

**INSIDE:
2004 OGSA
CONFERENCE &
REGISTRATION &
SPEAKER PROGRAM**

December 2003

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

**1st Annual Golf Course Management
Conference & Trade Show**

Poa annua Ecotype Evaluation

Let's all say the F-Word: FIRED

Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

2nd Annual Assistants Tournament

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Contents

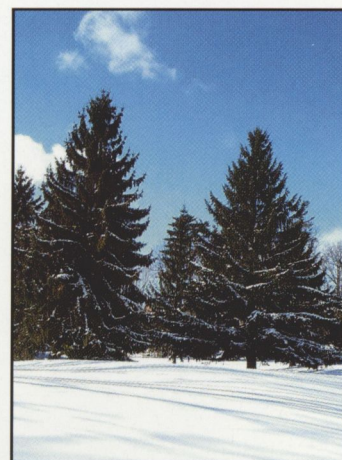
1st Annual Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show	16
Accreditation avenue	8
Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament	14
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news	5
Cyber super	7
Editor's message	4
Golf course highlight - Taboo Golf Club	13
Health & safety	6
Let's all say the F-Word: FIRED	20
Looking back 10 years ago today	30
Mechanics corner	7
Off the fairway	27
On the road again	28
Poa annua Ecotype Evaluation	10
President's message	3
2nd Annual assistants tournament	12
Turf or consequences	29
What's new	18

Advertisers

Almack Agronomic Services Inc	6
Bartlett Tree Experts	8
Braemar Building Systems	25
Burnside Golf Services	8
DCS Agronomic Services	11
Fertilec Ltee/Ltd.	19
G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd.	26
Maple Turf Supply	3, 28
Master's Turf Supply Ltd.	19
Nu Gro Corporation	19
Ontario Seed Company	4
The P.E.S.T. Institute	8
ProTurf	6
Pumptronics Inc.	11
Skyway Lawn Equipment Limited	19
Turf Care Products Canada - Irrigation	25
Turf Care Products Canada	32
Vanden Bussche Irrigation and Equipment Ltd.	5
Zander Sod Co. Limited	28

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Credit Valley Golf Club

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

It has been an honour to serve as the President of the OGSA. The professionalism and dedication our current board members have shown over the year has made my term a simple one. Enough credit cannot be given to our staff at the OGSA. Dorothy Hills continues to keep the association running smoothly and has a tremendous support group meeting the members needs.

The OGSA has set the standard for IPM Accreditation in our industry. We continue to proactively defend the usage of pesticides on golf courses and have developed a support network to educate and help superintendents address these issues on a political level. We have been asked to participate in the development of the Nutrient Management Act and foresee cooperating with local agencies on water management issues.

The first annual Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show is nearly upon us. Years of planning have finally come together and we can now provide our members with an exciting educational program and the chance to network with suppliers on our terms. The OGSA has control over

the show and allows us the opportunity to give more back to our industry than ever before.

Membership needs continue to be met. Green is Beautiful has expanded and golf and meeting events continue to be well attended. This is a tribute to the board members and staff who work diligently putting these together. We are now recognizing superintendents who host major provincial events and have created an annual Distinguished Service Award named after our first President William Sansom.

Financially we are sound, and with control of the conference our financial position will only become stronger. I wish to thank all those who support the association and our vision of the future. I wish to thank Dorothy, Pat and Debra for their hard work and the rest of the Board for their dedication.

The OGSA is in good hands.



by Mark Piccolo
Galt Country Club



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Green is Beautiful 2003

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Editor's message

by John Bladon

In conversation with many of my fellow professionals, educators and consultants, I am constantly interested in the ever-evolving role of the golf course superintendent and the seemingly endless array of challenges and pressures the industry presents.

Although some superintendents have been longtime employees at one club, as the years roll on, positions and people seem to shift with greater regularity. In that regard, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present a tremendous submission, "Let's all say the F-word", by Peter McCormick of TurfNet. Peter brings a unique perspective and shares insight in the arena of being fired. He explores our jobs and the pitfalls we all work to avoid as well as the effects on our psyche, personal lives and families. A must read.

Green is Beautiful is also pleased to present an article by University of Guelph Masters student, Martha Cunningham. Martha has been busy doing research and trials on *Poa annua* ecotypes and snow molds while spending her summers at Deer Ridge Golf Club, in Kitchener, originally under the supervision of Greg Aljoe and now, Jarrod Barakett. With winter just around the corner, her submission is timely.

Finally, as preparations continue for the OGSA's first annual conference, this issue does include a speaker list, as well as other pertinent conference information. The program looks excellent and Rob Ackermann of Weston has been a tireless leader in the planning of this event. Well done Rob!

Again, should any of you wish to author an article, share an idea for an article or know a member who ought to be written about, please forward an email or make a phone call. This publication lives because of your ideas and Dorothy and I would welcome your input.

Happy New Year!



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
August		
(rain)	79.6 mm	53.4 mm
September		
(rain)	77.5 mm	114.2 mm
October		
(rain)	64.1 mm	51.0 mm



Welcome!

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

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Listowel Golf Club

Dennis H. Cooper Class F
Osprey Links Golf Club

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Trevor Hunter **A. Kent McDonald**
David Schmelefske

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows, CGCS
Rosedale Golf Club

This is old news by now, but the Fall Field Day tournament at Legends on the Niagara, on September 15th, was an absolutely outstanding event. The strong support from Ontario was very evident. Thanks to the co-sponsors, especially the Toro Company, for their support. Thanks also to the OGSA and Podolinsky Turf for co-sponsoring the wine and dinner event on the Saturday.

Their partnership helps make events such as this possible. Despite the occasional misting of rain, the participants seemed to enjoy the camaraderie, and the golf course. A special recognition goes to the host Superintendents Bill Glashan, Paul Gurr and their staff for providing access to this well conditioned facility. To continue with the success of this event, mark September 20, 2004 on your golfing calendar as next year's tournament moves to Riverside Golf Course in Saskatoon.

The "Score Superintendent of the Year" award will be given to Mr. Paul White of the Briars Golf Club, and the John B. Steele Award will be given to Mr. Blake Palmer. The Toro Future Superintendent of the Year Award will be given to Mr. Kendall Costain of NB and the Toro Environmental Achievement award is as yet undeclared. Congratulations to all the recipients! The sixth annual salary and benefits survey was sent out in November, and the second annual IPM/BMP survey will be conducted this spring.

All class A, B, and S members are now required to submit a copy of their pesticide licenses in order to remain a member or risk being reclassified. The Board has directed the headquarters staff to strictly enforce this requirement. A targeted marketing campaign was begun in November,

which will elevate the professional recognition of our members and non-members alike. Focus groups were held across Canada in November, in order to obtain broad input into the further development of our National Occupational Standards.

The CGSA will be hosting various regional seminars in Ontario in the near future. Specifically, November 20th in Toronto with Kris Jonasson on the "Rules of Golf for Superintendents" was well attended. On December 9th in London with Pam Charbonneau on "Implementing IPM", February 17th in Ottawa with Dr. Rich Cooper on "Managing your Putting Greens", and April 6th in Toronto with Bree Hayes on "Human Resource Management". Plan now to attend a seminar in your region.

The upcoming CGSA conference is being held in Halifax from March 5-9, 2004 with keynote speaker Terry Kelly. There will also be four excellent pre-conference seminars. This conference promises to be a great success. The CGSA Board is excited about forging closer ties with the OGSA as they both enter into a joint management venture of the 2004 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto.

The Metro Toronto Convention Center (North Building) will be the site of the 2005 joint CGSA/OGSA conference from January 7-11, 2005. Plans for an outstanding event are well underway. Three hotels will be used and the Crown Plaza hotel, which is attached to the Convention Center, will be the "headquarters" hotel. The hotel rates will provide some options for the delegates, allowing them to match their accommodation to their budget.

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

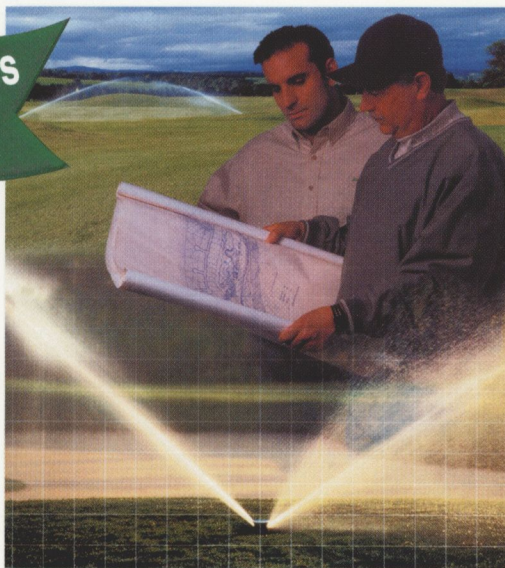
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Health & safety

by Doug Johnson,
SAFETAID and Health and Safety Consulting
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As the holiday season is fast approaching, celebrations begin with abundance. This is a time of year when we get together with family and friends to acknowledge the culmination of one year and the beginning of the next. We generally do this with delicious food and drink!

This article is a reminder to take care over the holiday season and all year long when it comes to handling your food safely. This may not seem to be an issue for the golf course but in fact it is a very important part of our everyday life. Proper food handling is important to our well-being and to how we perform on the job and during our leisure hours. None of us want to experience "food poisoning".

Here are four tips that should assist you in the enjoyment of your holidays and keep you healthy throughout the year.

The first issue is hand washing. It is imperative that people handling food wash their hands on a regular basis. This means washing after using the washroom, after handling foods such as chicken, other meats or eggs or if you have been handling vegetables, as they may be contaminated. Most people are unaware that fruits and vegetables may be contaminated with bacteria or chemicals that may cause intestinal disorders. Be aware of the potential for bacteria in chicken, meats and eggs.

Some of the food handling practices that tend to be the most dangerous are in the preparation of foods for consumption. It is extremely important to ensure that cross contamination is eliminated. To ensure that this is accomplished it is imperative that all utensils, cutting boards and work surfaces used to prepare food are

cleaned and sanitized after food preparation. This means washing in hot soapy water, rinsing in hot water and using a sanitizing solution that is left in contact with the work surface for at least five minutes. A sanitizing solution of chlorine bleach at 200 parts per million.

A third tip is to ensure that the temperature of your food is kept out of the "danger zone". This means that you should ensure that raw foods are kept at temperatures at or below 4 degrees Celsius or 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Hot foods should be held at temperatures above 60 degrees Celsius or 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

A fourth tip you should consider is how you store the leftovers after that great turkey dinner. Be sure to cover the leftovers and put them into the fridge or a cool area (4 degrees Celsius or less) as soon as possible after the meal has been served. If you are going to save some for later get it into the freezer as quickly as possible as this will ensure that the food stays safe and will tend to assist in maintaining the quality.

Following these simple rules will go a long way to ensuring a safe and happy festival season and a healthy New Year.

*Have a great Christmas and all the best to
all of you in 2004!*

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Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

Got a Virus?

Ten years ago this would imply that a person was sick. Today, it seems that we are spending more time keeping viruses out of our computers than our own bodies. Everyday there are new threats waiting to cause havoc on computers worldwide. Worse yet there are the hoaxes, and there are just as many of those as well. How do you know if it is a hoax or a real threat? Visiting the experts at their websites (on a computer different from your infected one) to get the correct information will aid in removing the virus. In addition, it may stop any further spreading of the virus.

First of all it is imperative that everyone have good, up-to-date anti-virus and firewall protection. Secondly, never open up any attachment from an unreliable source. Even Word or Excel attachments may have dangerous macros (hidden executable files) inside that are potentially lethal to your computer. Installing anti-virus and firewall protection is not enough; these programs must be kept up-to-date by downloading the latest DAT files. Scanning, backing up data and defragmenting your system regularly

are also good preventative maintenance.

Available for purchase are the perennial favourites Norton (online at symantec.com) and McAfee (online at mcafee.com). Both are reliable tools, but not free. However, these are terrific sites for virus information and removal. Virus threats are ranked according to risk and for a fee you can download the latest DAT files to protect yourself.

AVG is a free anti-virus tool and is available at grisoft.com. Here you can also find the "virus encyclopedia" and the current threats to your system. The bonus is that it is cheap, it works and it is free. Beware; AVG will try to sell you trial versions of its upgraded anti-virus software.

Zone Alarm is a popular firewall tool that is available free, at zonelabs.com. A firewall is software that monitors all incoming network traffic and allows only the connections that are known and trusted in. It also can make you "invisible" on the Internet, making hackers unaware of your presence. As with Grisoft, Zonelabs will entice you to purchase the premium version of its firewall. I strongly suggest installing some form of firewall and anti-virus software to keep your system in good health!

Mechanic's corner

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

The golf tournament at Banty's Roost Golf Club was again a success with about 90 in attendance. The tournament winners were Lyndon Wing, Matt Bonaparte, Dave Mullan and Trevor Blais. They came from Kingston to show their prowess.

The winter months allow time to thoroughly check over the equipment as well as time to properly repair it. I remember seeing a television commercial for Fram oil filters. Their slogan was "pay me now or pay me later". The same slogan could apply with our trade. The more effort and care we apply to the equipment during winter overhaul, the less effort will be needed during the summer months.

The winter months are famous for service schools on the equipment that we work on. At these schools, we meet other mechanics with the same equipment. We may learn something new at the school but may also meet someone who we can call when we have a problem. Today

we have an amazing tool with email. I frequently receive emails from mechanics and superintendents, with odd problems, looking for assistance. So far I have managed to solve their problems, however if I wasn't able, I know more people who may have an answer. It is important for all of us to remember that we will never recall all of the answers but we know where we can find them.

The O.G.S.A. will be hosting the first annual Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show on January 6 - 8, 2004. The G.E.T.A.O. will be conducting seminars at this show. You don't have to be a member to attend.

If you are requiring a mechanic, make sure you advertise through the Mechanic's Association by contacting me at or phone Eddie at (905) 889-7620, ext 520.

I wish happy holidays to all the readers and look forward to meeting some of you during the winter months.

Accreditation avenue

by Ken Pavely and Jeff Stauffer

Quebec Regulations and their Impact on Golf Industry

The drastic overhaul of Quebec's pesticide regulations, include reforms that will create more work for superintendents, pro shop staff, and even increase golfers' concerns about pesticide safety.

Beginning in 2006, operators of a golf course must submit the following on an annual basis, to the Minister of Environment:

- A pesticide reduction plan giving a detailed description of all pesticide applied, pesticide reduction objectives for each and every pesticide applied.
- Methods used to monitor and detect harmful organisms, and the data collected, along with the cultivation and control methods used to attain pesticide reduction goals
- Measures taken to prevent pesticides from migrating outside the premises
- An evaluation of the results obtained for the previous three years, justifications, and corrective adjustments.
- The plan must be certified by an agronomist who is a member of the Order des Agronomes du Quebec.

Of even more concern, are the posting requirements. "A person who applies pesticides on trees, shrubs, or lawns on a golf course must post a sign at the registration desk and at the tee off area of each hole where the pesticide is applied."

On the sign, the location of application area, date and time

of application, PCP number, certification number, certificate holder, and poison control center number, must also be present.

At the registration desk, inside the pro shop, a sign posting the hole numbers, and locations treated for each pesticide on each hole, must be present.

A troubling statement from a prominent superintendent in Quebec should give us all an important history lesson: "It seems as though the government will make the rules and we will have to live with them."

That statement speaks volumes about the danger of being "reactive" instead of being "proactive". IPM Accreditation is a proactive initiative that raises the bar for the industry, and shows local, provincial, and federal regulators that our industry is doing its part to protect human health and our environment.

IPM ACCREDITATION EXAM AVAILABLE AT OGSA CONFERENCE.

Superintendents can register for the IPM Accreditation Exam being offered at the Ontario Golf Course Management Tradeshow and Conference in January. A session will be offered before the exam to familiarize you with the program. The exam is a ninety-minute, multiple choice/true-false exam.

Pre-registration application can be completed by contacting Ridgeway College at 1 (866) 385-4762.



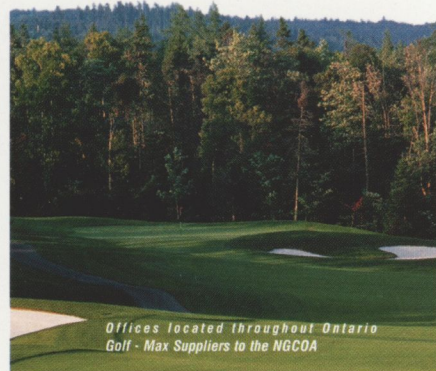
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Catch of the day

Master's Turf Supply held their second annual Customer Appreciation Day on September 9th, aboard the C.S. Powell, on the waters of Lake Erie.

This year's catch started off slowly, but after four hours of fishing, the total exceeded last years. The most successful fisherman was Scott Gardner, from Echo Valley Golf Club, who managed to catch 12 Perch. The total amount of fillets,

at the end of the day, was 8.2 lbs, which was divided up amongst the superintendents.

It was a beautiful, relaxing day, out on the water, with the temperature reaching a high of 26 degrees Celsius. We hope to see everyone again next year for our 3rd annual fishing trip in September, and would like to thank our customers for helping make 2003 a successful year.



Poa annua Ecotype Evaluation

by Martha Cunningham

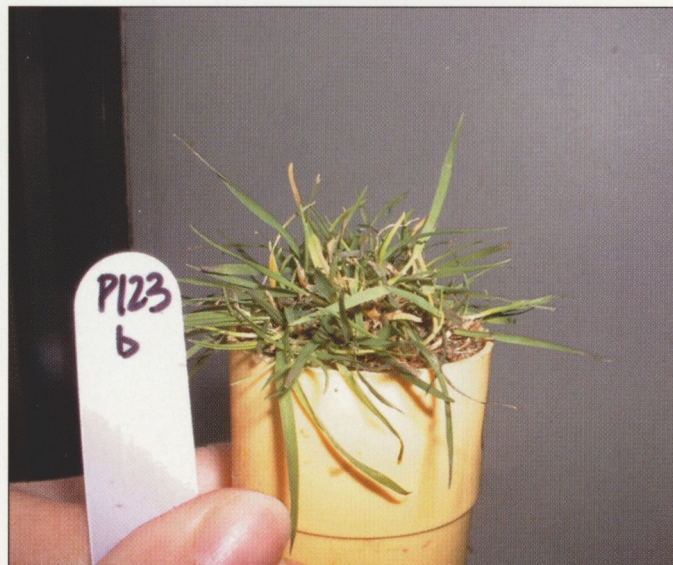
Poa annua L. has a bad reputation. It invades greens in ugly, yellow-green patches and then dies under the slightest stress. Much effort is put into cultural practices to eliminate *Poa* from the green environment. Then why spend precious research dollars trying to improve it genetically? The fact is, some superintendents must deal with *Poa* as a major component of their greens. At present, there is no suitable seed source for the types of *Poa annua* that are adapted to the green environment for use in overseeding or repair work (Huff, 1996). Breeding new cultivars of *Poa* for seed production involves the inclusion of germplasm with natural resistance to environmental stresses such as temperature extremes, insects, and disease. This also opens the possibility of

using *Poa annua* for greens establishment. The dense, upright growth of *Poa* provides a sweet putting surface and low mowing heights produce a fine textured leaf blade; the lower the better.

Improved cultivars with natural resistance to biotic stresses also reduce the need for chemical pesticides and will become increasingly important with impending municipal bans. *Poa annua* populations harbour an incredible amount of genetic potential because *Poa* is such a variable species (Johnson et al., 1993). The objective of this study was to assess the genetic potential within *Poa annua* populations to tolerate attack by the pink snow mold pathogen, *Microdochium nivale*, under winter conditions.



PSM Lesion in field



Poa turf infected with PSM

The Collection

Poa annua populations that have existed within the microenvironment of a golf green for a long time will evolve in response to nature, maintenance practices, and the intense traffic it must endure. Natural selection ensures that greens-type *Poa annua* is a strongly perennial turfgrass, much different from the weedy annual grass that first invaded the green (Beard et al., 1978; Huff, 1996). Other factors, such as repeated attack by insects or disease, can cause *Poa* populations to evolve with respect to resistance. Only individuals able to tolerate repeated attacks will survive within the microenvironment. Self-pollination occurs within greens populations which results

in true breeding strains (Huff, 1996). Over time, the entire population will be more resistant to attack. These populations, or ecotypes, were the target of the *Poa* collection. Turf plugs of *P. annua* populations were collected from old golf greens in Ontario and Quebec using a cup cutter. Dr. David Huff of Penn State University also kindly donated experimental *Poa* seed from his breeding program which will eventually include germplasm from the studies being conducted at the University of Guelph. The turf collection was propagated and maintained by students and technicians from the GTI in a greenhouse at the University of Guelph for use in performance screenings.



Ken Carey & Erica Gunn

The Research

This study consisted of both a field experiment and a controlled environment experiment. Ecotypes were selected from the collection and transplanted into the field in September/October so the turf could cold acclimate naturally. Cold acclimation involves changes in amino acid levels and the production and accumulation of storage carbohydrates which help sustain the plants over winter (Dionne et al., 2000a; Dionne et al., 2000b). Turf was inoculated with wheat bran infected with *M. nivale* in December before snow fall. After snowmelt, ecotypes were rated for disease severity and subsequent regrowth to determine those with the highest and lowest levels of resistance. This study was duplicated in a cold chamber with the same ecotypes transplanted into forestry tubes. Cold acclimation occurred in the chamber before turf was inoculated with *M. nivale*. Ratings for disease severity and progress were taken every week. Data collected from both

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Field Plot Establishment

experiments indicates significant differences in the level of resistance among ecotypes. The best and worst performing ecotypes will be characterized for physical characteristics and biochemical analysis will aid in discovering metabolic processes involved in resistance to *M. nivale* and other biotic stresses.

The best ecotypes may eventually become incorporated into the new cultivars being developed by Dr. Huff, whose aim is to improve *Poa annua* and make a perennial, greens-type *Poa* available to superintendents. It is important not to associate potential cultivars with the weedy, annual-type *Poa* that invades bentgrass greens. The new cultivars will be evaluated for their performance as a turfgrass on golf greens and must meet the high expectations of researchers and superintendents alike. Who knows? You may someday find yourself trying to culture bentgrass out of your *Poa* greens.

Agronomic Services

David C. Smith, A.Ag., C.G.C.S.
Soil & Turfgrass Consultant
(7645)
Office (705) 687-SOIL
Fax (705) 687-3518
Cell (905) 512-6004

185 Oriole Crescent
Gravenhurst, Ontario
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(8873)
Toll Free 1-888-607-TURF
Email dcs.agronomic.services@sympatico.ca

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email; paulp@pumptronics.ca www.pumptronics.ca

2nd Annual assistants tournament

by Neil Tandan, Assistant Superintendent
Weston Golf & Country Club

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

The 2003 Assistants Tournament was held Tuesday, September 23 at the Heathlands Course at Osprey Valley and once again, a great day was had by all. The playing field of slightly over one hundred was by no means limited to 'Assistant Superintendents' but included several Second Assistants, Foremen, and Representatives from many Turf Industry Distributors.

The links style golf course proved a solid challenge on the day of the tournament and players had to endure high winds and more than one passing shower. It was clear, however, to everyone that a great deal of work had been done by the staff at Osprey Valley to prepare the course for this event (8:00 am Shotgun). Thank you.

Following the morning round of golf, an outdoor barbeque lunch was served under marquee tents and prizes were awarded.

A skins game was also held for the Tournament, with only **TWO** skins being won... Hmmm, 100-plus competitors at \$5.00 per skin... you do the math!!! Congratulations to Stu Leachman and Philip Legault, I'm sure you two discovered a whole new set of friends! Of course an event like this doesn't happen without the

contributing efforts of many people. As previously mentioned, thanks to all the Staff at Osprey Valley and, specifically, Bob McClure (Head Professional), Lynn Wood (Event Coordinator), and Dana (Site Coordinator) for all their help in making things run smoothly. Thank you also to all the Associate O.G.S.A. Members who so generously donated prizes. Apart from the placement prizes, "closest-to-the-hole", and "longest drive", there were dozens of random draw gifts.

Special thanks to Dorothy Hills and the O.G.S.A. who, as always, proved invaluable in helping the Assistants Tournament. It was a pleasure to see Dorothy participate this year! Finally, to the Tournament Committee, we say 'Well Done' :

Scott White - The Donalda Club
Scott Sleep - Credit Valley Golf Club
Mark Prieur - Markland Wood Golf & Country Club
Neil Tandan - Weston Golf & Country Club

We look forward to next year's Assistants Tournament with much anticipation!

Congratulations to all the winners:

Men's 1st Low Gross: Sean Lavin - 76
(this guy is too good!)
Men's 2nd Low Gross: Gary Tate - 81
Men's 3rd Low Gross: Scott Bowman - 81
(third by retrogression)
Ladie's 1st Low Gross: Lesley Thomas

Men's 1st Low Net: Jayson Griffiths
Men's 2nd Low Net: Sean Karn
Men's 3rd Low Net: Peter Matson
Ladies's 1st Low Net: Lindsay Oliver



L-R Mark Prieur, Scott White, Scott Sleep, Neil Tandan



What are my chances?



The Heathland Course at Osprey Valley

Golf course highlight

Taboo Golf Club

1310 Muskoka Beach Road
Gravenhurst ON P1P 2W2

Website: www.tabooresort.com

Golf Course Superintendent:

Sean DeSilva

Email: taboogreens@tabooresort.com



#7 Hole, photo by John Bladon

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Muskoka Lakes

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

Municipal – 21,000 rounds annually

Typical opening and closing date
May 1 to October 24

Name of Superintendent
Sean deSilva

How long have you been a superintendent?
8 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?
8 years

List accomplishments
Director, OGSA

How many staff?
5 year round and 30 seasonal

How many mechanics and assistants?
2 Mechanics: Greg Roloson, Jim Tretheway
2 Assts: Randy Twyman, Matthew Wentzell

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back & forward
tees?
7174 yards from the back tees and
5157 yards from the front tees

Size & Length of Driving Range & Range Tee:
10 acres, (300 yds). Range Tees: 27,000 sq. ft.

How many bunkers?
86

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

Who was the original architect?
Ron Garl

What was the year of original construction?
2001

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
9,100 square feet

What type of irrigation system?
Toro Osmac with Site Pro – 2 years old

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

Greens: 120,040 square feet

Tees: 160,353 square feet

Fairways: 36 acres

What is your predominant grass?
Bentgrass

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

What is the predominant soil type?
sand

What equipment do you have in inventory?

2 – Cushman 32 hp Truckster
1 – Cushman TD 1500 Top Dresser
1 – Foley Grinder
1 – Foley Back Lapper
1 – Foley Bed Bar Grinder
1 – Foley Reel Grinder
1 – King Canada 8" Bench Grinder
1 – Hydra-Lift
4 – Bannerman B218-51 Hover Mower
2 – Handi-K15 Back Pack Sprayer
1 – Lely Fertilizer Spreader
1 – Candy Drop Spreader
2 – Scott 2000 Walk-Behind Spreader
14 – John Deere Gator
2 – Ransomes AR250 Rough Mowers
1 – Cushman Spray Tech Vehicle
5 – 16 Channel UHP Radio
1 – John Deere 260 Skid Steerer
5 – John Deere 22 Trailer
1 – John Deere 200 Gallon Sprayer
10 – John Deere 220A Greensmowers
1 – John Deere 1653 Trim Mower
2 – John Deere 3215 Fairway Mower
3 – John Deere 2500 Fairway Mowers
1 – John Deere 60 Out-front Rotary
2 – John Deere 140xt Line Trimmer
1 – John Deere 250 Portable Pump
1 – Agri-Metal 5000 Turf Vacuum
1 – Bergel B-40 Blower
1 – Agri-Metal Leaf Blower
1 – Simple Dimple Seeder
1 – Land Scraper
1 – John Deere 800 Aercore Aerator
1 – John Deere 2000 Aercore Aerator
1 – Salsco Greens Roller 9010
1 – Ryan 544945 Sod Cutter
1 – Greens Groomer 720M
1 – Foley Height Gage
2 – John Deere JS60
1 – John Deere Tractor 5220
1 – John Deere Tractor 4710
1 – John Deere Tractor 4700 w/bucket
1 – Dakota Material Handler
1 – John Deere Bunker Bike

4 – John Deere Leaf Blower Back-Pak
1 – 521 Wire Transmitter Locator
1 – Turf Check-E Height Gage
1 – Air Compressor
5 – Toro Flex 21 Greensmowers
2 – Stihl Chainsaws
1 – Millematic Mig Welder
1 – Power Washer TT9061
2 – FS-55 Line Trimmers
2 – Motorola HT750 Radios
1 – 2 ton engine hoist
1 – Lucknow Snow Blower D7H
1 – Chev GMC Sierra 1/2 ton Truck
1 – Ford F350 Diesel Truck

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

- Addition of 4 new tee decks
- Curbing
- Renovation of 6 sod walled bunkers
- 1,800 linear feet of drainage
- Addition of synthetic turf on the range
- Waste bunker changes on #11
- Cart path passing lanes & parking areas.

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

- Construction of 13,000 sq. ft. tee deck at the range
- Construction of new tee decks on 3 holes
- Waste bunker changes – addition of ornamental grasses
- Renovation to #14 green surrounds
- Drainage, drainage and more drainage
- Sod wall bunker renovation program

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face
with your property?

- Canadian Shield
- Traffic areas & patterns
- Cart traffic
- Intensive maintenance – slopes & bunker faces.
- Areas that are a challenge include shade, traffic and drainage.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Opened the golf course in short time period despite horrible weather. From the time that construction started until we opened the doors for play it was just 18 months.

Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

The Annual Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament took place on October 8th and a full field of OGSA members and guests made the pilgrimage to the Taboo Resort in Gravenhurst for this year's event. Not only were we treated to a tremendous golf experience but, temperatures soared into the 20's serving to enhance our day further. By our midday shotgun start, the bulk of the field were in short sleeves!

Our host, OGSA director, Sean DeSilva, provided us with championship conditions over a stunning layout. Taboo is a Ron Garl design and has been beautifully routed through acres of pre Cambrian granite, towering hardwoods and white pine. Beyond focusing on golfing your ball, there is an abundance of scenery to drink in. Taboo truly is a visual experience.

Following our rounds, we retreated for a delicious prime rib buffet dinner while golf professional David White and his team tabulated the day's results. OGSA meetings and events director, Jeff Alexander, served as MC and provided us with an education on Alex McClumpha as well as ensuring the day's participants were well rewarded.



#17 hole, photo by Mark Prieur

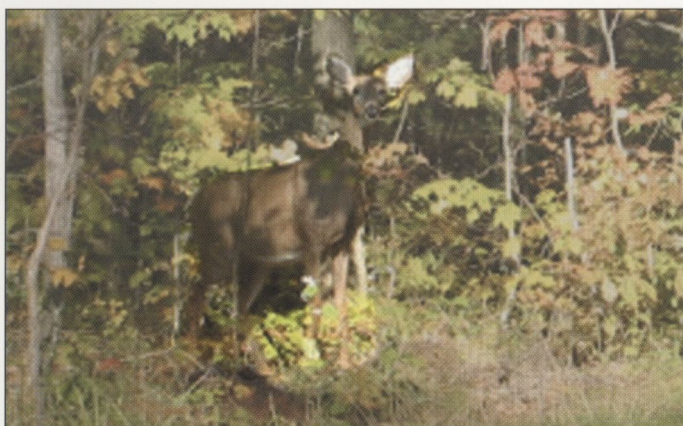


photo by Mark Prieur



#9 hole, photo by Jeff Alexander



- Alex McClumpha was born in Scotland, but immigrated to Canada in the 1920's.
- First record of employment as greenkeeper was at the Elms Golf Club, in Weston, after which he moved to the Thornhill country Club, in 1943
- He was active in the Ontario Greenkeepers Association and served for many years on the Board of Directors. He served as President of the OGSA in 1945 and 1946.
- He assisted in the execution of a yearly golf tournament for greenkeepers and assistants.
- The first event was held at his club, Thornhill Country Club, 1945. It was named the Alex McClumpha Tournament.
- Alex was greatly appreciated at Thornhill, especially for managing the course during the lean years of the 40's and 50's.
- His name was on the score card at one time, when holes were given a descriptive name. His was the 17th hole.
- He lived in Willowdale upon retirement in 1962, and spent much of his summers at his cottage up north, until his death in the late 1970's.
- He was married twice, and had a son, Bill, with his first wife. Bill was also active in the golf industry and was supt./mgr. of the I.B.M. Golf Club
- With his second wife, Margaret, he had a son, John, who is now in the R.C.M.P.
- Alex was a big man, over 6ft. tall.

*The tournament has since been renamed, In memory of Alex McClumpha,
The Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament.*

Winners of the day

GROSS SCORE DIVISION "A"

1st	Gari Ingertsa	74
2nd	Steve Scott	78
3rd	Rod Speake	78

NET SCORE DIVISION "A"

1st	Chris Coholan	64
2nd	Paul Scenna	69
3rd	Jim Moore	69

LONGEST DRIVE

#4	Rob Eagleson	(Div A)
#8	Mark Zecchino	(Div B)

GROSS SCORE DIVISION "B"

1st	Mark Zecchino	72
2nd	Jason D'Andrea	73
3rd	Tim Trimper	73

NET SCORE DIVISION "B"

1st	Jason Fairfield	67
2nd	Paul Morrell	68
3rd	Jon Pollington	68

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

#3	Randy Twyman
	DVD donated by
	Vanden Bussche Irrigation
#7	Ed Guziak
	Fishing Charter donated by
	Burnside Environmental
#11	Sean Foley

GEORGE DAROU TROPHY - goes to Low Gross Senior (over 50 yrs.)
Bruce Burger 79 (Bruce has won this trophy 3 years in a row)

Congratulations to all the winners!

Beyond scoring prizes, Jason Becket, of Vanden Bussche Irrigation & Equipment Ltd., was the lucky raffle winner of a framed print autographed by Mike Weir and without a winner of the day's skins game; the entire proceeds were donated to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. In the end, an enjoyable day was had by all and the hospitality deemed first rate. The OGSA thanks Sean and the entire team at Taboo!.



L-R Jason Becket from Vanden Bussche was the winner of the "Mike Weir" Print, Presented by Sean DeSilva



L-R Bruce Burger receiving George Darou trophy from Thom McLean of Turf Care



L-R Sean DeSilva receiving Host Plaque from Jeff Alexander

1st ANNUAL ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MAN

Sheraton Ce

Tuesday January 6th, 2004

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR

Topic: New Insights on Disease Management
Presenter: Dr. Lee Burpee, University of Georgia
Time: 9 am until 4 pm
coffee breaks at 8:00, 10:30 and 2:30 and lunch at 12 noon
Registration: 8 am until 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday January 7th, 2004

- 8:00 Registration Opens
9:15 Coffee available in registration area
9:45 Opening Ceremonies, Mr. Robert Ackermann
10:00 Keynote Speaker: Mr. Mark Hebscher "A Behind the Scenes Look at Sports"
11:00 "What's New in Poa Control" Dr. Nick Christians, Iowa State University
11:00 **TRADE SHOW OPENS**
11:45 "Giving Your New Green an Old Green Look" Mr. Steve Tschanz, Rosedale Golf Club
12:00 **Lunch in Trade Show (until 2:00)**
1:00 **MECHANIC'S SEMINAR**, Dave Ellis, National Technical Manager Stihl Canada
Seminar split into two days. For details and topics go to www.getao.org
1:30 "Primo Maxx - 2 Years Later" Ms Marie Thorne, Syngenta
2:00 "IPM Accreditation Update & Exam Prep. Course" Mr. Jeff Stauffer & Mr. Ken Pavely
3:00 Coffee Break
3:00 Registration Closes
3:00 **IPM Exam (2 hours) YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER WITH RIDGETOWN COLLEGE**
3:15 "The Role of TSSA in Fuel Storage" Mr. Mike Scarland, TSSA
3:45 "Factors Influencing Consistent Green Speeds" Dr. James Baird, USGA Agronomist
4:15 "OGSA Research Project Update" Dr. Julie Dionne, RCGA Green Section
4:30 Talks Conclude
4:30 **TRADE SHOW SOCIAL** 5:30 **TRADE SHOW CLOSES**
7:00 **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION** presented by OGSA in the Club Lounge - top floor

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

Centre Toronto

Thursday January 8th, 2004

- 8:00 Registration Opens
- 8:00 **OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** with Full Breakfast - Grand Ballroom West
Election of Directors. This is your chance to voice your opinion, and ask questions.
- 8:45 Continental Breakfast in Trade Show Area
- 9:00 **TRADE SHOW OPENS**
- 10:00 "Making Cents of Dollar \$pot" Dr. Brenda Naylor, Engage Agro
- 10:30 "Aerification and Green Speeds" Mr. John Zimmers, Oakmont Country Club
- 11:15 "Asian Long Horned Beetle" Richard Ubbens, City of Toronto, Forestry Department
- 11:40 "Inside the Ropes at the 2003 US Open" Mr. David DeCorso, Victoria Park Golf Club
- 12:00 Lunch in Trade Show available until 2:00 pm
- 1:00 **MECHANIC'S SEMINAR**, Dave Ellis, National Technical Manager Stihl Canada
Seminar split into two days. For details and list of topics go to www.getao.org
- 1:00 **HORTICULTURE PROGRAM**, Daisy Moore, Session Chair; Charles Kinsley, Ontario Native Plant; Dan Krause, Nature Conservancy of Canada; Denis Eveleigh, Royal Botanical Gardens, and other horticulturalist and gardeners. Topics include: plant combinations, woodland gardens & transitional areas, the ecology of golf courses, the beauty of biodiversity, gardening on the golf course, including a panel discussion "Garden design on the golf course"
- 1:00 Registration Closes
- 1:30 "Winter Injury – How To Avoid It, and What To Do When It Cannot Be Avoided."
Dr. James Baird, USGA Agronomist
- 2:00 "Innovations in Bunker Restoration" Mr. John Gall, St. George's Golf Club
- 2:30 "How Much are You Really Watering?" Mr. Tim Fredericks, Turf Care Products
- 2:45 "New Tools for Managing Turfgrass Diseases" Mr. Darcy Olds,
Bayer Environmental Science
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- 3:00 **TRADE SHOW CLOSES**
- 3:15 "Bunker Drainage – Don't Get Trapped" John Kelly & Steve Ami, Kelly Ami Inc.
- 3:45 "Creating the Georgian Bay Club" Mr. Bert McFadden, Georgian Bay Club and
Mr. Jason Straka, Golf Course Architect,
Hurzdan & Associates
- 4:15 "Moss Control" Corrie Almack, Almack Agronomic Services Inc.
- 4:30 "Do You Comply? Regulations You Should Know" Mark Scenna, Environmental
Investigations Ltd.
- 4:45 Talks Conclude.

Whats New

Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association

The GBGSA has a long history of supporting various Turf Research Groups in Ontario. The Executive announced a new program for 2003 to enhance the learning opportunities for members of our profession. We offered a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student working towards a career in Turfgrass Management. To qualify for this scholarship, the student must meet the following criteria:

The applicant must work for a golf club that is a member of the GBGSA.

The applicant must be enrolled in a recognized Turf Management Program within Canada or United States

Written submission of outlining career goals, work experience and current supervisors.

The GBGSA Executive and Members are very proud to announce the recipient of the 2003 GBGSA Turfgrass Scholarship Program.

Virginia is presently enrolled in the Golf Course Technician Program at Seneca College and graduates in 2004. She has been employed with the Mad River Golf Club since 1990 under the supervision of Ray Richards and Chad Vibert.

Congratulations to Virginia Kimmey!



Jeff Alexander congratulating Virginia

LOOKING TO HIRE?

There will be a JOB BOARD at the 2004 Golf Course Conference and Trade Show. Be sure to bring your advertisement to be posted.

Hydro Agri Canada, manufacturers of Nutrite plant nutrition products, is pleased to announce the following appointments at their Ontario head office:

Ken McLeod, Sales and Marketing Manager

Paul Lefebvre, Vice President, Product and Marketing Development

For full details contact Ken McLeod at 519-669-5401 and ask for a copy of their recent press release.

Turfgrass Courses at Cornell University

Cornell Turfgrass Management Short Course
January 12-16, 2004 in Ithaca

An Organic Approach to Turfgrass Management
January 20, 21 and 27, 28, 2004, in Western New York
4 days at Genesee Community College

For full details visit:

www.hort.cornell.edu/instruction/shortcourse2004.htm

For more information, contact Joann Gruttadaurio

At 607-255-1792 or jg17@cornell.edu

Oops

Our apologies for two errors which appeared in the October issue of *Green is Beautiful*

The caption under the cover photo on pg. 2 should have read, "tended by Rodger Tschanz & his crew", and not Robert Tschanz.

On page 12, Peter A. White is listed as the Assistant Superintendent at Nottawasaga Golf Course. Peter is the Superintendent, not the Assistant.

OGSA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please ensure that your membership dues have been paid. If you are not sure, call the office for confirmation. They were due October 31st, 2003!



"The Leap" photo by Tim Steen, Superintendent, Victoria Park Golf Club West.



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Nu-Gro Corporation



Brian Rosenberg
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brosenberg@nu-gro.ca

Let's all say the F-Word: FIRED!

by Peter L. McCormick, TurfNet

You have heard the old saying, "There are superintendents who have lost grass — and those who will." Given the direction our industry has taken in recent years, a new version of that maxim might read, "There are superintendents who have *been fired* — and those who will". With the accelerating demands for perfection on the golf course — and the lengths the industry will go to achieve them — both adages will likely be truer in the 21st Century than in the last.

Ironically, in many situations, a golf course superintendent getting fired has little or nothing to do with losing grass — although it rarely happens without some underlying reason. There is no doubt we have created a monster of spiraling expectation, where superintendents lose their jobs and families get uprooted over thousandths of an inch in height of cut, inches of ball roll or minor imperfections of color. Playing conditions peaked for tournaments only several years ago are now demanded on a daily basis. We are testing the limits of Mother Nature — a concept of which many golfers have no understanding — and "She" usually wins.

Who am I to address this subject? I have never been a superintendent. I am not a PhD psychologist or career counselor; hardly a financial advisor, and certainly not a priest. I am, however, a two-time survivor of the experience who took advantage of both events to redirect my life toward something better. In the years since, I have spent many, many moments of reflection and retrospection on those defining moments and the situations leading up to them. From the chair in which I have been sitting for the past nine years as commander-in-chief and maestro of TurfNet, I have seen *way too many* good superintendents, good people, good friends of mine lose their jobs, many times through no

fault of their own — or at least, no blatant miscue, screw-up or failing.

It's refreshing and healthy to see this topic, long discussed only in whispered, closed door, backroom conversations, brought out of the closet and onto the table. We will take a look at the "job killers", the warning signs, the emotional trauma, financial considerations, and then picking up the pieces and moving on.

This is not intended as a lesson on the mechanics of finding a new job. It's meant to be a practical guide to avoiding the situation in the first place, and once it happens, getting through the process with your soul intact.

The scope of the problem...

For a historical perspective, where did the term being *fired* come from, anyway? According to Paul Hawken (founder of the Smith & Hawken garden store chain) in his book *Growing Your Business*, when a group or village back in medieval times wanted to ostracize a member, the townspeople went to the offender's

If you're one of the few who survive an entire career as a superintendent, statistically speaking you'll be fired twice during your career.

home and burned it to the ground, along with all and everything inside. Relations were severed by *firing*. Thankfully we are not quite so barbaric any more.

Even though this situation has become alarmingly visible in recent years due to the speed and reach of the internet, the actual numbers are fairly small. For lack of any real statistics, let's use 5% as a round figure. That means in a room of 100

golf course superintendents, five will lose their jobs this year. The actual number may be slightly more or less, but 5% is reasonably close.

Admittedly, that's not exactly cause for panic. But it also means that, at least statistically, everyone will have their turn once every 20 years. If you're one of the few who survive an entire career as a superintendent, statistically speaking you'll be fired twice during your career. Of course, some superintendents may get fired twice or three times every 20 years and others won't at all. But it never hurts to be aware, be on guard, be prepared, and have Plan B in mind at all times.

This trend is certainly not unique to the golf course industry, for we are just a microcosm of society at large. Due in part to email, FedEx, next-day-this or second-day-that, our society today demands instant and immediate gratification. We want it now, with no excuses. "Don't tell me about the labour pains, *show me the baby!*" Our golfing clientele is no exception. It's all about "What have you done for me lately?"

Compounding the fragility of job tenure is the rate of change in our society, which has accelerated to warp speed. Companies are acquired, others merge or go out of business. Here today, gone tomorrow. Technology improves, obsolescence follows. Demographics shift. Planes fly into buildings. Stuff happens.

As a result, career positions are becoming a dying breed, across all industries. Just ask any pro football coach, ex-Enron employee, or any of the 25- or 30-year veteran superintendents who have been terminated within the last year. Age and experience have become liabilities. Youth, energy and a lower price tag are attractive. And there is another new crop of young graduates every year who would love to have

your job for half your going rate.

My father-in-law got up and went to work in the same factory building every day for 45 years before retiring about 15 years ago. Today, the company he worked for *no longer exists*. Unlike our parents' generation, which could often count on a career-long tenure with one company, some say it is foolish for us today to plan past the next five years in any job, in any industry. Others say you can't realistically look beyond the next two or three years.

One of our TurfNet members (and a good friend of mine) received his walking papers recently after 25 years at his club. Located in the greater NYC area, the club had turned over about one-third of the membership due to the economic slump after 9/11. All of a sudden, when greeting golfers around the first tee, he realized that he no longer knew many of them. Obviously, the new members had no emotional attachment to him, either. Things beyond our control can and do change, often very quickly.

Adding fuel to the fire is the escalation of salaries among superintendents in recent years, particularly in the major metropolitan areas. While that is undeniably a positive trend, unfortunately, as the stakes get higher, the fuse of owners, green committees and others in the club hierarchy tends to get shorter — and requires less to light it.

The Job Killers

I did a casual survey on TurfNet.com to compile a list of "Job Killers" that have been known to hasten the superintendent's exit out the door. Let's take a look at a few...

- **Poor communication** is a death knell. Good communication is regular and ongoing: upward to club management, downward to your staff, and outward to your members or golfing public. Avoid surprises. Keep

the right people informed (particularly when problems arise) as to reasons, cost and timelines for recovery. Without it, they have no idea of the methodology behind your madness, especially as it affects playability, appearance or budget.

- **"The Next Level"**. Whatever that is, a lot of clubs want it and are eager to replace their superintendent in search of it.

- **The crossfire of club politics**. We've all heard the saying that being a golf course superintendent is "90% politics and 10% agronomy". Communication, public relations and many other factors (including "don't burn bridges" and "don't piss off that jerk who may someday become club president") are intertwined here. On the other hand, it's easy to blame club politics when other shortcomings are really at the root of the matter.

- **"My" golf course**. Fellas, if you don't own it, it ain't yours. Period. Usually, there is a higher power to answer to and nine times out of ten, they have the last laugh.

- **Blinders, tunnel vision**. Not seeing the forest for the trees. Focusing on the triple-cut while the water coolers remain empty, or planting killer annuals around the tee box while ignoring the broken ball washer nearby. Many a new hire has come into a golf course, taken care of the simple, little things and looked like a hero — while the ex-superintendent who neglected them walks down the road, hanging his head like a dog.

- **Complacency and boredom**. Boredom arises from routine. Keep motivated by setting new goals, integrating new technologies, tackling new projects. Hire a stable of young people to learn from and keep you on your toes. Change or improve something in the maintenance facility every year to avoid stagnation, even if it's just a coat of paint. Be aware of the

7-Year Itch.

- **Invisibility**. Don't hide in your office or eat lunch in your truck. When in the office, use the computer as a tool rather than as entertainment. Work the first tee like a politician on a stump, particularly on weekend mornings. Don't fall into the trap of disappearing when stressed or when things aren't going right. It's easy to do.

- **In-season special projects**. To call maximum attention to yourself, it's hard to beat a flagrant mistake. Limit your focus during peak season to routine maintenance. Do what you're paid to do: produce great golfing conditions. This greatly reduces the opportunity for highly visible, costly mistakes or disruptions, while you give full attention to getting your turf through the season intact.

- **Employee mismanagement or abuse**. Many a superintendent has been shown the door with a knife in his back, often wielded by a disgruntled employee. Mixed-gender crews open up further opportunities for abuse. Be careful, and be aware. That occasional "liaison" with the club president's wife isn't a good career move, either.

- **Mismanagement of resources**, including borrowing or lending club property, or worse. Those side landscape or seed jobs have also brought more than one superintendent down.

- **Alcohol and drug abuse**. As upstanding as we like to think our industry is, we are not Superman. Golf course superintendents have pressures and work long hours like many others do. Some handle it better than others.

- **Bad attitude**. A catch-all, perhaps, but many great grass growers with a stubborn, "my way is the only way" attitude have found themselves on the outside looking in, while less talented superintendents with a cooperative,

Let's all say the F-Word: FIRED! continued...

go-get-'em attitude continue to survive the cut.

• Conflicts with other departments.

This can often be combined with the "own agenda" and "bad attitude" job killers. Avoiding this situation in many cases boils down to choosing which battles you need to fight, and when you can give ground to accommodate others. Consider the full scope of the potential consequences when deciding whether or not to dig in your heels.

Of course, there are agronomic job killers as well, including *repeated* turf loss, bad chemical applications, poor housekeeping, and the "greener grass down the street" syndrome.

The warning signs...

Warning signs are everywhere, but often come to light only with the benefit of hindsight. When the communication stops — on anyone's part, in either direction — beware. That's usually a foreshadowing of an unpleasant event. If meetings are held without you, chances are your input isn't valued very much — or they are planning your exit strategy for you. When decisions are made without your input, particularly as they affect your areas of direct responsibility, start packing your stuff. If the time for scheduled pay raises or bonuses comes and goes with no explanation, update your resume. If they bring in a consultant (other than a scheduled USGA visit), more often than not you're screwed.

On your part, if you find yourself not wanting to get out of bed in the morning, or getting to work late or

leaving early, those are pretty good indicators that you have lost the fire in the belly. If you find yourself making decisions on your own and circumventing proper channels of authority, you might soon discover those meetings being held without you.

When I look back at my own situations, virtually all of the above warning signs were there. But a great deal of retrospection has led me to one conclusion: it was me, more than anything else. In both instances I was ready for a change, ready to move on, ready for the next challenge — and that affected relationships enough to get me fired, both times. The fire in my belly had gone out — and I knew it, but didn't act on it.

You can't predict. You can only prepare.

Proactively managing your career is the best way to avoid sudden job loss. That involves periodically assessing both your enthusiasm for your job and your standing among those around you. Know when you need to make a change in advance of others making it for you. Many superintendents have stayed one step ahead of the sheriff throughout their careers simply by keeping their ears to the ground and taking their internal temperature on a regular basis.

There's another old saying: "The best time to find a new job is when you don't need one." You can make your own choices, on your own terms. All it takes is the savvy to realize the need and the guts to pull the plug and move on.

In today's climate, establishing a safety net or fine-tuning a Plan B should be constant and ongoing. Golf course superintendents have a wide range of skills, from permitting and environmental compliance to plumbing, electrical, mechanical, surveying, and earth moving. Hone

your skills to the point of making them marketable. Become an expert in something, as a potential alternate career path at some point in the future.

Perhaps the most critical proactive element in career security is establishing a network. Involve yourself and stay active in the industry. Meet as many people as you can, across all disciplines, including golf course architects, irrigation designers, and builders. Stay on good terms with everyone, including club members. These are key to establishing and maintaining your network, which has rescued many an unemployed superintendent from the bread line.

Prepare yourself financially

The emotional trauma of losing your job is bad enough without having to worry about how you're going to feed your family. As with skill development and network building, this must be started early and continued on an ongoing basis. At particular risk are those who live in club housing and/or drive club vehicles. You think it's bad to lose your job? How about losing your home and transportation as well? If you have housing provided as part of your compensation package, find a way to buy a vacation home or rental property to build equity and as a hedge against becoming homeless. *Homeless?* You bet. How's that for a reality check?

One of our TurfNet members told me one day, "If I were to lose my job, all we would have is a U-Haul behind my wife's minivan." That's a pretty sobering thought. So he took it upon himself to build a vacation home for his family's use during the summer, and to build financial security over the years. The majority of the net worth of most people today has likely come from appreciation of real estate more than anything else. Don't be left out.

If you find yourself not wanting to get out of bed in the morning, or getting to work late or leaving early, those are pretty good indicators that you have lost the fire in the belly.

Beyond owning a home, it's critical to put some money aside — although very difficult to do. The more we make, the more we tend to spend. Money in the bank is the best cushion for a soft landing. Three months' take-home pay in the bank is a good goal, but six would be better. If you are living paycheck to paycheck with nothing saved, re-assess your lifestyle and make some changes.

Another TurfNet member, a very conservative person to start with, mentioned to me that he's not afraid of losing his job. Why? "Because I spend a lot less than I make, and there's plenty there to tide me over. I would just get another job or find something else to do" How many of us can say *that*?

When planning for the future, keep in mind that, just like professional athletes, it's very likely you won't wind up your career in this industry at peak income.

OK, so you get the news. What now?

Right out of the gate, get your financial house in order. Negotiate proper severance — something you and your employer will likely disagree on, but a week or two per year of service is pretty standard. Obviously, this is best done in advance.

If you don't get another job by the time your severance runs out, swallow your pride and apply for unemployment benefits (another reality check). Remember the bar scene from the original *Star Wars*, with all those mutants and cretins hanging around? That's what the unemployment line is like. Believe me, it's a humbling experience.

Hunker down and put the brakes on all discretionary spending. It's amazing how much money you can NOT spend when you put your mind to it. Talk to your creditors if need be. Somehow you'll get through it.

Regardless of how it happens, losing your job can be emotionally devastating, to both you and your family. Why? Because our society defines us as individuals more by *what we do* in life than by *who we are*. When someone meets us for the first time, one of the first identifiers they seek out is what we do for a living, not that we like to play the guitar or cook or coach a soccer team. When we lose our job, we lose a core component of our persona. We are viewed by many — often including ourselves — as no longer whole.

What should you expect when you suddenly find yourself unemployed? Expect your relationships to change, or at least your casual ones. Your real friends will stand by and support you, but your fair weather friends will likely duck you like the plague. I call this the "Leprosy Syndrome". People feel an awkwardness talking to you or even being around you. They don't know what to say, so they just avoid you.

There is a lesson there for all of us. I have been guilty in the past of avoiding acquaintances who were out of work, or who might have gotten a bad diagnosis, due to that same awkwardness. Don't fall into that trap when it happens to a friend or neighbor or the superintendent down the street. Call him or send him an email to see how he's doing. Stop by, stick out your hand, offer a smile and a friendly word. "How are you doing?" is all that's necessary.

What should you expect when you suddenly find yourself unemployed? Expect your relationships to change, or at least your casual ones...

Taking that a step further, while walking the aisles at the trade shows, don't look the other way when you see

a "jobless" guy approaching. Be certain he feels weirder than you do, just being there. Say hey, look him in the eye, offer a word of encouragement, and ask how the search is going. Show that you care. He will appreciate that, and remember.

If you should lose your job, be prepared to become the scapegoat among your former co-workers. You will be blamed for all that ails the golf course. Don't let it bother you. It's an unfortunate part of human nature.

While you're looking for your next job, be aware of the symptoms of clinical depression, a treatable physical illness sometimes triggered by an event like job loss. Running at full tilt for years and then hitting the wall can screw up your internal chemistry. Symptoms of depression can include feelings of sadness, guilt, or hopelessness; irritability; fatigue or restlessness; loss of interest in favorite activities; irregular sleeping habits, or changes in weight or appetite. If you find yourself experiencing more than several of these symptoms, swallow your pride and see your doctor. It's not a sign of weakness.

Your job loss can be even more difficult for your family than yourself, because they might not understand all that led up to it like you do. All they know is that now you're at home, and the paychecks will soon stop. I had barely walked in the door after receiving the news the last time when one of my daughters, who was eight at the time, asked me, "Daddy, are we going to be poor now?" That was almost rock bottom for me — but I'll get back to that in a moment.

Looking at the brighter side, this situation can be a good opportunity for you to be a role model for your kids, depending upon their ages. One of my greatest satisfactions was to involve my family in the starting of a new business, and have them watch

Let's all say the F-Word: FIRED! continued...

me rise above the fear and the doubt to grow a successful business from little more than an idea.

Get comfortable with it...

The sooner you get comfortable with your new status, the faster you will be able to move on. I entitled this article "Let's all say the F-Word" not to be a smart-ass, but for a specific reason. Just like the first step in dealing with alcoholism, we have to accept it, come to grips with it, embrace it — before we can move on with the rest of our lives. We need to say it out loud. "I GOT FIRED!" Then say it again. You are not the first, and you are not alone. There is no reason for shame. Hold your head high. And don't hide behind the false cloak of "resignation", "early retirement", or "pursuing other interests". That's BS, and everyone knows it.

Talk about it. Talk to anyone who will listen, until you get it out of your system. Or write about it in a journal, if only for your own eyes. Both are therapeutic. That's another critical step in moving forward. Writing this is therapeutic for me, almost ten years later.

Give yourself quiet time to think. That's a luxury our lifestyles don't allow us enough of. Turn off the TV, the car radio, your cell phone. Get away. Take a walk, or a short vacation if your finances allow. You'll look back in with a clearer mind, and be better able to assess the big picture.

An examination of your strengths and weaknesses can provide insight into which direction to take. You need not always follow the same path, particularly if the fun had stopped. Everyone is not cut out of superintendent cloth. Don't let tunnel vision blind you to new (and perhaps different) opportunities. What do you REALLY want to do?

Many people go through their entire lives with closet dreams and ambitions that they never realize,

simply because they could never take that step out of the comfort zone. Well, guess what? Once you have lost your job, you're out of it. There's no more standing at the end of the diving board trying to gather the courage to jump in. You're in, and in deep water.

If this is the case, take advantage of the opportunity. Go back to school, start a business, teach... if the spirit moves you. Of course, these are much easier if you have planned ahead, and have some money in the bank to fall back on.

Take advantage of the opportunity. Go back to school, start a business, teach... if the spirit moves you. Of course, these are much easier if you have planned ahead, and have some money in the bank to fall back on.

You may simply reaffirm in your mind that you want to be the best golf course superintendent you can possibly be. If so, great! Go at it with renewed vigor and energy.

Hitting rock bottom

It's often valuable — albeit unpleasant — to realize when you have hit rock bottom, because from that point there is only one way to go. My own brush with the bottom went like this...

I was fired two days after Christmas, and my company vehicle went with it. Soon after the New Year, my kids were in school and my wife was teaching part time. I was home alone with the dog. About 10:00 that morning, I opened the refrigerator and saw my older daughter's lunch bag sitting there. "Oh, I'll just take it over to school," I thought. Uhh, no transportation. I suppose I could have asked my neighbor to borrow her car, but no, I wasn't going to do that. I was too proud.

Walking wasn't really practical since it was about 15°F outside and the

school was two miles from home. So what did I do? I got out an old bicycle from the garage, pumped up the tires, and started pedaling. After dropping off my daughter's lunch, I started for home, into the wind this time. As I pedaled furiously, the tears streamed down my face — partly due to the cold wind, but mostly due to sheer, utter *rage* at the situation I was in. That was rock bottom for me. I decided right then that I was going to be the captain of my own destiny, the master of my own fate, during the next stage of my life.

As you clear your head and focus your vision, look forward and don't dwell on the past. You can't change what happened, but you can learn from it. Things often happen for a reason that is not always clear at the time.

My grandmother used to say that things work out for the best in the end. She was right, at least in my experience. I have become a firm believer that good ultimately prevails over bad, and that every event in our lives is part of a bigger plan. The universe unfolds as it should. Be tough, stand tall, move on with your life. One door closes, and another will open — but sometimes we have to twist the knob ourselves.

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Peter L. McCormick is the founder, editor, webmaster and maestro of TurfNet, the print and web-based information service for golf course superintendents.

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NEW REVOLUTIONARY MAG™-KNIFE

The revolutionary, new **Mag-Knife**, is a patented bedknife/bedbar system that utilizes extremely strong, rare-earth magnets instead of screws to hold the bedknife in place.

The Mag-Knife system utilizes a series of small, new-technology permanent magnets embedded on 2" centers in the bedbar. Two beveled corners and dowel pins ensure perfect alignment of the newly-designed bedknife on the bedbar. Bedknife installation is accomplished with two BIRTs (bedknife installation and removal tools), which are modified vice grip-type pliers used to snap, rotate and click the bedknife into place.

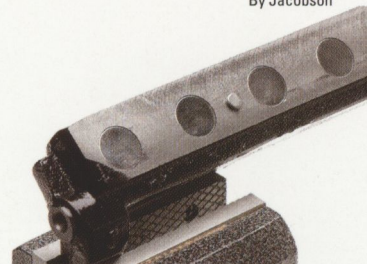
The bedknife can be removed and re-installed in minutes, compared to up to an hour with conventional screws — particularly if they are corroded adding up to man-weeks of labor savings over the course of a year.

The magnets provide uniform force across the bedknife, eliminating the dips and waves caused by inconsistent screw torque. Eliminating the screw holes also results in less distortion during manufacture of the bedknife. All this adds up to a truer edge with less grinding required. Plus, we will now be able to go to ultra-thin bedknives if desired.

The magnets are nickel plated to eliminate corrosion from moisture or fertilizer salts. The magnetic field is dispersed along the length of the bedknife, so metallic particles (or even nuts and bolts) aren't attracted to the bedknife once installed on a cutting unit. Although a powerful attraction, the magnetic force can actually release the bedknife for a split second to allow foreign objects to pass through the reel helix rather than damage the reel and/or bedknife yet it will not dislodge during golf course operations.

The Mag-Knife will retrofit to all current Jacobsen reel mowers, and will be available as a kit with the new-style bedbar, magnets, bedknife and a pair of BIRTs. It is suggested that an additional kit be ordered for use with the bedknife grinder. Kits for the 5" reels will be available after January 1, 2004.

Introduction of the Mag-Knife will also kick off a new generation of video training tools geared toward equipment technicians. All Mag-Knife kits will include a video CD that takes the technician through the bedknife installation and removal process in a step-by-step fashion. A video technician training CD will ultimately be included with all Jacobsen products.



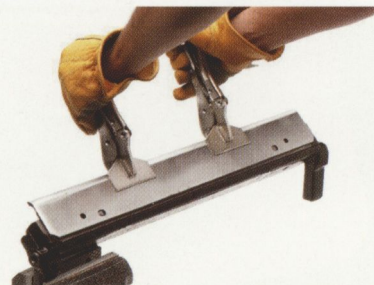
The New Mag-Knife bedbar after installation of rare earth magnets which hold the bedknife in precise position with uniform pressure.



The high quality bedknife is installed with 2 special Mag-Knife vice-grip pliers



2 holes are machine punched in each bedknife and aligned with 2 dowel pins affixed to the bedknife bar to allow precision installation



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Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

Front yard gardens are hot these days – most of my garden design efforts over the past gardening season were centred on building front yard gardens for people. People like to make sure that the approach to their homes is attractive, interesting and inviting. In the golf business, the clubhouse entrance could be considered the front yard garden of the golf course. It is here that you have the opportunity to make a statement about the kind of experience you will be delivering to the golfer. The gardens can demonstrate the extra effort you have been willing to take to create a positive feeling and image.

Why is so much attention now being paid to front gardens? We can blame a bit of it on Martha and a bit on the trend towards low maintenance gardening and alternatives to lawns.

Martha helped out by demonstrating the endless and fabulous things you can do to your front yard with your resources and your (spare) time. People now view their front garden as an extension of their home, and home décor magazines now run features on front yards. But the movement toward low maintenance lawn alternatives has really changed the way we look at our gardens.

I have become remarkably fond of working within the constraints of the urban front garden. The gardens I mean are the smallish square-ish

plots of land that separate houses and row houses from the sidewalk. They are usually about 15 feet wide and 20 feet deep. There is a well-trodden path to the front door. There are usually tree roots or dreadful slopes to deal with and watering is always a problem. Generally, my clients want their garden to be a single view they can look at again and again, like a picture with perhaps a changing medley of colour over the seasons. Oh yes, and by the way, they don't want to do any maintenance. These gardens tend to be more about shapes and textures than about plants, at least in the short term.

In the past, front gardens were designed to decorate the front entrance by planting (usually) dwarf evergreen and deciduous shrubs along the foundation (this is where the term foundation planting comes from) to frame the house and disguise the concrete. In my own case, I released the plants from the confines of the foundation and planted my front garden so that it looked good from the porch looking out as well as from the sidewalk looking in. I converted the space from a patch of infrequently mown miscellaneous green matter to a plant community which provides screening, beauty, herbs for cooking, flowers for cutting, and all sorts of plants with smells and stories. All of these features were important to me, so I included them. Your front garden can be whatever you want it to be. More and more people are turning to this type of front garden. It's an alternative to a lawn and it is a

form of expression.

The challenge for the gardener is to choose plants for both the short and the long term. Combining plants that are showy right away with those with some staying power that will ultimately form a self-sustaining plant community. This is where native plants come in. They are the ones that will go the distance and make the garden both survive and thrive.

When first planting a garden it is important to realize that the fully developed garden is about three years down the line. Plants take that long to become established in their environment. The better suited the environment or garden situation is to the plants' natural or native habitat, the faster the stable or self-sustaining garden will be established. At the completion of a garden design and installation, I tend to do a lot of painting in the mind's eye when I describe to my clients how the plant community will evolve over the next few seasons and what each plant will do and look like when it reaches its potential. In the meantime, hard landscaping features such as stone or benches or a Martha inspired whatever, will provide the short term interest.

As you think about next season, think about your clubhouse entrance. What can you do to get maximum benefit from your "front yard" for your golfers, and be lower-maintenance at the same time.

Visit my website at
www.daisymoore.com.

On the road again

by Angelo Capannelli
Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

One of the many perks or privileges in our industry is to play golf. We get invitations to play golf from our colleagues and we play golf when we attend meetings through the many associations that we belong to. A recent golf game took me to the Royal Montreal Golf Club, in Ile Bizard, Quebec. On October 8th, 2003 the Royal Montreal Golf Club hosted the 19th annual QTRF fundraising tournament. It was an opportunity for me to play, what is considered, one of Canada's finest golf courses and certainly one of North America's oldest golf clubs. Host Superintendent, Blake McMaster, and his staff had the golf course looking great and the blue course, which we played, certainly held up to it's billing of being a great test of golf. The golf course has hosted a few Canadian Open championships and it is being considered to be the front-runner in hosting the Presidents Cup in 2005. Hats off to Rick Brown, superintendent of Mt. Bruno Golf Course and chairman of the QTRF and to Patrick Moir, superintendent of Hillsdale Golf & CC for organizing a wonderful golf tournament for a worthy cause.

Being that I traveled to Montreal for an association golf game I thought I would take in a few more before returning to Toronto. My colleague, Mark Dufresne, of O.J. Company in Quebec, and a Past President of the CGSA, made arrangements for us to attend the Adirondack Golf Superintendents Association final meeting of the season. The Ausable Club, which is situated in an Alp Like setting in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks, is a nine-hole golf course that has been around since 1900. Absolutely breathtaking! We enjoyed golf and a very informal meeting amongst some hard

working superintendents who take tremendous pride in looking after their golf courses.

With the sun still high in the sky and the temperature hovering around 16 degrees Celsius we decided to continue to the Lake Placid Golf Resort, about 15 miles away, for a little more professional development. Jim Girard, of Green Management, decided that we should play the lower course of this 45 hole resort because, as he quoted, "It has a lot of character and it was designed in 1895 by Seymour Dunn". Seymour Dunn, who was born in Scotland, became a prominent man in this area. He became the golf director at the Lake Placid Club in 1908 and spent the next 21 years teaching the fashionable and wealthy members of the club, the art of golf. He also forged his name on many golf clubs that were made at that time, as it was the responsibility of the golf pro to make clubs for the members also. What a fabulous day that was!

How do you follow up those 2 days with anything else? Well, you can't and that is why I decided to quit while I was ahead. I managed to win some money and to play some of the most scenic and well to do golf courses in the area. Honourable mentions go out to Saranac Lake Golf Club and the superintendent, Tony Barnes, who we visited the next day on the way back to Montreal. The Saranac Lake Golf Club is a nine-hole golf course that charges the public \$9.00 to play and is maintained on \$4,000. Not bad, not bad at all!!!! Oh, by the way, Mark, your photo is in a safe spot.

* Some of the references and dates for this article have come from the book Adirondack Golf Courses...Past and Present authored by J. Peter Martin.



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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

There's a jewelry store ad on TV that says I was supposed to spend three months salary on the engagement ring for my wife. I didn't. Even in those lean years, when I was just cutting my teeth in the business and three months salary wasn't enough to buy a decent looking cubic zirconia, I knew I wasn't giving her anything worth three months salary unless it was big enough not to lose.

My wife has lost, broken, or stored in a place where she can no longer find it; everything anyone has ever given her. She would lose the children, except that now that they can walk on their own, they basically follow her around in hopes of getting a Happy Meal at some point. She loses her keys every day. She forgets where she parked her car once a week. Therefore, there was no way I was spending 25% of my yearly income on something she would inevitably lose. Unless the ring came with a voice activated alarm, or was big enough not to fall between the couch cushions, it wasn't happening.

My father was a dairy farmer. When he and my mother got engaged, the romantic devil sold a manure pile and used the profits for the ring. Take that, jewelry marketing conspiracy! He gave you three months of *something*.

I eventually stumbled on to the greatest of all engagement ring scams.... the heirloom ring. Fortunately, my grandmother had recently died. She left her rings to my mother who thought that perhaps grandma's diamond ring would be an appropriately symbolic "welcome to the family". I thought that it was appropriately priced. There was no estate quarrel for the ring, as my two brothers both had manure piles of their own. Apparently my grandfather had a pretty good-sized one.

The reason I bring this up, is that my tenth anniversary is this year. Quite an accomplishment considering none of my buddies ever thought she'd go out with me the second time. On TV, the ad says that I'm supposed to buy her a 'diamond anniversary ring'. A bauble which is; naturally, supposed to be three months salary, and will inevitably end up in the gooseneck of the bathroom drain. I've been taking a lot of abuse from people at work (women at work really), that my wife is going to be really upset if she doesn't get one. I keep telling them that what she really needs is a new gas tank for her car, but they don't believe me. What's more, she's had that car for 15 years and I know exactly where it is.

I'm convinced that this is just a big female/diamond merchant/jewelry store conspiracy, and I for one am speaking out against it. I realize that for most women, a

jewelry store looks to them the way a Canadian Tire

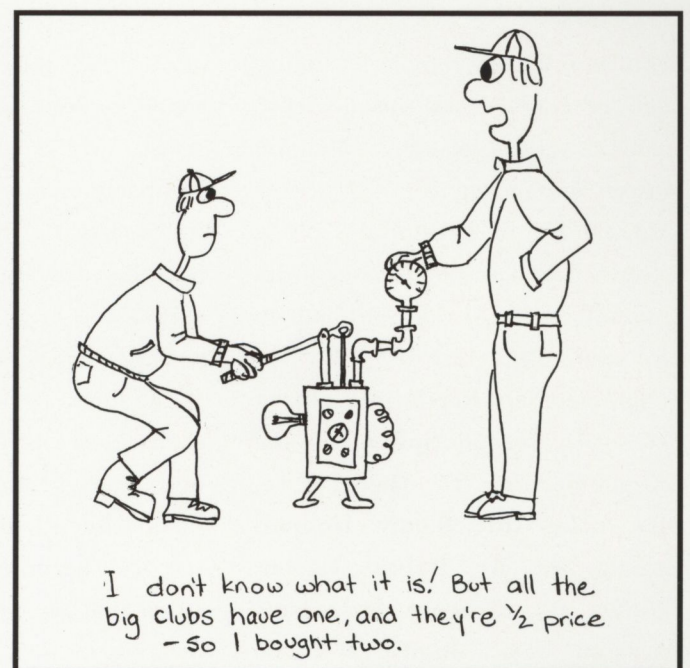
store looks to me, but enough is enough. I don't see any Canadian Tire ads making my wife feel guilty if she doesn't take out a second mortgage and buy me twenty grand worth of tools and fishing gear to show that she still loves me on my tenth anniversary.

The same diamond company that's pushing all this, caused no end of political and social strife in South Africa and Zimbabwe at the turn of the century, and now they're trying to cause marital strife for all of us.

Why is everyone trying to sell me things I don't need? Why do greensmowers have drink holders? Is there a course somewhere that allows a happy hour among the grounds crew? Once a month my wife goes to another Pampered Chef party and comes home with a \$50 spatula to replace the one she lost after the last one. Somewhere in our house (or perhaps backyard as they make a nifty garden tool) there are some six thousand dollars worth of spatulas.

Imagine if golf sales people tried the same technique. "Show your assistant you'd hire him all over again by giving him a new hole changer". "If you truly loved your golf course, you'd give it that extra pound of potassium". "If you aren't sure what you should spend on an aerator, three months revenue is a good guideline."

Don't bother, I bought her the gas tank, guilt doesn't sell.



I don't know what it is, but all the big clubs have one, and they're 1/2 price - so I bought two.

Looking back

10 years ago today

by Barry Endicott

The 1993 Board of Directors of the OGSA were: **David Gourlay** (pres.), Eagle Creek, **Bruce Burger** (vice.), Lakeview, **Rhod Trainer** (past), Hamilton, **Alex Labelle** (sec.), Carleton, **John Taylor** (tres.), Twenty Valley, **Doug Suter** (newsletter editor), Credit Valley, **Simon George**, Oakville, **Rick Serrao**, Glendale, **Ken Nelson**, Sutton Creek, **Ian Bowen**, Oshawa, **David Schemelefske**, Merry Hill and **Mark Schneider**, Owen Sound.

In Memoriam, **Scott Richmond**, of Hutcheson Sand and Mixes, passed away on January 30th as a result of a snowmobiling accident. Also, **John Mandarich**, superintendent at Carlisle Golf Course, passed away from cancer at the age of 31.

On the move: **Dennis Pellrene** moved from Scarboro Golf Club to Capilano Golf Club in Vancouver. Dennis' assistant **Keith Rasmus** replaced him at Scarboro Golf & Country Club. **Scott Dodson** moved to Park Country Club of Buffalo and his assistant, **John Cockerill** took over at Summit. **Warren Vout** moved from Cedar Brae Golf Course to Brampton Golf & Country Club and **Bob Burrows** from Cornwall to Highland Golf Club in Montreal.

New members: **Ron Izynski**, Huron Oaks (B), **Joseph Spotts**, Mobile Communication (E), **Daniel Yake**, Pike Lake (F), **Randy Hooper**, Beachgrove (B), **Robert Calder**, Loyalist (F), **Gregory McFarlane**, Bayview (S), **Brad Harman**,

Greystone (F), **Jeff Stauffer**, Oshawa (F), **Ron Robinson**, Cutten Club (F), **Ted Bishop**, Rolling Meadows (A), **Scott Gardner**, Echo Valley (F), **Kevin Bennett**, Westminster (B), **John Whitcombe**, Rosedale (F), **Michael O'Farrel**, Rosedale (F), **Tom Patterson**, Eagle Ridge Tree Movers (E), **Jay Grant**, Streetsville Glen (B), **Paul Lemieux**, Kingsville (A), **Garry Sutherland**, National (F), **John Cherry**, National (A), **Tim Waghorn**, Peel Village (B), **Rob Gatto**, Kings Forest (B), **Barb Donahue**, Hamilton Heights (F), **Chris Beechey**, Galt (F), **James Flett**, Muskoka Lakes (B), **Colin White**, Donalda Club (F).

The OGSA office was moved to the Guelph Turfgrass Institute at the University of Guelph. The RCGA, the USGA and the New York Audubon Society formed a co-operative program called the Co-operative Sanctuary Program for golf courses.

New products: Hutcheson Sand and Mixes introduced a product called netlon that contains plastic mesh, which claims to reduce compaction and bare areas on heavy traffic areas. The Toro Hydroject, introduced by Turf Care a few years earlier, was approved for using with wetting agents.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held at the University of Guelph on January 4th to 6th with over 1,500 people attending, **Dr. James Beard** was the keynote speaker and **Dr. Chris Hall** gave us an update on the progress of the GTI building. The

OGSA had their annual meeting at the show and **Bob Heron** and **Dan Uzelac** were honored as 25-year members. **Paul Dermott** and his Executive Committee were congratulated on putting together an excellent show and for raising over \$50,000 for the GTI. Approved at the meeting was the creation of a new classification for students (S).

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute Building was officially opened on August 26, 1993. **Dr. Clayton Switzer** was the master of ceremonies and the building was named the G. M. Frost Research and Information Centre, after **Mac and Beth Frost**, because of their major financial donation to the building fund. Thom Charters was the president of the Ontario Turf Research Foundation.

The President/Green Chairman/Superintendent/Director event was held at the Burlington Golf and Country Club on July 13th, hosted by **Pelino Scenna**. The winning team was also Paul's team from Burlington. The Pro Superintendent Tournament was held on September 7th at Blue Springs Golf Club, hosted by **Ted Ellis**. Forty teams competed and the winning team was from Weston, **Thom Charters** and **Herb Holzcheiter** (pro). Second was **Warren Vout's** Cedarbrae team and third was **Robbie Robinson's** Hidden Lake team.

Continued on page 31

The Superintendent's Wife – Anonymous

Reprint from Green is Beautiful 1993

Golf Season. Those dreaded words. Let me tell you what golf season means to me. When your children say "When's Dad going to be home?" and you say, "Maybe next Tuesday", when your husband walks around with a perpetual scowl on his face and you ask what's wrong and he roars "nothing!", when you forget what colour hair he has, when you wake up one morning and for some reason he is still home and you leap out of bed screeching "What are you *doing* here?"

This is a very difficult time of year for the men and women who are golf course superintendents. This is the time of year when you hear the question, "What does he do in the winter?" a thousand times and you find yourself wishing for winter so that the purple circles under his eyes will go away and he will stop working twelve hours a day, six days a week (he works a half day on Sunday). When I decided to spend my life with a golf course superintendent I thought, easy – you grow the grass and then you cut it. Hah. Golf course superintendents are a different breed, they are a little bit like goalies in the NHL, and you find yourself describing them as "normal" – for a golf course superintendent. Superintendents deal with many people every day who

know how to do the job better than they do. They deal with these people without losing their tempers (until later). Superintendents must be public relations experts, accountants, teachers, salesmen and labourers. They must be computer experts, ditch diggers, supervisors and trainers. They must know a pesticide from a fungicide from a herbicide and answer all the questions flung at them from a hysterical public, who are sure that the above mean the end of the world. They must know how to drive, dismantle and put together machinery with names like: Cushman/Smithco sprayer with hose reel and hydro pump, Meter-Matic Topdresser and KTM Brouwer 5-gang, 8 blade fairway unit with 4 wheel Kubota hydro-static drive?

The superintendent's wife on the other hand is the person who holds all this together. We are the people who remind the golf course superintendent to come home. There are times during the summer when for a whole week I think the only thing I say to my superintendent is, "Have you eaten?" During the golf season the superintendent's wife, who probably has her own career to look after, suddenly finds herself with twice as much to do to keep the household running smoothly. For some reason,

this fact is not as annoying during golf season as it is at other times of the year. The superintendent's wife finds herself wanting to let the air out of the tires of the car that belongs to the Green Chairman at the golf club and she also finds herself wanting to slap anyone who says the golf course is not in wonderful condition. The superintendent's wife knows how hard he works (even if she does complain about it), she knows how tired he is and she knows when to leave him alone and when to remind him it is her birthday. The superintendent's wife knows that on the one Saturday during the season her superintendent decides to sleep in, that she will threaten with death anyone who awakens him. I'm not saying that the superintendent's wife is different from other wives, only that during the months of May, June, July, August and September she becomes temporarily insane at the thought of anyone second guessing, criticizing or censoring her superintendent.

Hey! I've got the answer to the question of all questions! The next time someone asks you what your superintendent does during the winter, you can say, ... "He makes up for golf season."



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that's why it's called the present!"*

*Warmest Wishes to you and Your Family for a Joyous, Festive and Safe Holiday Season
May the Spirit of This Season Remain in Your Hearts All Year Long!*



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