners who advertise in the publication conducting the rankings tend to receive an upward boost come publication time. Any truths to such perceptions are certainly unknown to the writer of this article, and are, in my opinion, not valid.

Quite possibly, the method to combat such perceptions lies in the full disclosure of the results to the readership. If publications do not show readers how they ranked the courses on their list, particularly when many have moved dramatically within that list, the door is left wide open for such perceptions to be perpetuated. This analysis will attempt to demonstrate that the volatility observed in the *Score Golf* ranking system can be explained by developing an understanding of the ranking methodology relative to its *Golf Digest* counterpart.

Understanding the process

Although there are several bodies in both the United States and Canada that produce listings of the top golf courses in their respective countries (e.g., *Golf Magazine*, *Golf Week*, etc.) arguably the most notable rankings are performed by *Golf Digest* in the United States and by *Score Golf* in Canada. *Golf Digest* has been publishing its listing of "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses" since 1966 and in its fifth decade boasts the game's oldest ranking system. North of the border, *Score Golf* has been publishing a listing of Canada's Top Courses since 1988. A process that began as the top 15 in 1988, the top 25 in 1990 and 1992, the top 50 from 1994 to 1998, is now finally the top 100 for 2000 and 2002.

The ranking processes employed by *Golf Digest* and *Score Golf* in evaluating the top 100 golf courses in the United States and Canada are dramatically different. As will be demonstrated, the *Golf Digest* ranking system considers tradition, history and ambiance when courses are evaluated. On the other hand, the *Score Golf* system is designed such that historical factors are not contemplated in the ranking process.

In fact, each time *Score Golf* conducts a ranking of the top 100 courses in Canada, all previous results are discarded, and the process starts anew with a fairly high rate of panelist turnover. It should also be noted that the Canadian panelists have fewer golf courses to select from. Currently, there are an estimated 17,000 golf courses in the United States and 2,000 in Canada. In any valid ranking system the cream will always rise to the top; however, it is evident that with one out of 20 golf courses in Canada making the list (as

opposed to one out of 170 in the U.S.), with all other factors being equal, the *Score Golf* list will be more open to volatility and continuous change each time a new ranking is released.

In comparing the golf course ranking systems, there are three key areas that are worthy of consideration:

- the panel;
- the evaluation criteria; and,
- the scoring system.

Golf Digest Methodology

The Panel

The first step in developing the listing of “America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses” is the selection of the panelists. In its most recent ranking in 2001, *Golf Digest* started with approximately 720 low-handicap male and female golfers from across the country. The editor has indicated that this has increased to approximately 800 panelists for the next ranking (to be published 2003). The panelists volunteer their services and, at their own expense, play golf courses across the country, scoring the golf courses on several specified criteria. Panelists are not permitted to accept anything other than a complimentary green fee when evaluating a golf course. The group of panelists consists of, among others, top amateur players, PGA Club Professionals, celebrities in the golf and sporting industry, doctors, and schoolteachers. According to the editor, panelist turnover does occur through natural attrition; however, the percentage of panelist turnover is minimal. Generally, the panelists are geographically dispersed throughout the United States. If *Golf Digest* realizes that any particular area has a deficient number of panelists, they will try to get more volunteers from that area. Voting restrictions are as follows: panelists may not vote for any course of which they are a member, a staff member, or an owner. Golf course architects are not allowed to be panelists in the *Golf Digest* system, although there are other ranking bodies that do permit this practice.

Evaluation Criteria

The panelists are asked to evaluate the golf courses they play based on the following criteria¹:

Shot Value—How well does the course pose risks and rewards, and equally test length, accuracy and finesse?

Resistance to Scoring—How difficult, while still being fair, is the course for a scratch player from the back tees?

Design Variety—How varied are the holes in differing lengths, configurations, hazard placements, and green shapes and contours?

Memorability—How well do the design features (tees, fairways, greens, hazards, vegetation and terrain) provide individuality to each hole, yet a collective continuity to the entire 18?

Aesthetics—How well do the scenic values (including landscaping, vegetation, water features and backdrops) add to the pleasure of a round?

¹The criterion listed and the associated descriptions have been taken from *Golf Digests* May 2001 edition.

Conditioning—How would you rate the playing quality of tees, fairways, and greens when you last played.

Ambiance—How well does the overall feel and atmosphere reflect or uphold the traditional values of the game?

Walkability—How walkable is the course (terrain and distance between holes)?

Each category is scored out of 10, with 10 being absolutely perfect and 1 being unacceptable. Once all the evaluations are in, the scores are averaged in each category. The shot value score is doubled as *Golf Digest* believes that this is the most important criterion in establishing a great golf course. Additionally, courses can earn “bonus points” for tradition and walking.

Bonus Tradition Points consist of three parts: 20 per cent Tournament History, 40 per cent Architectural History and 40 per cent Ambiance. Tournament History Points are earned for hosting national events, major championships, or smaller tour events (e.g., Pebble Beach and Augusta National). Architectural History points are earned for each appearance on “America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses” or other *Golf Digest* rankings. The Ambiance portion is the average of all panelists’ scores in that category. A course must be at least 10 years old to earn any part of the ambiance score. The maximum bonus for Tradition Points is 10.

Bonus Walking Points are determined multiplying 10% of the average walkability score by the maximum possible bonus points (two points if unrestricted walking is allowed, one point if a club restricts walking during certain times of the day, 0 points if the course is carts-mandatory). The goal is to reward courses that encourage walking, but courses that are truly walkable earn a bigger bonus.

Scoring System

To be eligible for ‘America’s 100 Greatest Golf Courses’ a golf course must receive a minimum of 30 evaluations. These evaluations are retained in the system for a period of 10 years, adding more scores as they come in (i.e., the score for any given golf course is the total marks received divided by the total number of evaluations received). A golf course is evaluated by a panelist after having played the facility. Shortly after the round, the panelist completes a scorecard rating the course on the evaluation criteria, and submits the scorecard to *Golf Digest* (i.e., must play the facility before submitting the evaluation). In fairness to the fact that historical evaluations are maintained for a 10 year period, conditioning scores are purged after each survey, so that *Golf Digest* doesn’t penalize forever a course that suffered through a single bad season.

Score Golf Methodology

The Panel

The ranking process for “Canada’s Top 100 Courses” as conducted by *Score Golf* magazine is quite different from the process employed by *Golf Digest*. A panel of approximately

Making The Grade—How a Golf Course Achieves a Top-100 Ranking continued...

100 individuals is selected by the editorial staff of *Score Golf*, with voters' kits being mailed out to these individuals. Panelists are selected by *Score Golf*, as opposed to the *Golf Digest* system where the panelists volunteer their services. The result is that many panelists do not return completed ballots. For instance, *Score Golf* reports that for the 2002 listing, only 48 eligible ballots were returned out of a possible 110. The panelists selected consist mainly of individuals that are viewed as being "knowledgeable and representative of Canadian golf". This includes, touring professionals, club professionals, top amateurs, journalists, club managers, superintendents and even a few weekend golfers. The panel is also selected such that the number of voters from each area, generally reflects the golfing population from that region. From year to year, the list of panelists can change significantly.

The editor of *Score Golf's* Top 100 ranking has indicated that there is usually as much as a 35 per cent to 50 per cent turnover in panelists in each survey year. Such a high rate of panelist turnover is done intentionally in an effort to prevent the same panelists from voting for the same courses every year. Similar to the *Golf Digest* system, *Score Golf* states publicly that panelists are not allowed to vote for golf courses at which they are members, have an ownership position, or are employed. Golf course architects are also not permitted to be panelists.

Evaluation Criteria

The panelists evaluate golf courses on the following criteria²:

- Conditions—Panelists were asked to evaluate the golf course in each of the following sub-categories: overall conditions, fairways, greens and hazards.
- Design—Panelists were asked to evaluate the golf course in each of the following sub-categories: overall design, holes, greens and flow.
- Enjoyability—Panelists were asked to evaluate the golf course in each of the following sub-categories: fairness, difficulty, beauty, playability and memorability.

Each of the sub-categories is scored from 1 to 5 (with 5 being high) to determine the overall mark. The overall score for the course is then divided into the number of panelists who had voted for that course to determine the final mark.

The categories are weighted in the following manner to determine the overall score for the course; Condition—30 per cent, Design—30 per cent, Enjoyability—40 per cent.

Scoring System

The method in which panelists vote under the *Score Golf* rankings system is two-fold. The voter must complete both parts of the ballot to be eligible. The first section is a comprehensive listing of Canadian golf courses, and each voter is asked to check off the courses that he or she has played. The second section is a numerical ballot where

voters are required to select their top 20 courses, and for each course, provide a mark in the sub-categories discussed above.

The votes are then tallied with the overall mark being balanced against the number of people who have played a certain course. This is done to prevent more popular courses from receiving a lion's share of the votes. In more simplistic terms, if 50 panelists have played Course X and only five consider it to be in their top 20, the overall score will tend down. Conversely, if only 15 panelists play Course Y, yet all 15 place course Y in their top 20, the overall score will tend up.

Generating the overall score for golf courses in *Score Golf* is very different from *Golf Digest*. This is perhaps the most compelling difference between the two systems and why the Canadian system produces more diverse results from year to year. As opposed to retaining the results from previous panelist evaluations, the slate is wiped clean every time a ranking is conducted in Canada. This methodology, when coupled with panelist turnover in the 35 per cent to 50 per cent range, goes a long way in explaining the why the *Score Golf* rankings can appear very different over a two-year period. The results of the 2000 survey do not have any effect on the 2002 rankings!

How Do the Systems Compare?

The following is a snapshot of the key differences between the two systems.

Disclosure of Results

- *Golf Digest* publishes a listing of how all the individual courses in the Top 100 scored in each category. This list also shows the total points accumulated by every course in the Top 100. Full disclosure of the results is a strength of this system as it alleviates much of the scrutiny that could potentially surround the legitimacy of the results if they were not published.
- *Score Golf* does not publish or disclose how the courses scored in any category, nor how the courses scored overall. With the *Score Golf* system being designed to promote continuous change within the rankings, I believe the absence of publishing the actual results for the courses leaves *Score Golf* open to scrutiny and controversy. In my opinion, the current policy perpetuates some of the perceptions that exist in the industry (i.e., that undue influence can be placed on golf publications in relation to golf course rankings). Full disclosure of the results could perhaps diffuse this.

Scoring System

- *Golf Digest* retains evaluations for a 10 year period, thus allowing the results of the survey to be consistent from one period to the next. For instance, if in any given year a course does not receive 30 evaluations, that course will not disappear from the list simply because not enough panelists made it to that facility during the two-year period. Rather, adding new evaluations to the existing database from

² The criterion listed and the associated description have been taken from the *Score Golf* website, www.scoregolf.com/ratings.

previous rankings promotes a stable and consistent list of golf courses, particularly in the top 20. As noted in Figure 1, very few golf courses in the top 20 have changed rank by more than three positions over the past six years. In fact, the average movement over the six-year period is two positions.

- The *Score Golf* system does not retain any evaluations from previous rankings. Every time rankings are conducted the process starts from scratch. In addition to starting from scratch, there is also a high rate of panelist turnover (35 per cent to 50 per cent). The result of this policy is that erratic results are created. This is best demonstrated in Figure 2, where many golf courses in the top 20 have moved by 20 to 30 positions in the last six years. Average movement in the *Score Golf* system is 11 positions over the past six years (450 per cent more erratic than *Golf Digest*).

Evaluation Criteria

- *Golf Digest*: Allowing a category for Tradition (10 per cent of the overall score), rewards courses that are steeped in history and are sites of major championships. In essence, if two golf courses were comparable across all other *Golf Digest* evaluation criteria, the course that has history and tradition associated with it will rank slightly higher. This is a strength of the system as tradition and history are definitely factors in making a golf course truly great and worthy of being one of "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses."
- *Score Golf*: The evaluation criteria does not allocate any marks to the history and tradition of a facility. Therefore, many of Canada's great new courses can be propelled up the rankings at a fairly rapid rate. Courses are not rewarded for what has been accomplished in the past, but rather what is currently being accomplished. When the evaluation process begins, all Canadian courses are on an equal playing field.
- *Golf Digest*: The system is designed such that "newer" courses are able to improve their ranking over time. For example, a course can't be considered for the list until it receives a minimum of 30 panelist evaluations. Additionally, the course is not allowed to earn Ambiance points for a minimum of 10 years. This policy protects the integrity of the list, such that "newer" golf courses are not propelled to the front of the list ahead of courses such as Augusta National, Pebble Beach, and Pine Valley, but rather gradually climb the rankings over time as the course improves and establishes a reputation (if it is architecturally worthy of doing so).
- *Score Golf*: New courses can move up and down the rankings as easily as the oldest golf course in Canada. This is a result of having many new panelists voting in each survey as well as the system not retaining any historical results. The policy is intentionally designed this way to keep the list from getting "stale". Without question, new insight is a positive. The downside to this is that certain courses can slip in certain years based on who the panelists are and whether they have played a particular course.

- *Golf Digest*: Although not a significant factor, the listing of America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses makes it slightly more difficult for resort-style golf courses and, to a lesser extent, public facilities to become ranked in the Top 100. This occurs for two reasons. First, a criteria for evaluating America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses is "resistance to scoring," as opposed to "playability". Resort-style golf courses are generally designed to be more "player-friendly" and as such may not score as well in the resistance-to-scoring category. Second, in general, higher-end public facilities and resort courses are less "walker-friendly" than their more traditional private counterparts. A course that has a policy of mandatory carts automatically loses points on the scoring system.

Method of Evaluation

- *Golf Digest*: Panelists play a course, complete the scorecard for the course and submit the evaluation. The evaluation is added to the existing databank of results for that course.
- *Score Golf*: Every two years a new group of panelists (35 per cent to 50 per cent turnover) select their top 20 courses and *evaluate these properties based on the previously described criteria, regardless of when they played the facility.*

The Panel

- *Golf Digest*: The panel consists of 800 volunteers throughout the United States. As mentioned, panelist turnover is limited in the *Golf Digest* system. Although consistency in the rankings has been listed as a strength above, if the panelist turnover is very small, the potential exists that only the same golf courses are receiving consideration year after year. In my opinion, the limited amount of panelist turnover is a weakness of the *Golf Digest* system, as a higher rate of turnover could add valuable new insight to the rankings.
- *Score Golf*: Panelists are selected by the editorial staff of *Score Golf*. For various reasons, many invited panelists decline to participate. As such, in the most recent survey only 48 out of 110 potential panelists submitted valid ballots. This methodology of selecting panelists is a weakness of the system as 48 panelists are evaluating approximately 2,000 properties. This equates to one panelist for every 41.67 courses versus one for every 23.62 in the *Golf Digest* survey (and there are nine times more golf courses in the United States!)
- *Score Golf*: Panelist turnover rates in the 35 per cent to 50 per cent range ensure that the same panelists are not simply voting for the same courses year after year. In my opinion, this is strength of the system as adding new panelists provides a continuous stream of new insight. The system, which does not consider historical factors and results, provides all golf courses in Canada with an equal opportunity to gain acceptance as one of Canada's Top 100 courses.

Making The Grade—How a Golf Course Achieves a Top-100 Ranking continued...

In my opinion, a collaboration of the panelist turnover rates experienced in the *Score Golf* system along with the *Golf Digest* methodology of retaining scores in the system for a 10-year period would add value to any ranking system. The retaining of previous results would limit the amount of erratic changes in the Canadian system, and increasing panelist turnover would allow the *Golf Digest* system to receive more variety and new insight from the panelist evaluations.

Summary

The *Golf Digest* methodology employed for evaluating *America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses* provides more stable and consistent results from publication to publication as a result of the following factors: the size of the panel (800 panelists in 2003), a limited amount of panelist turnover, the use of historical data when calculating the results of a current survey, and the criteria used for evaluating courses (i.e., tradition, ambiance, and history). Additionally, *Golf Digest* publishes the results of how each individual course in the

Top 100 fared in every category of evaluation.

At the end of the day, the *Golf Digest* ranking system will provide consistent results from year to year, spark discussion amongst the readership, but not generate a great deal of controversy.

On the other hand, the methodology employed for evaluating "Canada's Top 100 Courses" provides more erratic results from publication to publication as a result of the following factors: the smaller size of the panel (48 in 2002), the higher rate of panelist turnover (35 per cent to 50 per cent), the discarding of historical data when calculating the results of the current survey, and the criteria utilized for scoring the courses, which does not contain any provisions for Tradition or Golf Club History. Most importantly, *Score Golf* does not publish the results of how the individual courses fared in the various categories of evaluation. The end result is that the *Score Golf* ranking system does create erratic results from year to year in my opinion, and does very little in attempting to explain the results to the readership. (as is evidenced in Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1

Evaluation of Trends in *Golf Digest* top 20 rankings since 1995

Course	City	State	1995 rank	1997 rank	1999 rank	2001 rank	1995 – 2001 + / -
Pebble Beach Golf Links	Pebble Beach	CA	3	4	4	1	2
Pine Valley G.C.	Pine Valley	NJ	1	1	1	2	(1)
Augusta National	Augusta	GA	2	2	2	3	(1)
Cypress Point Club	Pebble Beach	CA	4	3	3	4	-
Oakmont C.C.	Oakmont	PA	7	7	7	5	2
Shinnecock Hills G.C.	Southampton	NY	6	5	5	6	-
Merion G.C. (east)	Ardmore	PA	5	8	6	7	(2)
Winged Foot G.C. (west)	Mamaroneck	NY	8	6	8	8	-
Pinehurst Resort & C.C. (no 2)	Pinehurst	NC	9	9	9	9	-
Oakland Hills C.C. (south)	Bloomfield Hills	MI	12	10	10	10	2
The Olympic Club (lake)	San Francisco	CA	11	11	11	11	-
Seminole G.C.	North Palm Beach	FL	15	12	14	12	3
The Country Club (Clyde/Squirrel)	Brookline	MA	10	13	12	13	(3)
Medinah C.C. (no 3)	Medinah	IL	14	16	19	14	-
Southern Hills C.C.	Tulsa	OK	25	24	25	15	10
National Golf Links	Southampton	NY	19	14	17	16	3
Muirfield Village G.C.	Dublin	OH	16	21	15	17	(1)
San Francisco G.C.	San Francisco	CA	23	19	18	18	5
Crystal Downs C.C.	Frankfort	MI	13	18	16	19	(6)
Quaker Ridge G.C.	Scarsdale	NY	22	23	21	20	2
Average number of position moved over four ranking periods:							2

Conclusion

The *Golf Digest* and *Score Golf* ranking systems are designed differently and structured to accomplish different goals. The *Golf Digest* system produces very stable and consistent results, whereas the system employed by *Score Golf* is designed to promote continuous change within the rankings. Arguably, both systems have their merits and shortcomings based on the comparative analysis that has been presented within this article. Readers can make their own judgments on the validity of the above ranking systems. Effectively, both editors have indicated that the purpose of conducting rankings is to

incite discussion among the readers. This is all well and good, and I do agree that discussion and even some controversy over the best golf courses in a country is great for the game of golf. However, when a system is designed such that it produces erratic results from survey to survey, and the results of how the individual courses are ranked are not fully disclosed to the public, the wrong type of discussion could potentially be taking place, which is unfortunate and contrary to the intended purpose of performing the rankings.

Figure 2
Evaluation of Trends in *Score Golf* top 20 Rankings Since 1996

Course	City	Province	1996 rank	1998 rank	2000 rank	2002 rank	1996 - 2002 + / -
St. George's Golf & CC	Islington	Ontario	2	2	3	1	1
Highland Links	Cape Breton	NS	24	35	1	2	22
Capilano G & CC	West Vancouver	BC	3	3	7	3	-
The National Golf Club of Can.	Woodbridge	Ontario	1	1	2	4	(3)
Redtail GC	London	Ontario	31	11	20	5	26
The Links at Crowbush Cove	Morell	PEI	25	10	10	6	19
Royal Montreal (Blue Course)	Ile Bizard	Quebec	6	5	4	7	(1)
Lake Joseph Club	Port Carling	Ontario	n/r	n/r	29	8	21
Hamilton Golf & CC	Ancaster	Ontario	5	4	5	9	(4)
Beacon Hall Golf Club	Aurora	Ontario	8	7	6	10	(2)
Jasper Park Golf Course	Jasper	Alberta	15	18	21	11	4
Le Geant	Mt. Tremblant	Quebec	n/r	37	31	12	25
Glen Abbey Golf Club	Oakville	Ontario	4	6	8	13	(9)
Westmount G & CC	Kitchener	Ontario	9	13	11	14	(5)
Banff Springs Golf Club	Banff	Alberta	22	33	45	15	7
Predator Ridge Golf Resort	Kelowna	BC	41	16	17	16	25
Wolf Creek Golf Resort	Ponoka	Alberta	20	28	23	17	3
Angus Glen Golf Club	Markham	Ontario	n/r	17	14	18	(1)
Toronto Golf Club	Mississauga	Ontario	7	15	28	19	(12)
The Springs at Radium	Radium	BC	50	n/r	37	20	30
Average number of position moved over four ranking periods:						11	

As previously stated, although not quantifiable, individuals will potentially make decisions on where to play, where to vacation, or even where to join based partly on golf course rankings. As a result, the rankings can indirectly help or harm a business. It is my belief that any golf magazine wishing to conduct rankings has a responsibility to the industry to develop a consistent ranking system and to provide a highly open forum inclusive of the full disclosure of the results. This way, the readers viewing the rankings can develop a complete understanding of how the systems work and can make

their own judgments on whether they agree or disagree with the results—and why. In my opinion, this will also help diffuse the perception that exists in the industry that patronage and ulterior motives can influence rankings.

As an influential source of information to the golf industry, all publications performing golf course rankings need to “stand up and be counted” when it comes to the full disclosure of the final results for each course on their list, if they are not doing so already. It's only fair to all parties involved—and just as importantly, to our game!

Ryan Spring is an associate of KPMG's Golf Practice.

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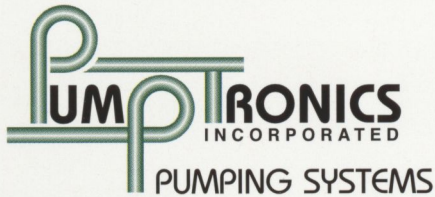
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Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

Meadows

I have noticed recently that many of my gardening clients are requesting alternatives to a manicured lawn. They are tired of the mowing, fed up with watering restrictions and somewhat perplexed about using pesticides. I generally spend a bit of time discussing with them the benefits of infrequently-mown, open spaces and then talk about low maintenance alternatives which will suit their lifestyle and budget.

An attractive alternative to frequently-mown turf in out-of-play or low use areas is what I call a "short meadow". It consists of shin-high, thin-bladed grasses dotted with attractive wildflowers. You can mow paths through the short meadow and it takes only minimal care and weeding. You'll want to take your shoes off when you walk through it! I have been cultivating such a meadow in the out-of-play areas of my garden. I've had some recent success and I've got lots of advice on what you should do in order to succeed in creating a meadow — the transition from frequently-mown to mostly-left-alone.

A meadow is defined in the dictionary as a piece of grassland, especially one used for hay; a rich pasture-ground, especially beside a stream. Other reference books expand the definition to describe a meadow as a specialized habitat

dependent upon full sun and the absence of woody vegetation. Other books say a meadow may contain herbaceous plants from any ecosystem that will adapt to it, as well as horticultural plants and alien weeds. This seems to imply that anything goes and that a meadow is a collection of local plants.

A meadow is not a "climax community". This means that it is always changing and evolving, and that, in the absence of intervention by humans, it would proceed gradually through natural plant succession, eventually turning into a woodland.

However, mowing - which prevents succession - can change everything! I have tried many methods to cope with the excessive exuberance of growth in the back portion of my property. Most of it wants to be goldenrod and I'm not willing to let it. By mowing twice in the spring and then allowing it to re-grow, the goldenrod and clump-forming grasses give way to more interesting plants, such as fall asters.

Mowing practices can only go so far, though, in creating a successful meadow. You need to introduce the plants.

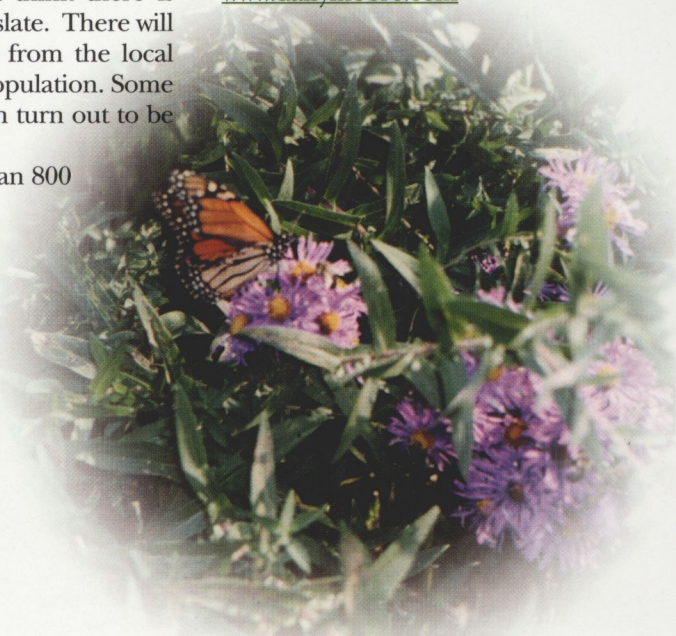
The pro-active approach to creating a meadow is to kill all existing vegetation twice and then start with a clean slate. I'd like to say that I have done this, but I don't think there is such a thing as a clean slate. There will always be interference from the local weed and wildflower population. Some of that interference can turn out to be quite useful!

My short meadow is an 800

square foot area that received the pro-active treatment over five years ago. It was seeded with a sheep's fescue and creeping red fescue mix with added wild flowers. The wildflowers or "forbes" were black-eyed Susan, poppies, flax, mallow and various seeds that I had collected. In future I will use more native seeds. We mow the meadow twice in the spring and a pathway through it every 6 weeks or so. Other than selective weeding, it looks after itself and has something in flower most of the time. It looks like it should be there. I have started to add some taller native prairie plants, as seedlings or plugs. These are becoming spectacular individuals within the meadow.

Meadows can be utilized architecturally in the garden as open space, providing and maintaining vistas or blending with more formal lawns. An important ecological aspect of both meadow and prairie is that they are habitats for ground-nesting birds and small mammals. With these in the area, you get the return of hawks, owls, foxes and other predator species. This increase in diversity of animal and bird populations is aesthetically as important as the visual aspect of such landscapes.

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On the road again

by Angelo Capannelli
Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

Why does anybody go to Cleveland?

That is the question that was being asked of me when I suggested that we do this road trip. Cleveland has many things to offer, I told my colleagues. It is home to the Cavaliers, the Browns and the Indians, all professional sports teams. It is also where the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is. Now, if you are not into sports or rock and roll I would imagine that there are plenty of other things to do should you want to visit Cleveland. We decided to go to Cleveland for professional development reasons. Besides the sports teams and the rock and roll hall of fame the Cleveland area is blessed with some of the nicest silica sand deposits in the United States. Thus the trip to Painesville, Ohio to the head office of the R.W. Sidley company the manufacturers of the Pro Angle bunker sand.

There are 2 prominent companies that have been marketing silica sands for bunker use into the Ontario market for years. Fairmont Minerals (Best Sand) who is located in Chardon, Ohio and R.W. Sidley company who is located in Painesville, Ohio, both approximately 45 minutes outside downtown Cleveland. This particular tour took us to R.W. Sidley who is the manufacturer of a new bunker sand called Pro Angle. The Best Sand company also has an angular sand called Signature. These angular products have been developed and

introduced into the market place because of the demand for better bunker sand. Natural sands are good for firmness and playability but according to players and superintendents alike, the angular sands seem to be better for firmness and are much better to play out of. Just ask Bob Brewster of Mississauga Golf & Country Club and John Gall of St. George's Golf & Country Club. Both of these superintendents have recently restored their respective bunkers with the Pro Angle sand. These angular sands have very low tendencies to bury the ball or what is referred to as "fried egg". Therefore the ball is easier to hit out of a bunker. The process of making this sand, as we observed on our tour, is quite detailed. The manufacturer starts with a pebble and through a series of stages it is cracked or fractured, washed and sized and then placed in inventory. The process of fracturing sands is quite new for this application. It is something that will continue if our standards for bunker sands become higher and higher. The tour was grand and learning about this new development in bunker sands was informative.

As mentioned earlier Cleveland is home to many professional sports teams. On this particular evening we were guests of the R.W. Sidley company at Jacobs Field where the Cleveland Indians make their home. The Tigers of Detroit were in town to

provide the opposition. Both teams are struggling in the standings as they are both very young teams that are rebuilding for the future. Jacobs Field is a natural grass stadium that provides the spectator with great views of the action. It is considered one of the better "new" stadiums that have been built for watching baseball. Camden Yard, in Baltimore, is still one of my favourite but Jacobs Field is quite good also.

The home team won on this particular evening, providing a festive mood for the spectators that gathered at outdoor cafe's and drinking establishments in the downtown core. The weather was perfect and my colleagues were enlightened with developments in the sand business. A successful road trip to Cleveland on all accounts. I personally am looking forward to seeing the photo's. Keep up the good work Cleveland!!!! We will be back next year.





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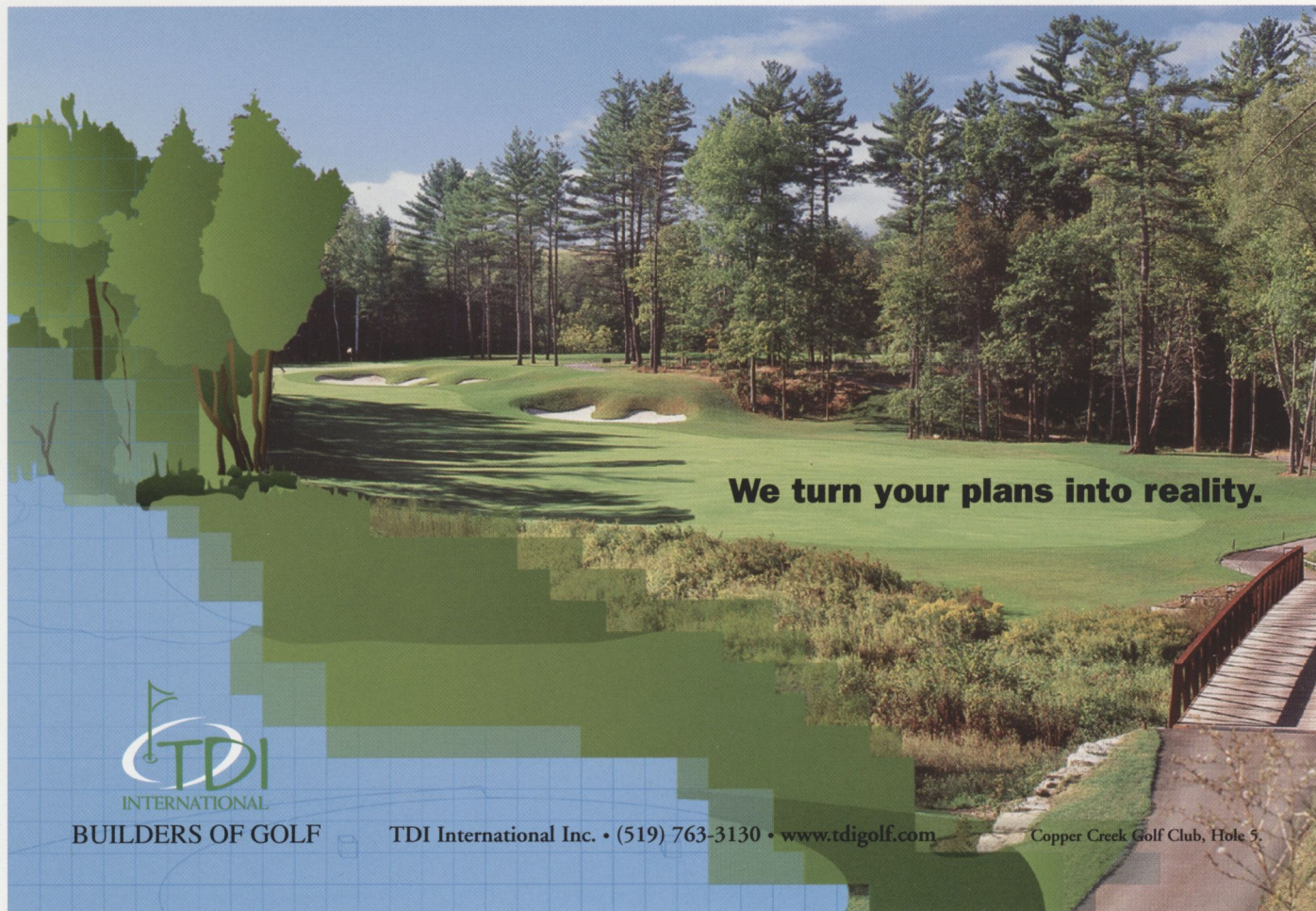
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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

A guy in Las Vegas successfully sued his doctor for \$250 for making him wait three hours past the time of his appointment before he got beyond the waiting room. He originally asked for \$100/hr. for his time and \$5000 'danger pay', for sitting in the germ infested waiting room. The Nevada court system took a couple days off from hearing appeals regarding the reinstatement of Mike Tyson's boxing license, and the doctor and patient met in court. Both were on time, but ironically, the court was backed up and the case went off several hours late. In spite of this obvious hypocrisy, the judge ruled in favour of the patient, and awarded part of the hourly charge. Both the doctor and Don King intend to appeal.

My wife's doctor charges you \$50 for missing an appointment. 'Missing', incidentally, means anything over ten minutes late. You can actually be charged the \$50 'missed' fee even though the doctor won't be ready to see you for another half hour. This, from the same doctor who once sent my wife into an examination room and forgot about her. Krista, who's a lot more patient than I am (no pun intended), waited for about an hour before the cleaning lady came in and found her sitting there in one of those baby blue backless numbers. She called the doctor who had already gone home and was enjoying dinner and a bottle of wine with friends and advised her to go to a walk in clinic. I assume she billed OHIP for the consultation. At least she has a doctor. I haven't had one for nearly ten years since my last one dumped me for poor attendance. They said that at my next appointment I'd have my first prostate exam, so I never went back.

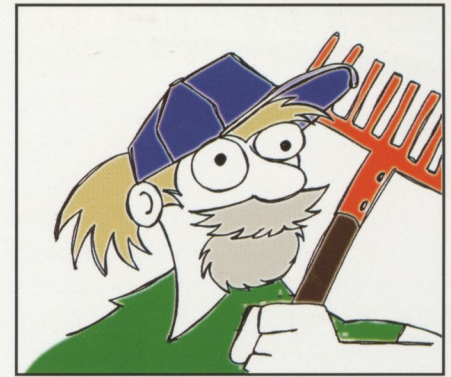
I hate to wait. I often say that on my deathbed, I want back the time that I have wasted waiting for photocopiers to warm up. I could have written a novel in the amount of time I have spent holding the truck door open waiting for one of my children to either climb in, or to climb out. I could have written the complete works of Shakespeare in the amassed time I spent lined up to get into bars when I was in university.

Remember the weekly Friday ritual of going to the bank to get money from the teller for the weekend? For those of you under 30, there was a time just after the dinosaurs ruled the earth, that there were no bank machines, and every Friday you'd

have to estimate the cost of your entire weekend in advance. Then, you had to line up for as much as an hour to get cash out of your account. It was the stinking dark ages. I haven't spoken to a teller since before I stopped talking to my doctor.

I think I have line rage. It's like road rage, but I get it when I'm waiting. It makes me insane to stand in a line where no one is moving forward, and by all appearances, nothing is happening at the front of the line to move it forward. I'm talking about you McDonald's! How many times have I stood at the back of a line with my order ready and running through my head while the customer at the front of the line tries to decide what they want? "You've been in line for fifteen minutes with nothing to do but stare at a huge glowing menu board. How can you not know what you want!" I scream in my head. Meanwhile, I can actually see the food I want in the warming rack, and only massive amounts of self control keep me from leaping over the counter and taking it. This is particularly true when I've paid already, and the workers are behind the counter talking about their weekend, and no one seems to know my food is ready but me! OK, I admit I have some issues.

Grass can grow very slowly. I may have grass rage. You know that feeling in the pit of your stomach when you're waiting to pay for \$20 of gas with cash and the guy in front is trying to pay with a three party cheque from the Bank of Arkansas and pick out a



dozen lottery tickets? I feel like that, waiting for seeds to germinate. Waiting for sod to knit makes my intestines churn like they do when I'm behind a guy who's leveraging a hostile corporate takeover at a bank machine.

But I can't go see my doctor about the effect it's having on my health, I'm on a *waiting list* to get a doctor. The mechanical voice at the anger management hotline assures me that my call is important and will be answered in sequence if I hold. I went to buy Pepto Bismol to calm my nerves and had to wait for the fifteen year old checkout girl to spend a half hour doing a price check on a thirty-five cent tube of lip gloss.

The fact that the Tiger-Cats are 0 and 6 with no sign of not ending up 0 and 18 doesn't help. It's no easier waiting for grass to grow when my only summer diversion has me still waiting for the first win. Don't even get me started on waiting for the Leafs to win the Stanley Cup.

Oh well, waiting is part of life, and there's little I can do about it. But I've got to stop typing and email this off to the OGSA office. My deadline's today and they're waiting for it.

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TURFTOONS

BY DOUG BREEN

Looking back

20 years ago today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors for 1983 of the OGSA was Rusty Warkman (pres.), Oshawa; Al Draper (vice.), Greenhills; Bob Brewster (past), Weston; Robert Kennedy, Garden City; Barry Endicott (newsletter editor) Chinguacousy; Bill Fach, Essex; Gordon Nimmo, Sarnia; John Hutchinson, Warkworth; Thom Charters, Islington; Hugh Kirkpatrick, Westmount; Paul Scenna, Galt and Tom Simpson, Newcastle.

On the move: Rhod Trainer moved to St. Thomas from Chippewa, Ron Heesen (assistant) from the Board of Trade to Beach Grove, Mark Hagen, (assistant) Greenhills to Wyldewood and John Smith from Wyldewood to Kawartha. Kim Hanley moved from Brooklea (assistant) to Blue Mountain, and Dave Chapman moved from Victoria Park to Glendale.

New members: Donald Gefucia, Barrie; Rhod Trainer, St. Thomas; Doug Meyer, Cedarbrook; Gord Walkinshaw, Toronto Ladies; Paul Weidmark, IBM; Tom Kenyon, Southern Pines; Robbie Robinson, Hidden Lake; Manny Figueredo, Richview; Arthur Trumble, Katchiwano; John Lockie, Lockwood; David Gurd, Maple Ridge; Howard Anyan, Bowmanville; Peter Creighton, Castlemore; Joseph Hahn, Delhi; Lloyd Thatcher, Victoria Park; Gary Gravett, Saugeen; Robert Dioxin, Pine Crest; Bruce Jones, Belleville; John McCallum, Strathroy; William Kivi, Glenview; Dave Suter, Richview and Ken Green, North Bay.

The 13th Annual Management Symposium was held on January 11th at the University of Guelph. This symposium has really grown with 260 golf course personnel registering. Speakers programme: Jim Wyllie, Bayview; Rusty Warkman, Oshawa; Prof. Sheard, University of Guelph; David Gourlay, Thornhill; and Prof.

Lee Burpee, University of Guelph.

On November 25th, Gord Witteveen hosted many superintendents to a day of fellowship, called the *William Sansom Day*. William Sansom, was the founding father and first president of the OGSA. Together with his fellow greenkeepers, Bert Hawkins of Lakeview and "Smiling Dad" Howard Lloyd of Rosedale, they laid the cornerstones for our present organization at a meeting in October 1924 at the Weston Golf Club. Others present were: Joe Stanfield, Mississauga; Chris Freeman, Toronto Hunt; Jack Abbot, Islington; Frank Hamm, Royal York; Bill Austin, Humber Valley; Jim McCullough, Scarboro; Fred Haines, Summit and Bill Chinery, York Downs.

The CGSA Turfgrass Conference and Show was held in Edmonton on March 13th-16th. Before the conference some superintendents, Ron Heesen, Bob Heron, Gord Witteveen, Ken Olsvik, Dave Keith and Barry Endicott met on the ski hills in Banff before attending the seminars. The hospitality was super with the Edmonton Eskimo Cheerleaders leading the way at the Monday night hospitality party. The east hockey team beat the west team 7 to 5 at the Edmonton Coliseum, which was donated by the city of Edmonton and Wayne Gretzky and a few other Oilers paid a visit to the dressing room after the game to learn a few tips. Dave Gourlay won the Score Magazine Award as the 1983 *Top Canadian Golf Course Superintendent*.

The GCSAA Conference was held from February 19-25 in Atlanta Georgia. Jim Wyllie, Bayview, and Gord Witteveen were on the speaker's programme.

There was an OGSA/OTRF meeting at Thornhill Country Club

on March 13, hosted by Dave Gourlay. After the speakers, curlers took to the ice with the winning team of Bob Cherry, Tom Murphy and Jack Austin defeating Paul (Pelino) Scenna, Paul Dermott and Paul White.

There were meetings held at Kawartha, John Smith; St. Catharines, John Piccolo; Roseland, Randy Hooper; St. Claire Parkway, John O'Rae. The Galt Field Day was held at the Galt Country Club and a set of golf clubs was presented to Clay Switzer by the OGSA. Stew Picken and Blake McMaster won the Clayton Switzer Trophy and low individual scores were Bruce Burger (73), Dalewood; Bruce Vollett (75), Conestoga; Warren Vout (77), Whitevale and Bill Bowen (78) Peterborough. The Superintendent Pro Tournament was held at Islington Golf Club hosted by Thom Charters. The winning team was Ken Wright and Ben Kern, National, and low superintendent was Robbie Robinson (78), Hidden Lake. The 10th Annual President Superintendent Greens Chairman Tournament was held at Essex, host Bill Fach, and the winning teams were Blake McMaster (105) Brampton, Rhod Trainor (104), St. Thomas and Bob Heron (103) Mississauga. The OTRF held its 4th annual golf tournament at the National, Ken Wright, with a barbecue at The Board of Trade, Gordon Witteveen. Bruce Calhoun was low gross with a 75.

A tornado hit Doon Valley Golf Club on May 2 where 183 trees were torn out of the ground. Gord Witteveen had a hole in one in August, Ron Heesen and Bob Brewster got married and Ken Nelson was recovering from a serious cancer operation.

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"O.D.H. and O.D.A. Students Graduate from Guelph"

by Penny Clelland

Article Reprinted from February 1988 Issue of *Green is Beautiful*

Everyone enjoys a little pomp and circumstance. Spring Convocation 1983 easily fulfilled the expectations of University of Guelph correspondence students who travelled from across Canada to receive their Ontario Diplomas in Horticulture and Agriculture.

For the first time in the University's history, the various diploma candidates had their own convocation ceremony. For many it was a first time meeting with classmates and faculty. It was also the end of an era. The graduating class was presented by outgoing President Donald Forster, now president of the University of Toronto, to retiring Chancellor Pauline McGibbon, former Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. This graduation was also the last for Clayton Switzer as Dean of Agriculture.

Forty-eight students graduated in the combined O.D.H. and O.D.A. class, the largest group in the 20 year history of the program. As in most university programs, female enrolment was up with 16 women in the class. A new tradition was

established when the '83 grads wore collars over their gowns; green and gold for the O.D.H., tangerine and maize for the O.D.A.

The O.D.H. and O.D.A. programs are sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and offered through Independent Study, a division of the University School of Part-time Studies and Continuing Education. At the evening banquet, School Director Mark Waldron congratulated O.D.H. Co-coordinator, Harold Crawford on 25 years of valuable service to the University of Guelph. He also announced the selections of Independent Study Chairman Ted McNinch as the first recipient of the Norman High Award for contributions to the field of continuing education.

Outstanding students were honoured during the evening. Sunny Thomassen of Ottawa won the O.D.H. Graduates Association Award for highest standing over the three year program. Ms. Thomassen is the assistant manager of a florist business. Frank Merran, Toronto, an assistant

golf course superintendent, won the Nursery Sod Growers Association Award. The Landscape Ontario Award went to Frances Morris, a food technician in Redbridge, Ontario.

During the banquet, the O.D.H. Graduates Association awarded Honorary Life Memberships. Through the efforts of Neil Campbell, the training program of the Kitchener Parks and Recreation Department hinges on the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture. Professor John Weall was honoured for his influence on generations of horticulturists, including Independent Study faculty, Professors McNinch and Crawford.

The Graduates Association presented 2 cheques to Allen Paterson, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, \$500 of which is to be used as seed money in the development of a medicinal plant collection.

Expressing the sentiments of graduates, guests and faculty, Dr. Waldron called the day, "a celebration of scholarship, education and life."





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