

July 2003

INSIDE:
2004 OGSA
CONFERENCE
INFORMATION

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Donalda's Barn - A Historic Treasure

**Pond construction at Glendale
Being an Assistant Super
Dollar Spot**

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Construction of the Pond Hole
at Glendale

Photo by Mark Davy

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

President's message

The golf season is well underway and the OGSA has a busy schedule for the summer.

On June 3rd, the OGSA directors were fortunate to participate in "The Fraz"; a media golf day held in memory of Rick Frazer, at the Scarboro Golf and Country Club, hosted by Glenn Goodwin, a sports writer for The Star. The OGSA has been fortunate to be supported through their generosity with past donations to turf research, and in being a strong proponent of our profession. It is our intent to be a partner of this day to help show support for the Toronto media, which helps to make Toronto the number one golf market in the world.

On June 23, 2003, the Springfield Golf and Country Club and course Superintendent, Ray Dlugokecki, will

be host to the OGSA Spring Field Day. Dr. Julie Dionne and Guelph Turfgrass Institute

Director, Rob Witherspoon will be on hand to give us an update on the research at the GTI.

Our most popular event of the season will take place on July 21st at the Credit Valley Golf and Country Club, where club Superintendent Jeff Stauffer, will host the Presidents' Day Event.

For full details of OGSA's upcoming golf tournaments and events go to our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca. I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.



by Mark Piccolo
Galt Country Club



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Green is Beautiful 2003

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Editor's message

by John Bladon

The season progresses...

In timely fashion and as the dollar spot season approaches, Brenda Nailor has authored a submission encompassing some of her studies on the disease. We hope to continue this trend and include an article from a technical perspective in each of the season's upcoming issues.

Resources used by all superintendents through the course of annual maintenance seem to be current hot topics of discussion. The pesticide debates being undertaken all across the province have been heated. Water, arguably the next resource up for public debate, will continue to grow in terms of it's use, both commercially and through human consumption. Where will golf fall as far as priorities are concerned? In Guelph, we face another year of potential bans and restrictions with regards to watering. Looking towards the balance of the season and the coming issues of the magazine, we will be compiling an issue focusing on water. As a start Mark Davey has authored an article on reservoir renovations at Glendale Golf & Country Club. Should you have a water-based article you would care to author or submit, feel free to contact Dorothy at the office or email me at truenorthgroup@rogers.com. Finally, we'd also welcome any of your comments, positive or negative, regarding *Green is Beautiful*.



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

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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



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

Kristopher Brown	Class F
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Kettle Creek Golf Club	
Philip Legault	Class C
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Health & safety

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

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

Whoa!! Last month SARS and now West Nile Virus! What next?

We are having a very interesting summer. Last summer the WNV was not much of an issue and now look what is happening. All sorts of folks are finding dead birds. So many that the health departments are being real picky about which ones they pick up.

What do we know about this issue?

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a bird-born infection spread by mosquitoes that was first isolated in Africa in 1937. The virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected by biting an infected bird.

Can you do anything about this out on the golf course?

Yes, there are some things that you can do to help stem the spread of the virus or reduce the possibility of having your workers infected. The first thing you may be able to do is ensure that your workers are familiar with the potential disease. This may mean getting brochures and information from your local health unit or the federal government. This may also mean ensuring that standing water is treated with a larvicide. Get your staff and members or clients to be vigilant when they are out on the course. If they see dead birds they should report them. Be careful. Do not pick up these birds unless you have the proper protective gloves. The best information we have is that the mouthparts of the bird are the most probable

area where you might come in contact with the WNV.

If possible, you should remove sources of standing water on the property and you should ensure that your workers are using personal protection measures.

If your staff is using an insect spray it is imperative that it contain DEET. Some sprays are very low in DEET and others have a much higher content. Ensure that the sprays are used properly and adequately to eliminate insect bites as much as possible. Remember that research indicates that about one out of five people who are bitten by a mosquito infected with WNV will develop symptoms.

What are the symptoms of WNV?

In humans, most infections of the virus result in no symptoms. Symptoms such as fever, extreme tiredness, frontal headache, muscle aches, and skin rash are most common. More serious symptoms can include neck stiffness, muscle weakness, and confusion. Rarely, the disease can be fatal.

I have gathered this information from various locations to put this article together. The Region of Peel and Health Canada and the CBC are my main sources. If you need to get information in greater detail I encourage you to consult with your local health department.

Take Care and Have a safe Summer!

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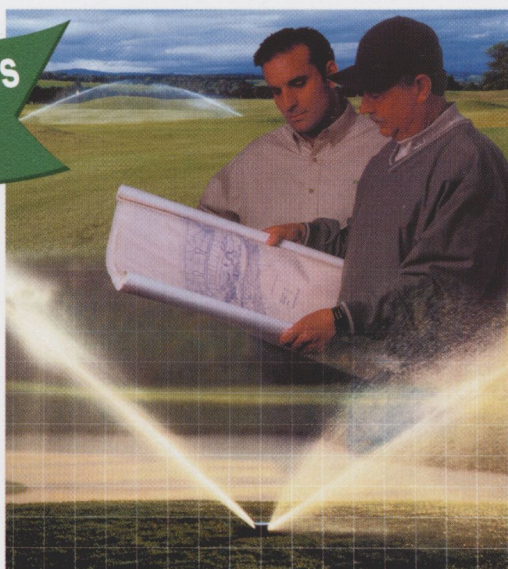
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by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

Here's to your health...

There has certainly been a lot of press regarding everyone's health lately. SARS, Norwalk and West Nile are all getting their due attention. These "Diseases of the week" are having a significant impact on the golf industry in some form or another. First there was the unfortunate impact of the Norwalk Virus. The Sports Illustrated article prompted a NGCOA endorsed ban of all water coolers on golf courses throughout North America. Second, there was the vast media hoard surrounding the SARS outbreak. Headlines everywhere were detailing every new case and quarantine of the outbreak in a CNN-like fashion, which dealt a crushing blow to the tourism industry in the GTA, golf courses included. Now there are mosquitoes biting, which now puts the West Nile Virus at the forefront of the media spotlight. We, as golf course managers, are not immune to the pressures the media puts on the public concerning

our health, and must be prepared to answer questions about these topics.

I was recently asked by the membership as to what the club is doing to prevent the spread of the West Nile Virus. My reply was, "We are doing the same thing as we did last year." Confused on what the Greens Department was actually doing, I was asked to put a policy in writing and then post it in the clubhouse. The policy basically states that we have assessed all the high-risk areas and are dealing with them on a case-by-case basis. In addition, educating the members about the prevention as well as the signs and symptoms seemed to put their minds at ease. Last, but not least, was the statement that "we are taking every possible precaution to ensure the safety of the Membership and staff at Markland Wood." It wasn't long after that a member of the local media contacted me. He was doing a piece on what the golf courses in the GTA were doing to prevent the spread of the West Nile virus. I'm glad I did my homework.

Having all the facts at two convenient sites made the task easier than I thought. Health Canada's URL is <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/> where they have "spotlights" on certain topics such

as SARS and West Nile Virus. Information on the government's plans to control West Nile and surveillance on mosquitoes, horses and humans is available. Some of the explanations are actually links to other parts of the site, but give the answers just the same. Also, a map of the Provinces (I chose Ontario) that details which regions have reported dead birds and which of the dead birds actually had the virus. This gives the facts in a straight, easy-to-read format and is updated quite frequently.

The second site is <http://www.healthyontario.com/>. This is the Ontario Provincial government website where there are up-to-date press releases on the "Disease of the week." Facts and myths on how they spread (or more important, how they do not spread) about each of them, Norwalk, West Nile and SARS, are available and are answered in short articles. Steps the public can take to personally protect themselves is made clear. Healthy Ontario also has useful factsheets on other general ailments such as stress, which I'm sure everyone experiences from time to time.



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Mechanic's corner

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

Plans are being finalized for our annual golf tournament. The exact location, date and times will be posted on our web-site as well as the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association site, www.golfsupers.on.ca. Sponsorship will be available this year for mechanics who would like to attend but are unable due to personal finances. If this is your situation, email or telephone me with the information. Have you thought of putting a team together with your superintendent or assistant? No matter how your team scores, everyone leaves a winner. The tournament is open to all readers, and is one that you will want to attend yearly.

A meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2003 in Calgary, Alberta, for industry related personnel across the country to discuss the Canadian standards for mechanics. Warren Wybega, from Donalda Club will be speaking to the group

of attendees. The one day event is being sponsored by Fairview College in Alberta, in an effort to establish educational requirements. Another meeting is being held in Ontario, on June 10, 2003, which will include employers, industry representatives and mechanics, together with the Ontario Ministry to set-up the apprenticeship program. This is a very active, interesting, and exciting year for our association.

Note to Superintendents: Is your mechanic a member? If not, sign him up so he can benefit when the association has its goals in place for qualified professionals. If you are requiring a mechanic, make sure you advertise through the Mechanic's Association by contacting me at l.a.murray@sympatico.ca or phone Eddie at (905) 889-7620, ext 520.

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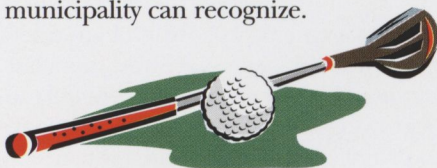
Accreditation avenue

by Jeff Stauffer
Director of Government Relations

As the IPM Accreditation program continues to be developed, there have been questions, some specific and some general, forwarded to myself. Below you will find some common questions and the answers. You may also find some information on the 'Turf Talk' page of our website where some questions have been posted. This process has taken quite some time to pull together as we wage our fight against the municipalities undertaking the debate around pesticide use. IPM Accreditation is a solution to the debate for responsible users of pesticides and is starting to gain recognition and awareness in many other parts of the country for the landscape sector. The golf sector has also expressed an interest in the program elsewhere and are awaiting its formal release. Our goal is to have the program ready for release in July, for Ontario. The protocols for the desk review are being finalized, the exam is ready and the on-site protocols will be established once we sign on with the auditors selected for the golf sector. As in the past, you will continue to find updates in *Green is Beautiful*, OGSA flyers and e-mails. If you have a specific question not answered below, please post it on our Forum, 'Turf Talk' for others to see and it will be answered as quick as possible.

Q Why should we enroll in the IPM Accreditation Program?

A Since the decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in Hudson, Que., municipalities have come under ever-increasing fire to further regulate the use of pesticides. While not on the first line of attack, golf clubs are now regularly included in municipal legislation restricting pesticide use. IPM Accreditation provides a common ground solution involving responsible use in a formalized structure that any municipality can recognize.



Q Why is it not mandatory to become accredited from the province?

A The province was going to, and may still, mandate that golf courses be audited against the IPM protocol that was established last year. Provincially mandated accreditation is a position the RCGA, GAO, NGCOA, and OGSA all support.

Q Seems like a lot of work, why bother?

A Any industry can benefit from a higher level of professionalism. IPM Accreditation is a means to show government and the general public that the golf industry not only 'talks the talk', but 'walks the walk'.

Q If we already have good record keeping, why must we change to this format?

A In any program, there has to be a set level of standardization that all must adhere to. Additionally, auditing costs would skyrocket while auditors would take substantially more time to "decipher" varying types of recording methods.

Q Is there a computerized version of the binder?

A Yes there is. The CD developed by Brenda Nailor of Engage Agro titled "Spray Records" was aimed to complement the IPM Accreditation program. It contains detailed information around the use of pesticides and can generate many reports for your use at your golf course and also for the Accreditation program. The CD can be used instead of the binder distributed by the OGSA earlier this year. The binder offers the base for documentation and monitoring records, the CD offers the individual an increased level of documentation utilizing a computer. One is not better than the other, they complement themselves and either can be used to achieve the desired results of the Accreditation program.

Q We practice IPM already and have for years. Why is there a need to have a third party auditor?

A Using a third party auditor provides a level of credibility within the industry that would never be obtained otherwise. Municipalities must have an assurance that equal, unbiased verification of the IPM protocols mandated with the program is going to take place. Third party auditors provide the best mechanism for that.

Q If I enroll, what is the level of confidentiality with the information I submit?

A Only the Auditor and Ridgeway College (the Administrator) will see the records. Should there be a dispute, a committee of IPM Council Board members will oversee a complaint process. Non-golf members only will sit on such a committee. The only information made public will be that of a successfully Accredited golf operation.

Q Are there any municipal bylaws in place now requiring IPM Accreditation for golf?

A Yes, Caledon requires accreditation, and the City of Toronto has said that Accreditation will be enshrined once the program is fully engaged.

Q Am I going to need additional staff?

A IPM Accreditation should not require additional staff if your operation has some kind of monitoring program in place now. The minimum monitoring for the program is once a week. The more you document your monitoring, the easier it is to demonstrate on paper your decision making process while practicing IPM and the use of pesticide products. Desk reviews will be concise and to the point with a minimum of paperwork involved. On-site reviews will be particularly beneficial to ensure that minimum standards across the board are being met.

Being an Assistant Superintendent

by Darryl James, Assistant Superintendent, Dalewood Golf and Curling Club

Over the past two years, I have had the great pleasure of being an assistant superintendent in Ontario. Recently, I was given an amazing opportunity from the OGSA to write about my short stint as an assistant, as well as, my recent experience in Scotland while I was the 2001 Toro/Canadian Golf Superintendent's Association Future Superintendent Award Winner.

In writing about the role of the assistant superintendent, we must assume that we are all the same, as we are all striving to become superintendents, varying only by individual experience. We must assume that every golf course is different, as each course presents its own unique challenges and techniques. Most importantly, we must understand that our role as an assistant superintendent is a life style, not just a job.

"The man who regards golf as a matter of 'card and pencil' is not a golfer at all, for he has lost his soul in arithmetic, whereas the true golfer puts his soul into the game for the love of it." C.B Macdonald, 1928

Work experience is an assistant superintendent's most valuable asset in preparing for superintendent status, but experience comes in many shapes and sizes. Whether it is working a number of years at one course, being involved during a grow-in or construction, winning awards or making endeavours at a higher versus lower profile club, valuable experience is gained at multiple levels. So, is there an ideal way for every golf course assistant superintendent to gain valuable experience on the job? I think it depends on the person. Since each person has their own successes and failures to gain from, I think that a person creates their own ideal route. I believe that I am fortunate to have been involved in two PGA tournaments, won an incredible award, spent five years as a labourer and two years as an assistant superintendent. I believe that I have had an incredible journey thus far, but there was no shortage of ups and downs along the way. With that, valuable work experience is exactly what a person must gain from a situation. Even if that situation is negative, there is always something to be gained. I'll always remember being told that mistakes are only part of human nature it is what a person learns from those mistakes, that makes them better than the rest. Therefore, every person has a path to success. From my experience, researching your opportunities thoroughly and making good contacts with others for advice are what will help an assistant create their route. Being prepared will help to avoid the negatives and help a person take the best from every situation.

Following that, to appreciate and understand when given amazing opportunities, one must have the base for success, knowledge! Knowledge is gained through academics, work experience and through discussion at a local pub with a superintendent or fellow assistant. The way I see it, we are trying to create a tree of knowledge. Academics is the base or trunk of a tree, while work experience allows us to grow the many large branches. Finally, networking and communication

form the little intricate details or stems of that tree. The tree inevitably becomes larger with every new endeavour.

In conclusion, I believe that experience and knowledge are the prerequisites to success and only varies between good assistant superintendents. Clearly, exchanging information and experiences openly together, rather than competing, is something we can do to help improve as assistants. In time, when we are superintendents, this sharing of knowledge will help us take the industry to the next level.

"Look upon golf in the spirit of adventure and not as a succession of threes and fours." Alister Mackenzie, 1920

Maintaining a golf course, whether it is next door or across the Atlantic, is a unique challenge. In our profession, we are forced to adapt too many of these challenges on a daily basis. Can you imagine the amount of situations that superintendents and their assistants have faced over the many years and the many more our profession will face in the future? The point is that every course is different and presents endless challenges, and I don't mean just agronomically! Courses vary beginning with whether they are public, private or somewhere in between. Continually curious Board of Directors, General Managers and Green Committees have many different objectives and every course has high standards to meet, keeping in mind that budgets, staff, and resources may differ considerably from club to club. Without a doubt, something done by one course might be something every course should incorporate, but factors, such as those stated above, play a huge role in the decision making process. Hence, as an assistant, I've learned to consider all facets of turf management, to keep an open mind to the many possibilities, but especially, to grasp what many call the "art of listening." Not every solution or idea will work for everyone, but a good listener will explore all the possibilities then decipher for themselves information of importance.

There are things in this profession you can't put dollars and cents on, such as the love of being in the midst of nature, the ability to counter a lot of adversities and the enjoyment of seeing your work make things happen.

"If I weren't playing golf or flying airplanes, the one thing I would thoroughly enjoy is being a golf course superintendent." Arnold Palmer, 1968

There have been many positive influences in my career thus far. These influences have played a large role in creating an overwhelming passion for what I do. Attending the University of Guelph and winning the 2001 Toro/Canadian Golf Superintendents' Association Future Superintendent Award are two examples that stand out.

Initially, my passion grew as a greenkeeper when I attended the University of Guelph. I was able to be involved in a class in which about 10 of us united like no other. We were able to feed off of each other's growing interest on a daily basis, and then use that passion to propel ourselves into the industry. A

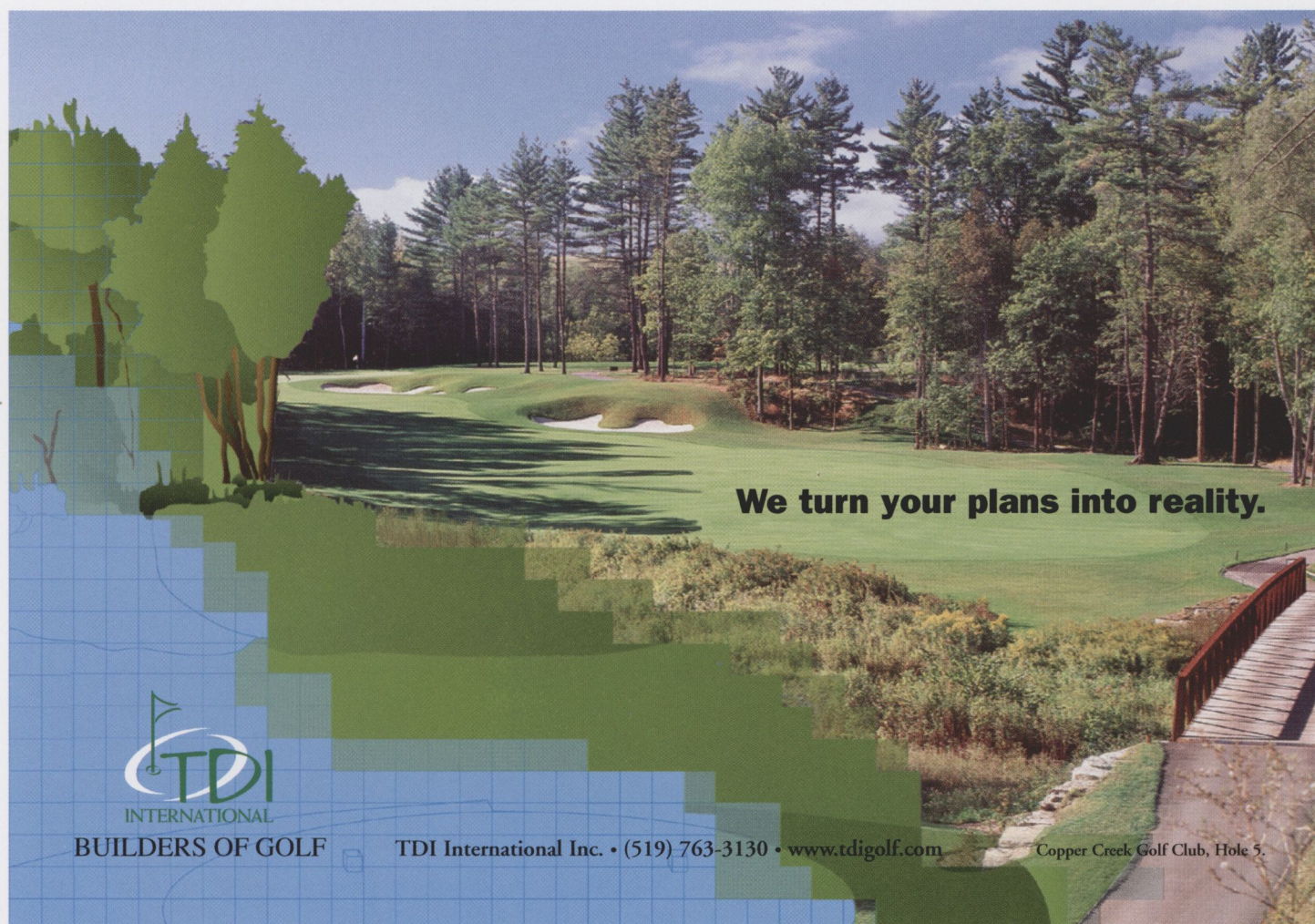
huge part of a person's success is to be surrounded by great people early in their career.

When I was given the opportunity to visit Scotland, I had no idea what was in store for me or how it would greatly influence my passion for greenkeeping. Golf is a game with a rich history and not just the game itself, but in greenkeeping and design as well! Having an opportunity to be in Scotland for 10 weeks, gave me a taste of what Scottish golf offers (the game, greenkeeping and design), and a taste is exactly what I got. My whirlwind tour of Scottish golf courses just broke the ice to the information available. Just as it takes many years to become great in our profession, it takes more than two short months to fully grasp the links. Every links course will offer multiple experiences at every level. Two things that I feel are very important to remember about links golf courses, but are not limited to are:

"These were courses over which the game itself was invented, and they have endured despite tremendous changes in almost all other aspects of the game." Tom Doak, Anatomy of a Golf Course

Links golf courses adhere to tradition, and it gave me an urge to learn more about the game's history as I walked on the same grounds where many greats have played. It gave me a new passion to look at the characteristics of the links that make them so ideal for the game. Also, I wanted to try and compare those areas that we have utilized in North America! For example, an intriguing quote can be found in a book entitled "Masters of the Links", written by Geoff Shackelford. He stated, "Virtually all of the most enduring golf course design traits have been derived from the Old Course, and today it stands as more than a historic landmark to the game of golf. It is still one of the world's finest tests of skill."

Whether it is playing the game, greenkeeping or paying attention to details in design, every golf course has something that resembles links golf, especially the Old Courses. So, my advice is to instead of picking up one of those scientific turf books, pick up a book that describes about the history of golf, be it design or greenkeeping. I think you'd be surprised what you'll learn. In view of that, the links and forever friendships gave me an overwhelming realization of how much I love what I do and taught me that maintaining a golf course is not just a job, it is an amazing lifestyle.



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Copper Creek Golf Club, Hole 5.

Pro/Super Challenge

Photos and Article by Randy Booker

The annual Pro/Super Challenge was held at Grey Silo Golf Course, in Waterloo. After a long, cold winter and

a cool, damp spring it was a pleasure to get together with our club professionals and enjoy a wonderful day of golf and laughs. Mother Nature took a day off and allowed us to bask in the sunshine at Grey Silo although the wind blew strong and provided many difficult holes that were a test to our early spring games. Many thanks go to the Golf Course Superintendent, Tom Margetts, and his staff for the fine condition of the two year old layout. The greens provided for a firm and fast surface.



Congratulations to the following winners of the day !

	<u>Club</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Professional</u>
First Place	<i>Essex Golf & Country Club</i>	Chris Andrejicka	Alex McIntyre
Second Place	<i>Diamond Back Golf Club</i>	Blair Rennie	Joe Pacione
Third Place	<i>Fox Glen Golf Club</i>	Kelly Barnet	Kevin Corriveau
Fourth Place	<i>Bigwin Island Golf Club</i>	Scott Heron	Jonathan Gee
Fifth Place	<i>Puslinch Lakes Golf Club</i>	Jim Moore	Garrett BurrIDGE
Longest Drive	<i>Craigowan (Oxford Golf & C.C.)</i>	Jerry Richard	Alex McIntyre
Closest to the hole	<i>Caledon Country Club</i>	Leo Daigle	Rob Roxborough
Longest Drive	<i>Essex Golf Club</i>		
Closest to the hole	<i>Magna Golf Club</i>		



L-R First Place Winners from Essex Golf & CC Alex McIntyre, Professional and Chris Andrejicka, Superintendent

both the Superintendents and Professionals to work on their relationships and chat with others about our spring problems and accomplishments.

Thanks also go out to Dorothy Hills, Jeff Alexander and Paul Scenna for

their hard work in the planning and organizing of such a fine event.

There was also a \$20 skins competition that was entered by every team for a total of \$1100. There were two skins awarded in the amount of \$550.00 each to; Chris Andrejicka and Alex McIntyre, from Essex Golf and Country Club and to Bill Fach and Ian Crebben, from York Downs Golf Club.

After the round we all enjoyed a beautiful buffet lunch prior to the prize presentations. Thanks also go to the Director of Golf Operations, Dave Charlton; Head Professional, Mike Roberts; Program Delivery Associate, Shannon Margetts; and the Food and Beverage Manager, Mike Aultman.

Unfortunately, the scoring took a little longer than planned and our apologies go out to all the participants. Nevertheless, the day was a chance for



L-R Grey Silo Professional Host, David Charlton, OGSA Director, Randy Booker, Grey Silo Host Superintendent, Tom Margetts

Golf course highlight

Grey Silo Golf Course

2001 University Avenue

Waterloo ON N2J 4A8

Website: www.city.waterloo.on.ca

Golf Course Superintendent:

Tom Margetts

Email: tjmturf@golden.net



COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Waterloo County

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

Public

Number of rounds?

32,000 annually

Typical opening and closing date?

April 15 to November 15

Name of Superintendent?

Tom Margetts

How many years have you been a superintendent?

4 years

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

6 years

How many year round staff?

3

How many seasonal staff?

22

How many mechanics and assistants?

1 mechanic and

1 assistant (Mike Schwartzentruber)

How many gardening staff?

1

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back tees and forward tees?

6532 yards from back tees and

5197 yards from forward tees

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

260 yards

Range tee is 23,000 sq. ft.

How many bunkers?

52

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

5 ponds

Who was the original architect?

Steve Young

What was the year of original construction?

2001

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

3,000 sq. ft.

What type of irrigation system?

Rain Bird Cirrus – 2 years old

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

3.5 acres of greens

4.5 acres of tees

40 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

Greens are A4 Bentgrass

Tees are Pennncross Bentgrass

Fairways are Penneagle Bentgrass

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?

19 USGA greens

What is the predominant soil type?

Sandy loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

8 John Deere greens walkers

2 John Deere tees walkers

3 John Deere 2500 triplex mowers

(tees & greens heads)

2 Jacobsen 3400 fairway mowers (verticut heads)

2 John Deere 2653A trim mowers

2 Ransome AR250 rough mowers

2 John Deere 4500 tractors (loader/backhoe)

Tycrop MH-400

Turfco SP1530 topdresser

2 John Deere Prognators

(topdresser attachment)

7 John Deere E-Gators

2 John Deere Gators

John Deere 1200 bunker rake

Smithco Superstar bunker rake

John Deere Aercore 2000 aerator

Bannerman Multijet slicer

Aerway slicer

John Deere Prognator Sprayer (200 gal.)

Tow type field sprayer (300 gal.)

6 Greensmower trailers

Salsco greens roller

Ryan sod cutter

Agrimetal tractor blower

Brush type rotary attachment

Vicon fertilizer spreader

Chevrolet Silverado pickup

5 Bannerman Hover mowers

2 J.D. rotary push mowers

2 Billy Goat push blowers

Backpack blower

Redmax reciprocator

2 J.D. line trimmers

Grademaker

Dump trailer

Scotts drop spreader

2 Scotts rotary spreaders

3 point hitch snowplow

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

2002/2003: Installation of new cart path on hole #1, shortened the fairway and replaced with bluegrass sod.

2002/2003: Installed low barrier fencing in high traffic areas around greens and tee sites.
2002: Placed armour stone around flower beds at the clubhouse.
2002: Signage for environmental areas.

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Lots and lots of golf course tweaking!

2003: new maintenance facility

Bunker sand upgrades in the future

Audubon Certification

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Property is long and narrow, lots of travel time
Trying to be as efficient as possible with the maintenance facility not being close to the golf course

Balancing a public trail in close proximity throughout the course

High E.T. loss from an open windy site

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any Success stories?

Consistently providing a quality product for our customers

Hosting area Amateur Qualifying tournament and 2003 Pro/Super Challenge

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PRACTICES

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?

Implementing a "no hollow tine" aeration plan to stay on top of compaction and thatch along with verticutting and topdressing.



Spring Field Day

By John Bladon

Photos by John Bladon & Neil Tandan

The OGSA marks the start of summer, each season, with the annual Spring Field Day. Our hosts this year were OGSA member Ray Duke and Springfield Golf & Country Club. It was somehow ironic that in spending most of the year thus far waiting for more seasonal temperatures to arrive, our day at Springfield was to produce temperatures in excess of 33 degrees.

The field, upon arrival, was greeted by the OGSA Director of Golf and Meetings, Jeff Alexander and the association's manager, Dorothy Hills. Following a quick lunch, a chipping contest, whose proceeds were donated to turfgrass research, and some fellowship amongst entrants, Golf Professional Murray McClaren signaled the start of our day with a resounding blast from the first tee. The competition for the coveted Clayton Switzer trophy was underway!

As always, Ray and his crew had the golf course well prepared and in excellent condition for the event. It was clear many low rounds were to be fired on this day.

Although everyone left a winner, the prizes went to:

Superintendents:

1st low Gross	Bruce Burger	75
2nd low Gross	Dave Svab	76
3rd low Gross	Kevin (Buns) Brohman	77
1st low Net	Randy Dick	65
2nd low Net	Ray Duke	67
3rd low Net	Ted Ellis	67



Jeff Alexander at the 1st tee



Clayton Switzer winner of Closest to the Hole on #4

Assistants, Associates and Guests:

1st low Gross	Jason Ireton	70
2nd low Gross	Trevor Hunter	71
3rd low Gross	Kevin Holmes	72
1st low Net	Clifford Deering	66
2nd low Net	Paul Gurr	66
3rd low Net	Cara Sheppard	66

Once again, the generosity of our sponsors enabled the following participants to take home a prize as well. Many thanks go to Vanden Bussche Irrigation, Springfield Golf & Country Club, the OGSA and Maple Farm Supply for their donations. John Deere provided a Gator to the winner of the chipping contest.

Longest Drive - Jason Ireton
 Straightest Drive - Mark Webb
 Closest to the Hole #4 - Clayton Switzer
 Closest to the Hole #12 - Bruce Vollett
 Highest Score - Doug Johnson
 Chipping Contest - Chad Ziegler

Over an excellent meal we gathered to trade stories of our day in the cool confines of Springfield's clubhouse. The relief from the heat was welcomed by all. Although this year's event did not include the pilgrimage to the GTI, research and education were topical during the evening ceremonies. Following a welcome from OGSA President Mark Piccolo, both Julie Dionne and Rob Witherspoon



L-R Jeff Alexander and Jason Ireton from Plant Products



L-R Jeff Alexander, OGSA Director of Golf and Ray Dlugokecki, Host Superintendent



L-R Brenda Nailor - Engage Agro, Mark Prieur - Markland Wood CC, Tim Steen Victoria Park GC West



were on hand to provide us with an update on all the hard work and research being done at the University of Guelph and the GTI. Julie invited golf course superintendents and their courses to participate in her research projects. If you are interested, contact Julie directly at jdionne@uoguelph.ca. Rob reminded us all that the GTI will be hosting a research open house in honour of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Frost Centre, on August 19th and hoped that the timing would allow for increased participation. In addition, the GTI will be hosting an open house to view the Annual Trial Gardens, on July 22nd. Clayton Switzer, reminded us to mark our calendars for the OTRF Fundraising Tournament to be held at Copper Creek Golf Club, in Kleinburg, on August

12th. Lastly, OGSA Vice President Rob Ackermann provided us with an update on the planning being undertaken as the association prepares to host its first annual conference in Toronto this coming January. Watch your mail for updated information and registration forms, later this summer.

Finally, aside from Ray, the OGSA would like to thank all at Springfield for their hospitality and hard work, especially Food and Beverage Manager, Connie Ferguson and her team; Head Pro, Murray McClaren and his team; and General Manager, Frank Lazzotti.

The day was deemed a success by all who participated. We hope to see you all next year!





Donalda's Barns – A Historical Treasure

by Paul Scenna, Golf Course - Grounds Manager

The process of improving your maintenance facility is not an easy one. As far as priority's go, spending money on where the staff eat and the tractors are stored ranks just behind a new furnace for the house. The greens and grounds department at Donalda Club works out of "the barns", stately old structures which had not seen a paint brush in sixty years. After ten years of improving the course, the overwhelming priority soon became the safety of our staff, the security of our equipment and the functional use for the department. The board fully recognizing the requirements of the department began a new initiative and formed a building committee to address the needs of clubhouse facilities and the barns. Together as one large capital project everyone would win, new locker room equals new roof over equipment. The Club hired Hottes Dehays of Arlington Design in Ohio, who provided excellent support on the needs of today's golf course operations and insight on what concepts are used in a prototypical operations centre. We considered both new construction and renovation to achieve function and at first, new was the only concept that could meet budget. Their was a small group of members who were sensitive to the original structures and the history they provided, but most, as I'm sure you can understand, were more sensitive to dollars. We retained engineers/ project managers, and cost consultants to perform feasibility studies, cost projections, soil tests and request for proposal documentation. The project went to tender in a design/build format, to hire a team of contractors and local architects. The project was awarded to Pilot Construction, Norman Roth and Thomas Gluck Architect.

Their first move was application for demolition permit. As expected it got a reaction and red flags were drawn. The Heritage Preservation Services department, Culture Division soon advised the Cattle Barn was listed on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties and is recognized by Toronto City Council for its architectural and historical significance in the former city of North York. The team re-grouped and put together a plan that would involve instituting the original functional concepts into the existing structures and reapplying to membership for more money, it turned into a very rewarding experience.

The historians' dedicated passion for this "Composite Tudor/Shingle/Arts and Crafts" had been a blessing in disguise. Understanding that the structure cost more than previously contemplated, the end result is a magnificent renovation which all members will be proud of. Other clubs have built their history on an architect who routed their golf course in the early 1900's; Donalda, built in 1960, does not

have that fame. Its modern day golf course designed by one of Canada's leading contemporary architects, winds through the river valley where David Dunlap's property practiced innovative farming techniques nearly a century ago. These barns are a big part of Donalda's history and are now preserved for all to view while playing the course. The cattle barn built in 1914, will continue to be the only 20th century barn in North York, designed by Toronto based architectural firm Wickson and Gregg. Known as Donalda Farms, the complex consisted of some forty buildings and received considerable publicity for its innovative husbandry practices and highly advanced farming techniques. Known for bathing their pigs in olive oil and toilet soap, the Dunlaps won almost every agricultural contest they entered. Farming experts from around the world came to inspect and marvel at the farms livestock and equipment. The farm stayed with the family until 1946, when David Dunlap's wife, Jesse Donalda, died. The land was soon sold to Don





Donaldda Staff 1920



Donaldda Staff today

Mills Developments Ltd., and planned out the blueprint for Toronto's post war suburban neighborhood.

In retrospect, our initial requests were to have a building "safe, secure and functional" and it didn't matter whether the building was new or renovated. After many years and many meetings the end result is extraordinary and meets our original agenda.

Safe- the building no longer has an unsafe floor. In fact, it has no second floor at all, as it was removed. Except for a partial mezzanine all equipment is stored on the ground floor on a new concrete slab that is polished so smooth it measures 39 on the stimpmeter. Structurally, several concrete piers tied to metal I- beams will anchor this building for another 100 years.

Secure- the rain buckets are gone, the million-dollar inventory of equipment is now protected and the raccoon's are shopping for new real estate.

Functional- now dropped from the health and safety committees agenda our staff can enter without the aid of a miner's cap, pick up their tools without jumping feed troughs and drive out without moving all other equipment.

Interesting discoveries and accomplishments during the building process include: finding a swine registry from 1928. Also, the fact that when the concrete was cut to install garage door openings, the idea of this massive foundation being mixed and poured on site in the early 1900's is astounding. Furthermore, the stone aggregate viewed in the profile was likely river stone, hand gathered in this valley. Approximately 15,000 5/8 cedar shingles were installed on the exterior walls.

The Club also retained the services of

an architect who specializes in historical work and who was highly recognized by the city. His experience with structures from this time period and respect held with government officials turned into a valuable part of our team. The historical architects insistence on preserving the original windows can now be appreciated and what windows were missing were built on site by the contracting superintendent from the 100 year old pine 2" x 12" floor joists that were salvaged; they look beautiful.

The simple breakdown of how the new building operates is as follows. A clear open interior with assigned parking positions for each piece of equipment. Seven automated overhead doors for an in and then out drive through concept with a separate chemical room for the storage of pesticides, fertilizers and the space for the sprayers and spreaders to mix and load. The mezzanine is designed for extra storage of equipment and attachments.

The Dairy Building was renovated to provide enough space to fulfill the requirements and needs of staff. This

renovation included, 3 service bays, a separate grinding room, parts room and mechanics office, a squad room large enough to seat all the staff to receive proper instruction and have lunch comfortably and efficiently, locker rooms, a mud room as well as enough administration or office area.

The project also included the development of proper aggregate bins with concrete aprons, equipment wash station, fuel island with above ground tanks and installation of sanitary services, a new city water line with fire hydrant, natural gas supply and the asphalt paving of all related areas.

The one benefit of a process taken as long as this one did, is the ability to review and re-review specifications and drawings, gain input from staff and eliminate changes or surprises during construction. My appreciation goes out to the above mentioned contractor, his site superintendent Tom Archer, Tom Gluck, architect, Assistant Grounds Manager Scott White and Grounds Mechanic Warren Wybenga, as well as members of our committee.



Maintenance Building today

Joe Reid...In Memorium

by Bill Hynd

Joe Reid was busy the week of the 10th of June, 2001. He attended a Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association meeting at Southbrook Golf Club and couldn't get away to attend the funeral of Hugh Kirkpatrick...he was busy at Pineland Green Golf Club. Joe had spent 18 years with owner Don Clark, developing and maintaining the old stone quarry, turned golf course. On Sunday, June 17th, he was found by his daughter Susan, dead with a book in his hands. Joe was 82.

I first met Joe at an Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association meeting in 1963. He had quite a career, as an apprentice airman in The R.A.F. in 1936. He saw service as a pilot navigator

and flew everything from bi-planes in the far reaches of the British Empire to helicopters in the Canadian arctic. Joe was always close to the golf scene however, as greenkeeper / mechanic and director of the founding Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, he also found time to teach the University of Guelph short course and was always willing to give lessons on the golf swing! Joe could be as cantankerous as they come, always had a twinkle in his eye and possessed a rare sense of humour. Don Clark, closed Pineland Green the day of Joe's funeral and said of him with a smile "Joe and I always got along best when we were as far away from each other as possible in our work".

With great class, in August of 2002, the Clarks hosted the unveiling of a memorial garden at Pineland Green in Joe's memory. He was a husband to wife Betty for 57 years, father to Susan and a good friend all around.

Joe's energy and spirit will be missed.



Pineland Green Memorial Garden

A Century of Greenkeeping

Bill Forester, was one of our founders and a longtime greenkeeper at the Weston Golf & Country Club. His daughter, Greta Forrester-Murchie, enjoyed reading our publication, *A Century of Greenkeeping*. Here is what she had to say in a recent letter to Gordon Witteveen, "I was

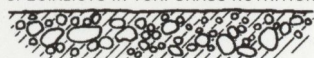
thrilled to read Century of Greenkeeping and to see my Dad's name. He was gruff but a big soft man at heart, like the time he brought home a 'hobo' off the train tracks (train tracks run through Weston Golf Club) on Christmas Day to have supper with the family. I have

so much love for this man."

There are many anecdotes and numerous accounts about our OGSA members in this publication. If you are interested in purchasing this book, please contact the OGSA office for details.

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THE "WILLIAM SANSOM" AWARD

PURPOSE

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association shall present an award of Distinguished Service, in the name of our first President William Sansom, to an individual or individuals, providing such an Individual is properly nominated and subsequently accepted by the Board of Directors of the association.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Forms have been distributed, by mail, to all OGSA members.

DEADLINE DATE FOR NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2003

PLEASE GIVE THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD, YOUR
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION

Pond Construction at Glendale

Article and Photos by Mark Davy, Superintendent
Glendale Golf & Country Club

Prior to my arrival to Glendale Golf and Country Club in 1998 an initiative had been put in motion involving a cooperative effort between the golf course, the Regional Municipality of Hamilton Wentworth, various government agencies as well as a group of local developers who had proposed to build a new sub division atop of the escarpment bordering the golf course. The golf club was approached with a plan to divert storm water from the proposed development atop of Mount Albion via the Montgomery Creek, a tributary to the Red Hill Creek that runs through the golf course. In 1996 a Class Environmental Assessment was completed and it was concluded that it would be worthwhile to consider the option of constructing storm water management ponds located on the golf course to handle the runoff that would be generated as a result of the proposed sub division. The plan, which was dubbed the Glendale Alternative, would involve re-directing the storm water down the escarpment and into a series of storm water management ponds via the Montgomery. The estimated cost to implement this alternative was going to be approx. 1 million dollars and would involve building 2 new golf holes and modifying 4 others. Also included in the project would be the construction of 2 storm water management ponds, one water quantity pond to control erosion and one water quality pond for the purpose of re-mediating the storm water. The plan also called for the implementation of erosion control measures over the course of the entire creek. This would be done through re-grading and re-contouring where necessary, as well using a variety of plantings suited for bank stabilization. The issue of creek erosion occurring as a result of storm water emptying into Montgomery Creek was one that Glendale had been concerned about for many years and had expressed concern to the City in the mid 1970's.



Pond Hole

The other option that was studied through the Class Environmental Assessment involved building the storm water management facility on the escarpment adjacent to the proposed development site. This option became prohibitively expensive due to the proximity of bedrock to site at an estimated cost of approximately 2 million dollars. The board of directors at Glendale agreed that the Glendale Alternative would be a good opportunity towards taking care of the issue of creek erosion while at the same time further enhancing golf course playability and aesthetics.



Construction of the quantity pond

The plan had been agreed upon by all the parties involved and for a period of time the project seemed to be at a stand still. When I first took over as Superintendent in the fall of 1999 one of the first calls I made was to the project coordinator for the municipality, in order to see what the status of the Montgomery Creek project was. I was told that the plan could start within the year and that they thought it would be prudent for all parties to meet to begin final negotiations and prepare a timeline for implementation of each phase of the project. The initial project was scheduled to span over a 3 year period but because of the disruption to the golf course a plan to implement the project over a 2 year period was developed.

The first phase of the project would involve building a new par three spanning over our existing irrigation pond. This new hole would replace an existing par three that would have to be removed during a later phase in the construction. In November of 2000 the "pond hole", as we named it, began construction. This portion of the project would involve building the new par 3, as well as removing existing tees for the tenth hole, a par five, in order to make room for the pond hole, and building the new set further forward turning the tenth hole into par 4. The construction finished in the spring of 2001 and the par three tee, green and approach were seeded and the new 10th tees sodded. Having 18 holes already in play allowed

the pond hole to remain untouched until the fall of 2001 at which point the second phase of construction warranted the closure of the front nine, and the new hole was put into play to allow for nine playable holes on the back.

The second phase of the project began in the fall of 2001 and involved starting construction of the new golf holes, the storm water management ponds, as well as the re alignment and erosion control measures for the creek. The golf course construction timeline was always a concern for the membership and there was always pressure to try and get the new holes completed and sodded by fall of 2001 in order to have them playable as soon as possible. Rainy conditions made it less than ideal for working during the fall but the contractors managed to complete the new #2 hole laying sod on the green the first week in December. The new green and fairway area on the 5th hole were just too wet to work and were subsequently sodded in May of 2002. Much of the work on the creek and some golf course work was carried on through the winter months and by the spring of 2002 the majority of the storm water management portion as well as the majority of the golf course work, was complete. The golf course officially opened up mid May of 2002 and 2 temporary greens were played until the new greens had time to grow in. By the end of June we had opened the second hole and by the end of July the golfers were playing all 18 holes again.



Construction of the quality pond

There were a number of issues that arose during the project. First off we had two different companies in to do the work. One group was responsible for the construction of the ponds and creek work and answered to the engineering firm, and another group was responsible for the golf course work and answered to our architect. These were trying times, as it was often difficult when trying to communicate the architect's and club's issues relating to playability and aesthetics of the course, versus the engineer's functional design of the ponds and creek. A number of compromises had to be made by both sides. During the second phase of construction the club was also

undergoing a bunker renovation program, installing a number of paved cart paths, as well as constructing a new maintenance facility. Having to be available for all the contractors at any given time as well as trying to stage areas for each to work from, while still continuing to maintain the golf course, became a difficult task.



Construction of #2 Hole

Looking back over the past two years it has been a great experience to be involved with such a large scale project involving people from so many different backgrounds of expertise. Many hours were devoted to meetings, looking over conceptual drawings of site plans and discussing a lot of 'what ifs'. Being able to see those ideas and drawings come to life is something that has been very exciting for myself and my staff as well as all of those who have been involved with the development of this project over the years. This project was a success because all the groups involved were able to see that it was a winning situation for everyone. The new ponds have created nesting areas for various species of birds and wildlife and the golf course has improved overall as a result of the project.



New #2 Hole

What Compound Interest and Dollar Spot Have in Common



by Brenda Nailor, PhD
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Guelph, ON.
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brendanailor@engageagro.com

Dollar spot is the most common summer disease on golf courses and a great deal of time and money are required to manage this disease. Most of you are familiar with the biology of dollar spot, how it spreads, time of appearance and the factors that cause an epidemic to occur. This article reports new information on the epidemiology of dollar spot. Theory is merged with observations of epidemics at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and two golf courses in Guelph during 1996-

1997 and 1998, respectively to provide all superintendents with the knowledge they need to manage this devastating disease. This article reports the findings from the study of *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, the fungus that causes dollar spot, in turfgrass.

Compound Interest Relates to Dollar Spot

In 1963, a plant pathologist named Vanderplank made a great revelation; plant disease epidemics progress much like simple and compound interest. Let's review an example of compound interest:

Our superintendent has \$1000 to invest but chooses an account that returns 5 percent compound interest. He will receive interest on his original \$1000 but also will receive interest on the total amount gained each year the money is invested. At the end of year one, he will have \$1050. In year two he earns another 5 percent on the full balance of \$1050. Instead of getting \$50 added to his balance, he gets \$52.50, bringing his total to \$1102.50. After year three he will have \$1157.63. Interest is earned on the interest.

Plant disease epidemics are similar to interest accumulated in bank accounts because disease - just like interest - increases over time. On a golf course, the time intervals are expressed as days with a final "balance" of disease at the end of the season. The "rate" refers to how quickly the disease multiplies over time. The "principle" of the investment for disease is the starting inoculum. In the case of dollar spot, the starting inoculum is the mycelia fragments that over-winter in the crowns of the plants that were infected the previous year. This initial inoculum starts the epidemic in the spring, just like the principle starts the bank account: the more money with which you start the account, the more money there is to earn interest on and to grow during your investment period.

The following formula illustrates the relationship of compound interest and the dollar spot epidemic:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{Future} & & \text{Principle} & & \text{Interest} & & \text{Time} \\ \text{Value} & & & & \text{rate} & & \text{(years)} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{F} & = & \mathbf{P} & (1 + \mathbf{r}) & * & \mathbf{t} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{Disease} & & \text{Initial} & & \text{Disease} & & \text{Time} \\ & & \text{Inoculum} & & \text{progress} & & \text{(days)} \\ & & & & \text{rate} & & \end{array}$$

Through study of the epidemics in Guelph during 1996-1998, we have learned that the compound interest scenario represents the dollar spot progress curve because the disease multiplies exponentially. The reason is that, like compound interest, the mycelia from the first infection cause secondary infections, and those secondary infections lead to tertiary infections and so on. Interest is earned on the interest. Existing dollar spots spread when mowers or golfers' feet and equipment transport mycelia fragments. The mycelia can also spread by growing to adjacent healthy turf. What makes dollar spot such a devastating disease is the great number of colony forming units of cut mycelia that can lead to new infections.

Unlike a bank account, plant disease epidemics usually cannot grow indefinitely, they can only progress to 100 % disease or until the season ends. As the fungus uses up the available turfgrass, the rate of disease decreases, causing the disease progress curve to be sigmoid or S-shaped. The shape of the curve is determined by several factors: the amount of inoculum present at the beginning of the season, the time at which the epidemic rate was at its highest (early season or late season), if the disease completely devastated the turf or if the turf was healthy at the end of the year. The flatter the disease progress curve, the better.

Turfgrass is a wonderfully resilient, "perennial crop", and therefore, the disease progress on turfgrass is different when compared to plant disease epidemics in annual crops. The turf plants grow continuously, diseased tissue is mowed away and the disease epidemic rarely reaches 100% (i.e., completely dead grass). In addition, we found that individual spots disappeared and reappeared throughout the summer and fall. The observations suggested that turfgrass was infected or colonized by *S. homoeocarpa* without continuously expressing symptoms, as though the fungus resided at the base of the plant until the balance tipped in favour of the pathogen rather than the host.

Theory to Practice – Taking it to the Golf Course

So, how does all this theory relate back to the golf course and the management practices for dollar spot? *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* is believed to over-winter as darkly pigmented stroma remaining on margins of dollar spot lesions from previous epidemics (Britton, 1969; Couch, 1995; Smiley et al., 1992) or as dormant mycelium in infected grass crowns and tissues (Fenstermacher 1980). This is the initial inoculum that is similar to the principle of your investment. The lower the inoculum, the less fungus that is available to create spots on the turfgrass. The dollar spot fungus is actively growing before we see the symptoms of disease - how else would an entire tee be suddenly covered with cottony mycelia if the fungus wasn't multiplying, colonizing and infecting the turfgrass during the days before the outbreak? Knowing this, it makes sense to start the season with a fungicide application to control the dollar spot fungus before symptoms appear, thus keeping inoculum levels low. This will help avoid the sudden flare-ups of dollar spot, especially on mature turf swards where the inoculum load and strain diversity is theoretically higher.

Time is also a factor. In our investment model, there is more money at maturity if the term is longer; the same is true for the dollar spot epidemic. The epidemic will not progress to the maximum level if the start of disease is delayed. There will be fewer infection cycles completed before the end of the season. A good time to start scouting for disease is when irises and peonies are in bloom and when lilacs are in full to late bloom. Temperature can also be monitored and when 9-10 days with an average temperature of >16°C accumulates after May 1, dollar spots will usually appear. Treatment before symptoms appear is critical to delay the start of the epidemic; once you see spots, you know the epidemic has already started and the secondary inoculum is building.

During the summer another factor in the model is at work – the rate. The rate increases as the secondary infections increase. At GTI in 1996, on a 25-m² plot of bentgrass, there were 7987 spots by September (that's one spot for every 2"x 2" square!). Dollar spots multiplied quickly and consequently, the disease was highly destructive to the turfgrass. The success of secondary infections depends on the disease triangle – environment, host and pathogen. These three factors interact together to cause disease. The rate may increase when weather conditions and

microclimate are favourable for the pathogen. While we cannot change the weather, we can do things to influence the microclimate, such as proper irrigation, good air movement, drainage, sunshine permeation, and by reducing the leaf wetness duration. Fertility, especially N, thatch control and lack of stress will provide a healthy host plant that can withstand the disease and result in a lower epidemic rate.

During the fall, the dollar spot fungus prepares to over-winter by colonizing the crowns of turfgrass, either as mycelia fragments or as darkly pigmented stroma. A properly timed fall application of fungicide will reduce the fungi and therefore, reduce the individuals that will over-winter and start the epidemic in the spring. It's all about inoculum control.

The "Take Home" Message:

As a long term dollar spot control strategy, try to keep the "inoculum bank account" low. Manage the initial inoculum by reducing the over-wintering population and timing the first fungicide application prior to symptom expression. The second step is to use control measures to slow the rate of disease progress. These control measures may be a combination of fungicides and cultural controls. Best results will be achieved when inoculum is kept low during all stages of the dollar spot disease cycle.

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Brenda (Walsh) Nailor completed her Bachelor of Science in Pest Management at the University of Guelph in 1994. In 1996, Brenda returned to the University of Guelph for her PhD in Plant Pathology. Brenda's research at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute was on the epidemiology and disease forecasting of dollar spot, as well as the design of electronic leaf wetness sensors for use on turfgrass. During her PhD, Brenda and her advisor, Dr. Greg Boland, published a comprehensive literature review on dollar spot. In July 2001, Dr. Nailor joined the team at Engage Agro, as the senior registration specialist, responsible for conducting research programs for Turf & Ornamentals and other niche crops. The information presented in this article is from her thesis "Epidemiology and Disease Forecasting System for Dollar Spot caused by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F. T. Bennett".

Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

Weeds or Wild flowers

Weeds and wild flowers share the ability to grow without human intervention. They make their own way and they can be very good at it. As gardeners, we have to manage the intrusion of plants we did not introduce. Whether something is a weed or a wildflower is often a matter of taste. This is the quandary: what do we consider a weed (bad guy) and what do we consider a wild flower (good guy)? In the cultivated garden it is fairly obvious what is a weed but in out of the way and low-use areas, the classification gets blurred a bit.

In urban areas, weeds are nature's way of re-vegetating. Weeds are opportunistic plants which follow human disturbance and colonize cultivated land. The very act of gardening promotes weed invasion. Weed seeds outnumber those of wild flowers by a huge margin so if something is growing where you didn't put it, it is most likely deemed a weed. Planting something there first is one way of reducing the burden of weeding.

For if there is space left, something is going to grow there. Plants that spread by wind-blown seed are likely to succeed, at least in the short term, when there are gaps in the lawn or garden. Dandelions, for example, manage to find their way into the crown of a perennial or cluster in disturbed soil. I am thinking about my own back yard where every blade of grass was destroyed by grubs last fall. Birds and rodents had a party, feasting on the grubs and it was not pretty! The

dandelions must have cut a deal with the grubs because there is little else left. I think we hate dandelions so much because they are the ultimate insult to our efforts. Also, you have to deal with them or they won't go away.

So, don't leave spaces for weeds to land. I started planting a diverse mix of native plants (perennials, grasses and shrubs) in my garden about five years ago. They are starting to pop up in the garden, where weeds would normally grow. By increasing the number of self-seeding, native wild flowers, I hope to reduce the number of thistles and burdock. I am also hoping that the grubs will leave me alone in future. Weeds will always be a part of gardening and by introducing desirable self-seeders, I will be choosing my own version of intruders.

Most weeds are non-native plants, introduced to our area many years ago either willingly as a forage crop, for example crabgrass, or they may simply have escaped from cultivation. Every area has its own unique weed problem. We now know that we cannot predict which plants we introduce today as desirable ornamentals will become tomorrow's purple loosestrife. A stand of purple loosestrife is one of the most floriferous displays you will ever find but is rightly classified as a weed due to its invasive tendencies. The same could be said for the wild sweet rocket which produces large swathes of purple, pink and white in the spring. Both of these plants need to be kept in check or nothing else will grow there. A couple of invasive weeds to watch out for in the Greater Toronto Area are garlic mustard and dog strangling vine. Invasive plants destroy diversity and harm ecosystems.

I have noticed lately that a lot of my clients have requested the complete removal of their lawns. I suspect this is motivated by fear since many people feel powerless to manage a lawn without the use of pesticides. There is also a perception that no lawn equals low maintenance and few weeds. There are interesting times ahead and I, personally, am taking a pro-active approach to weed control and that is to plant desirable plants, especially native plants that will do the battle for me and reduce weed pressure.

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for more tips on gardening.

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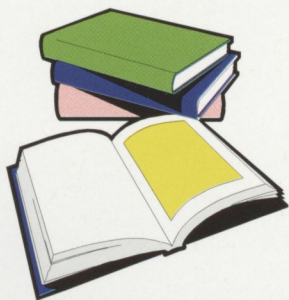
O.G.S.A. Membership Support

Thanks to the generosity of our members we have been able to increase the amount of O.G.S.A.'s contribution to our Library Donation Program and our Turfgrass Research Fund, by a considerable amount.

A couple of years ago, OGSA initiated the "optional donation" by providing a section on the membership renewal invoice, where members could donate to either or both of these very worthwhile programs. We are thankful for these

donations which will be put towards purchasing additional books for the University of Guelph Library Turfgrass Management book shelves and to the ongoing Turfgrass Research Program.

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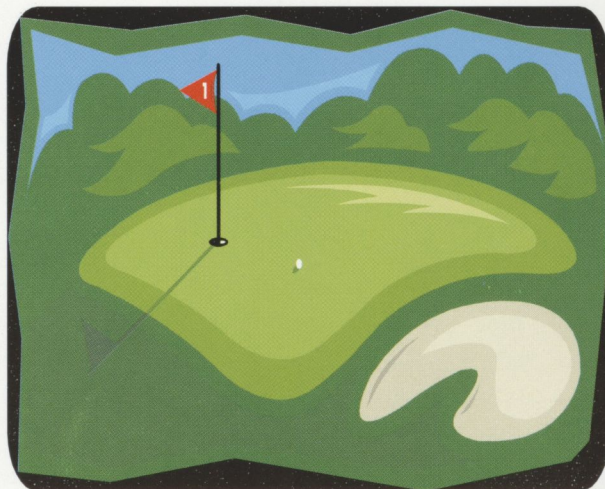
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On the road again

by Angelo Capannelli
Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

The annual pilgrimage to the Memorial Golf Tournament

The date for this year's version of the "Memorial weekend" was May 30th through June 2nd. This date gets circled well in advance for obvious reasons, and to say that it is anticipated throughout the year is a slight exaggeration? It's the annual trip to Dublin, Ohio to take in the Memorial Golf Tourney. A PGA tour event that some of the players consider the best conditioned stop on the tour. It's Jack's tournament !!

This particular tradition started about 12 years ago by, then Superintendent of Glen Abbey Golf Course, Dean Baker. Dean thought it would be a good idea to visit Muirfield Village to get a good perspective on grooming techniques for the Canadian Open. Jack Nicklaus designed Muirfield Village to host the Memorial in 1974 and soon thereafter started working on the design of Glen Abbey. There are many similarities and thus the reason to visit the golf course. Even the clubhouse looks the same. Ah, the clubhouse where many of our traditions and rituals are repeated year after year.

The tournament attracts the best golfers in the world, not only because it is a wonderful golf course with superb conditioning but mostly because the players come to pay their respects to a legend, Jack Nicklaus. This tournament is really about playing in "Jack's tournament". To get a glimpse of Jack Nicklaus is always a nice treat. On the day of the final round we were told, by some media people, that Jack was out watching his son, Gary play. Gary had made the cut and was playing pretty well. Our group decided to go

to one of our favourite spots on the golf course, the 9th hole, probably because it is close to the hospitality of the clubhouse and the numerous refreshment tents. As Gary Nicklaus was walking up the 9th fairway towards his ball there, on the outside of the ropes where the spectators had gathered, was Jack and Barbara Nicklaus. They were out supporting their son Gary on the golf course. Jack was standing right beside us. How cool is that, I thought to myself.

This year's winner is Kenny Perry a former champion in 1991. He basically took the lead after the Friday round and really never relinquished it. There were signs coming down the stretch that he was feeling the pressure by bogeying 5 of the last 7 holes but he managed to hang on for the victory. There were valiant attempts by Mike Weir, who shot a final round 65, and Tiger Woods, who also shot a final round 65, but the day belonged to Kenny Perry. It was a great day to be on the golf course. We were also extremely proud of being Canadian when the official announced the 1:00 o'clock tee time, from Bright's Grove, Ontario, Canada's current, Masters Champion, Mike Weir. A nice group of people gathered on the first tee and followed him throughout his entire 18 holes.

The annual Memorial Weekend comes to an official close when we pull into our driveways and the last remnants are put away. The date for the 2004 Memorial weekend is already circled and the anticipation is building...



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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

Whatever happened to the hole in the ozone layer? I remember when I was in high school, the president of the student council standing on a milk crate outside the door of our cafeteria with tears streaming down her face, begging us not to use styrofoam cups or else the polar ice cap would melt and we'd all drown, or at least coastal cities like New York and New Orleans would start to look like Venice. I even went to a couple of ecology rallies with her. Remember when we used to call it ecology instead of environmentalism? I admit, the "ism" at the end gives it a bit more of a religious feel, but to me it's just a lot of extra syllables. I went because I was worried about the planet, because I wanted to leave a better world for future generations, and because she was really hot. I admit that now. I also admit that I spent a lot of time looking at topographic maps trying to figure out where the new coastline would end up so that I could buy up a future seaside resort town from a bunch of hillbilly's in the Ozarks for next to nothing.

Wasn't a comet supposed to hit the earth last month? Remember Killer Bees? How about shark attacks? The week before those planes flew into the World Trade Center, the lead story on every newscast was about shark attacks on the east coast of the United States. There were tourism officials wringing their hands with concern about how this would affect the snowbirds. One day later, no more shark talk. Did the attacks stop? Were the sharks at home watching CNN like the rest of us?

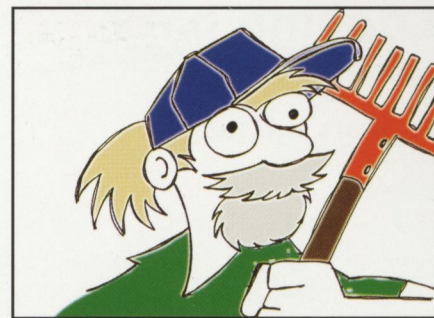
I think we have a wee little section in the dark recesses of our brain that likes, no, needs to worry about things, but I'm no psychologist. Truth is, I can't even spell psychologist. I had to look it up in the Funk and Wagnall's just to use it here, but I'm not about to let my complete lack of education, training, or experience hinder me from having an opinion on this or any other subject. I think it's probably some left over instinct that kept our ancestors from being eaten by Sabre Tooth tigers. Everybody else would be sitting around the Neanderthal cave cafeteria drinking coffee out of Styrofoam cups and the president of the student council would be up on a rock yelling, "Hey, look out! There's a big

honking carnivore over there!"

Growing up in the Sixties and Seventies, we all lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling waiting for "the bomb" to fall out of the sky. I would love to have back the collective energy my generation wasted worrying about the "godless communist horde" during the cold war. Looking back, the soviets with a couple megaton warheads were a lot less worrisome than the cast of zealots and cutthroats who have similar weapons today. You can only be so worried about a nation that plays hockey.

And don't even get me started on Project Bluebook. Between it and that stupid Close Encounters movie, I spent the better part of the early eighties afraid to go outside at night for fear of being probed by some egg headed alien. Did you ever notice that aliens in movies look just like the pictures of Sea Monkeys in comic book ads? But when you buy Sea Monkeys, they turn out to be brine shrimp which look exactly like the aliens in the movie Alien. Weird, eh?

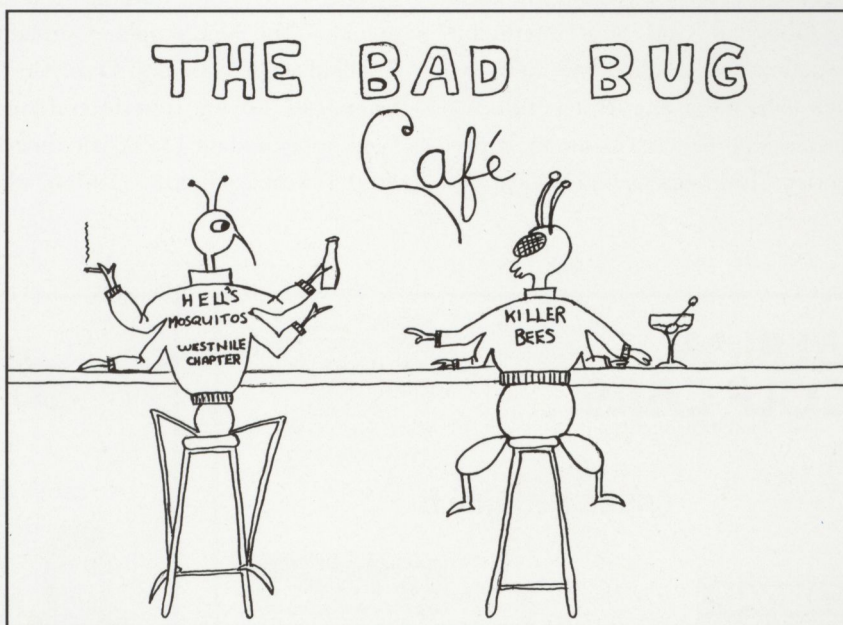
Golf Superintendents are chronic worriers. We worry when it's too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, or too moderate. We worry that the budget is too small. We worry that the budget is too big. (No wait, that one doesn't work.) We worry about staff and we worry about owners. We worry about golfers' needs and we



worry about the course. Worry leads to stress, and stress leads to poor health, poor marriages, and ironically, poor job performance.

When you speak to the old time superintendents, they will always talk about how much the business has changed. They applaud how much more professional the entire industry has become, right from the office to the kid who fills the ball washers. We have truly become managers of multimillion dollar operations. Unfortunately, where our industry has fallen behind, is in the training of Superintendents to deal with the pressure of these new levels of responsibility. Most managers with our scope would spend several weeks per year on professional development. Most Superintendents spend two or three days per year and feel the need to apologize for doing it.

We are human beings, so we'll always battle windmills and fear paper tigers, but let's spend a little time reading a book, taking a course, or dealing with the stress of our chosen occupation. We shouldn't all be carrying around a bottle of ulcer medication in our pockets.



TURFTOONS

BY DOUG BREEN

Looking back

25 years ago today

by Barry Endicott

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association executive for 1978 was Paul (Pelino) Scenna (pres.), Stew Mills (vice.), Paul White (sec.), Ken Nelson (tres.), Al Beeney (past pres.), Bill Bowen, Blake McMaster, John Smith, Rusty Warkman, Bill Hynd and Paul Dermott.

The Eighth Annual Turf Management Symposium was held at the Hamilton Golf Club, hosted by Stew Mills. Paul Scenna opened the Symposium, which was chaired by Norm McCollum and Al Beeney. The speakers for the day were: Terry Dwyer, meteorological officer, Mount Hope Airport; George Cumming, Royal Botanical Gardens; Dr. Jack Eggens, University of Guelph; Ken Nelson, Steve Miller, Jim Wyllie, Rusty Warkman, Doug Suter and John Smith. Paul White was the symposium chairman and over 70 superintendents, assistants and associates attended.

Monthly meetings were held during the off-season at Glendale Golf Club, Paul White, Bayview Golf Club, Ed Ortleib and Essex Golf Club, Bill Fach. The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference was held on March 5th-8th at the Hotel Toronto. The President/Greens Chairman/Superintendent Tournament was held at the

Hamilton Golf Club on July 28th. The team of Harry Ritson, pres., Frank Pope, greens chairman, and Bob Heron, superintendent, won first prize. Bill Hynd hosted the ladies Peter Jackson Classic. Dennis Pellrene hosted the Canadian Open and Bob Brewster hosted the Ontario Amateur. Paul Scenna hosted another great Galt Field Day on June 8th. Low superintendents were Bill Bowen (76), Bill Glashan (77), Jack Fairhurst (78) and Graham Shouldice (78). After golf, everyone went over to the Cambridge turf plots. Gord Witteveen hosted a meeting on August 16th at the Board of Trade Country Club. It was a rain delayed round and the low gross winners were Bill Bowen (76), Bill Glashan (77) and Barry Endicott (78). The theme was "America Day" and U.S. guests included Dr. Jim Watson, Ted Smith, Ned Brinkman, Bob Moore, Jim Latham, Andy Bertoni, Norman Leising and Mel Lucas. Mel Lucas, director of the GCSAA, gave a demonstration of the new speed stick, which was developed by the USGA to measure putting speed on greens. The McClumpha tournament was held at Glendale Golf Club. Genstar Chemicals hosted superintendents at Glen Abbey and the CGSA held their Fall Field Day at Lachute Golf Club, which

was won by George Garner with a 78.

The Pro-Superintendent Tournament was held at Dalewood and George Garner (79) and Pro Dave Clayton (71) won top prize. Thom Charters won low superintendent prize with a 78. Kimmo Salonen won the Taylor Barnes trophy at Cherry Hill Country Club.

James H. Roberts passed away on January 1st. Mr. Roberts retired in 1972 following 20 years as superintendent at Sunningdale Golf Club. Henry Guertin accepted the job at Beachgrove Golf & Country Club, in Windsor and Barry Endicott moved to Chinguacousy Country Club from Glen Shields Golf Club. Stew Picken moved on as superintendent at Glen Shields Golf Club. Al Draper accepted the job at Greenhills Golf Club. Doug Heron of Scotts became regional manager for Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, Michigan and parts of New York, and Dave Dick, formerly from Sleepy Hollow, took over the Toronto territory. Ron Craig became manager of the Rexdale branch for Spraymotor. Hugh Kirkpatrick moved from Dalewood Golf Club to Westmount Golf and County Club, in Kitchener. Clay Switzer, Dean of O.A.C. was made Honorary Member of the OGSA.

Continued on page 31

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"Beware of the expert"

By Bill Knoop

Article Reprinted from 1978 Issue of Green is Beautiful

Being a golf course superintendent has to be an easy job. What other profession has available to it so many "experts" that are so willing to give advice at such a low cost. Sometimes you even get advice without asking. Who are these "experts"? They come from all over. They are your club members, your employer, your employees, your fellow golf course superintendents, the salesmen, the technical representatives, turf-grass consultants and, oh yes, guys like me from the university. We are all "experts".

You've got a problem, we all know the answer or do we? You, as a golf course superintendent are faced with problems of some type every day. Some are considered big problems, but hopefully most are not so big. No matter the size of the problem you will need to make a decision regarding the problem and you want to make the right decision. No one can tell you with 100% certainty what the right decision may be.

A look at the problem solving or decision making process may help increase your odds of making the

right decision. The first step is to accurately identify the problem. For example, last winter we lost a lot of grass on greens to what we are calling winter kill. We have a problem that we must solve so it won't happen again. We must identify the cause of the problem. It could be lack of Fall moisture. It could be a shallow root system. It could be a thatch layer that prevents water from getting to the roots. It could be a heavy soil that has restricted root growth or it could have been caused by even something else. The point is that you must use your basic turf knowledge and experience to identify the real cause of the problem.

The next step is to decide how to solve the problem. You could decide to do nothing and hope it doesn't happen again. You might decide the best solution is to reconstruct the green or you might select some other method to repair the damage. In selecting the best solution to the problem, you must also consider your budget situation, your available labour, and the effect your choice will have on play, etc.

In this whole process the word **you** has been used often. This is because it is your job to make decisions. No one else can step into your shoes and make your decisions. Many "experts" will try if you let them, but most of us would rather live with our own decisions than have to live with decisions that have been made for us. "Experts" are not all bad. Use them to help you explore the possible causes and solutions to problems, but in the end you're the "man" and you should make the decisions.

Several years ago, Dr. Dick Skogley spoke at New Hampshire Turf Seminar and suggested that when we are faced by an "expert" we should remember the origin of the word. He said the word should be divided into 2 parts, X and spert. The first part, X, means a has been and second part, spert, means a drip under pressure. THINK ABOUT IT.

Dr. Knoop is former Director of Education for GCSAA, and currently on the staff at Iowa State University. This article was written in Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Reporter.



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