

**INSIDE:  
2004 OGSA  
CONFERENCE  
REGISTRATION FORM**

October 2003

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

**The 2003 Bell Canadian Open**

**Superintendent of the Year  
Bunker Construction Phase I  
Cultural Practices  
Seguin Valley Golf & CC**

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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

**GTI Gardens**

Tended by Robert Tschanz & his crew  
Photo by John Bladon

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



## President's message

The importance of associations and associate members to our industry is becoming clearer to me as time goes on.

National, provincial and regional associations are a voice for us on a political and environmental level, bringing reason and purpose to our profession. They fight for equality, develop standards and educate the ignorant. They offer a source of continuing education and the opportunity for us to network with each other. I do not believe everyone fully understands the impact associations have had on the pesticide ban issue. We would not have progressed as far as we have without them.

Industry and associate members are invaluable to our industry

and to our associations. As they advance in technology and research, so do we. They give us continuous support agronomically, mechanically and financially. Many of the functions we attend are subsidized by suppliers making them affordable for all. They go out of their way to help us meet the demands of our employer. They are an important piece of the overall support group we require to do our job.

As the President of the OGSA and the Superintendent of the Galt Country Club, thank you!



by Mark Piccolo  
Galt Country Club



### ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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#### Green is Beautiful 2003

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# Editor's message

by John Bladon

Contained in this issue, we are pleased to make an introduction to a new golf course, just south of Parry Sound, called Seguin Valley Golf & Country Club. Also, with one of the most successful Canadian Open's in recent history, *Green is Beautiful* met up with Superintendent Rhod Trainor, and discussed what it was like to host our national championship. Historic St. Georges Golf & Country Club, in Toronto, has been going through bunker renovations and Foreman Jason Hanna has authored an interesting article on the progress there.

Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club has submitted an article on cultural practices.

In conjunction with the IPM Accreditation Program that continues, just a reminder that Dorothy will be needing copies of all Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent members pesticide licences. This is something that is essential to membership with the OGSA. If you haven't sent yours in yet, please mail a photocopy into the office, for their records.

Finally, once again, the magazine lives on the contributions of its members. It's that time a year again when *Green is Beautiful* searches for a good seasonal photo, for the cover of the December and February issues. Also, should you be in a position to author an article or know someone who ought to be written about, please contact Dorothy or myself. We would like to hear from you.



## 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



## Welcome!

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

**Simon Brunton** Class C  
Rebel Creek Golf Club

**Graeme Calder** Class F  
The Toronto Golf Club

**Greg DeLaat** Class A  
Mayfield Golf Course

**Shelley Leverton** Class A  
Belmont Golf Club

**Dave Nicholls** Class A  
Silver Lakes Golf Course

**Casey O'Connor** Class C  
Donalda Club

**Curtis Schindler** Class C  
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# Turfgrass Management Research at Guelph



by Dr. Julie Dionne  
Director of the Green  
Section, Royal Canadian  
Golf Association

On September 22, 2003 I started my new position as Director of the Green Section with the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA). My mandate is to coordinate and promote turfgrass research in Canada and to develop, maintain and disseminate agronomic and environmental information for over 1600 Canadian golf courses.

I have resigned from my position of Assistant Professor in Turfgrass Management in the Department of Plant Agriculture, at the University of Guelph. However, I will be appointed as adjunct faculty at the University of Guelph in the next few weeks. In spite of my new position, I continue the

supervision of my graduate students and the coordination of the current research project with the OGSA.

Our research project on entomopathogenic nematodes in collaboration with OGSA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Guy Bélair and Louis Simard) is doing well. In August 2003, we visited 19 different golf courses in Ontario in order to take soil samples for the nematode survey (Table 1). I would like to thank the participant golf course superintendents and their staff for the great collaboration during our visit! Results will be available to the OGSA next year.

I would like to thank you for your great collaboration and I hope to have the chance and the privilege to work with you in my new position with the RCGA. It will be always a real pleasure for me to help and collaborate with the OGSA.

Golf courses	Superintendents	Locations
Muskoka Lakes Golf & CC	James Flett	Port Carling
Galt Country Club	Mark Piccolo	Cambridge
Rosedale Golf & CC	Robert J. Burrows	Toronto
Renfrew Golf Club	Steven Campbell	Renfrew
Westmount Golf & CC	Cory Janzen	Kitchener
St. Thomas Golf & CC	Ryan Beauchamp	St. Thomas
Diamondback Golf Club	Blair Rennie	Richmond Hill
The Briars Golf Club	Paul White	Jackson's Point
Big Bay Pointe Golf & CC	Ed O'Donnell	Innisfil
Jewel of the North Golf Resort	Mike Cote	Redbridge
Hunters Pointe Golf Course	John Taylor	Welland
Erie Shores Golf & CC	David J. Cours	Leamington
Picton Golf & CC	Chris Altoff	Picton
Niagara-on-the-lake Golf Course	Mike Magwood	Niagara-On-The-Lake
Weston Golf & CC	Rob Ackermann	Weston
Peterborough Golf & CC	Greg O'Heron	Peterborough
Taboo Golf Club	Sean Desilva	Gravenhurst
Lakeview Golf Course	Bruce Burger	Mississauga
Blue Mountain Golf & CC	Don Campbell	Collingwood



# Health & safety

## PREPARING YOUR CLUB FOR SAFETY

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

### Is it Time?

I trust that you have had a safe and prosperous golfing season.

Last spring there was a flurry of activity in the golf world where a number of different clubs were discussing health and safety. The discussions were around various aspects of safety. The primary area was dealing with Certification Training for the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

As most of you are aware the law states that if you have a workplace with twenty or more workers regularly employed you must have a joint health and safety committee. If you have a committee you must have at least two of the members "Certified". This means a two-step process.

The first step is Certification I.

Certification I is generally a three-day training program. Yes, it fills a good three days. You are also able to complete the program with a self-study product sold by the Ontario Service Safety Alliance (OSSA).

The second part is Certification II.

Certification II is a continuation of the Certification program that requires every employer to identify significant hazards in their workplace and then ensure that the certified members learn how to deal with these specific hazards.

In the golf course industry you would probably be looking at about 11 different workplace specific hazards. These would include Materials Handling, Chemical and Process Hazards, Slip Trip and Fall Hazards, Equipment and Process Hazards, Lock Out Tag Out Hazards, Ergonomic Hazards, Electrical Energy Hazards, Fire Prevention and Response Hazards, Working with Sharp Materials, Working with Burn and Scald Hazards in Restaurant and Food Services and Working in the Heat in Tourism and Hospitality Services.

You would have at least two ways of handling this information delivery process. One way is to purchase the materials from the OSSA and go through the process as a

self-study program. The second way is to attend a facilitated session where you would work together with other people from the golf course industry.

#### Advantages (Self Study) - Certification I

- You would work together with the other certified member at your own pace
- You have a flexible time schedule
- You have six months to complete the course after you start the program
- Less expensive

#### Disadvantages - Certification I

- Have to have discipline to ensure that you have adequate time to complete the course together
- No opportunity for discussion
- Difficulty ensuring that time is set aside

#### Advantages (Group) - Certification II

- Facilitator available
- Get it all done at once and it would not be hanging on for a lengthy period of time
- Opportunity for discussion

#### Disadvantages - Certification II

- Required to set aside two full days at a predetermined time at an outside location.
- Higher cost

You have some choices as to how you would proceed. You do not have a choice whether or not to do the training.

It is a matter of time. To ensure that your club is in compliance, make a choice.

*Have a great fall!*

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## Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,  
Assistant Supt.  
Markland Wood CC

This month's site is one that you should be visiting every time you log onto the internet. The official Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association website [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) is constantly improving and has new features that everyone should use. The first is under the tab *Green is Beautiful*. There is now a search engine that enables one to recall previous articles from the OGSA publication.

The Turf Talk Forum is always a great way to exchange information and see what is going on around Ontario; feel free to start a new thread. Members can place classified ads online in the classified section.

Last but not least, members should do their part to help the environment by signing up for OGSA News, the Employment Referral Service and Flyers electronically. Call the office and give them your correct email address. While you're at it, change your password to a "personal password", if you have not already done so.

## Mechanic's corner

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

The G.E.T.A.O annual golf tournament was held at Banty's Roost Golf Club on Sept. 11 2003. The field had a large number of participants and everyone left well fed and carrying something from the well-supported prize table. Again this year, we have found different winners. This year a group from Kingston traveled three hours + to walk away with the top honours. Lyndon Wing, from the Loyalist Golf Club with the help of Trevor Blais, Dave Mullan and Matt Bonaparte managed to score a remarkable 58, a 13 under par! Lyndon informed that there is no problem in returning next year for a repeat performance at Silver Lakes on September 09, 2004. Recent history shows that returning champions haven't been able to put their names on the trophy the second time. I would like to thank Dorothy Hills and the O.G.S.A for the assistance in advertising the tournament as well as providing a donation to the prize table.

We are fast approaching the time of the year to reflect

on how we did this year and what we need to focus on for the next season. Equipment purchases and equipment repairs are the hot topics of the day. Usually, a lot of promotions are being offered such as parts discounts, or perhaps deferred payments. If you are prepared, then the offers are much more attractive.

Winter months are the best time to refresh our skills and learn new ones. Seminars offer assistance that is not necessarily found on paper. You may hear a discussion on a new problem that you personally haven't encountered. Who knows you may run into it next year, and it will be easier to repair or maybe avoid. You are never too old to acquire knowledge or too young to know everything. There is always a lesson to learn.

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



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## Accreditation avenue

IPM Accreditation now available. Contact Ridgetown College at 1 866 385 4762 or log on at [www.ontarioipm.com](http://www.ontarioipm.com)

### TURF IPM MANUAL NOW AVAILABLE

OMAF Publication 816 – *Turfgrass Integrated Pest Management Handbook* is now available. This new publication has been designed as a field handbook and study guide for IPM accreditation for golf courses, lawn care, sports field and parks sectors. It contains basic information on IPM as well as specific IPM practices for disease, insect and weed management with specific reference to Ontario conditions. Included are IPM templates for golf courses, sports fields and lawn care, a turf disease identification key, a turf insect injury key and examples of pest monitoring sheets. This publication, along with Publication 384, *Recommendations for Turfgrass Management* and Publication 162, *Diseases and Insects of Turfgrass in Ontario* provides you with a complete reference package on turf IPM in Ontario.

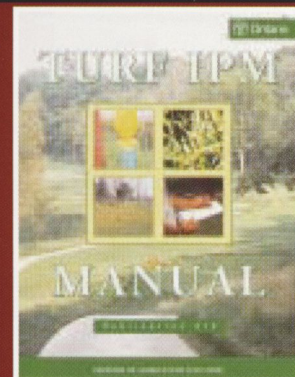
## Publication 816—AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF)  
Crop Technology Branch

## Turfgrass Integrated Pest Management Handbook - \$20.00

This new turf publication has been designed as a field handbook and a study guide for IPM accreditation for the golf courses, lawn care and parks sectors. It contains basic information on IPM, IPM for diseases, insects and weeds that are found in turf in Ontario, IPM templates for golf courses, parks and lawn care, a turf disease identification key, a turf insect injury key and examples of pest monitoring sheets. This publication, along with Publication 384, *Recommendations for Turfgrass Management* and Publication 162, *Diseases and Insects of Turfgrass in Ontario* provides you with a complete reference package on turf IPM for Ontario.

To obtain copies of publication 816 or any other ministry publication, visit your OMAF Resource Centre, [www.omaf.gov.on.ca](http://www.omaf.gov.on.ca) or phone 1-877-424-1300.



Now available from the Guelph Turfgrass Institute for \$20 plus shipping and handling.

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or email: [info@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:info@gti.uoguelph.ca)



# 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute

by Rob Witherspoon  
G.T.I. Director

Research tours combined with the marking of a significant milestone at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute's Summer Research Field Day on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The day began in the early afternoon with guided tours of the research plots. Bentgrass disease trials, evaluation of pesticide alternatives, velvet bentgrass management and the IPM demonstration project were among the many projects presented by GTI faculty, staff and graduate students. OMAF Turfgrass Specialist Pam Charbonneau led a hands-on field workshop in disease and insect diagnosis and IPM scouting techniques.

At the end of the afternoon, field day participants joined representatives from industry, government and the

university for dinner to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre building in August of 1993. Building namesake Mac Frost attended along with his wife Beth and other family members. The GTI presented Mac and Beth Frost with an original watercolour painting of the Frost Centre in recognition of the significant support they provided in the establishment of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

The tenth anniversary celebration was made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association, Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc., and many other industry companies and associations.



Experimental Gardens at the G.T.I. • Photo by John Bladon



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# O.T.R.F.

By Christopher Dew, Tournament Chairman  
The National Golf Club of Canada  
Photos by D. Hills

The 2003 Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Fundraising Tournament was a huge success. Special thanks go out to our platinum sponsor Bayer Environmental Science (Chipco Professional Products). We truly appreciated their support and participation in this event.



The host club was the new Doug Carrick design, Copper Creek Golf Club. Despite the inch of rain received the night before the tournament, Superintendent Robert Bell had the golf course in spectacular condition.



Dave Schmelfske was low gross for the day with a score of seventy-three, and Bruce Burger won the low net category. It was a great day, and we thank Copper Creek for being a wonderful host. Next years event will be hosted by the Burlington Golf and Country Club, Superintendent Pelino Scenna. See you then.



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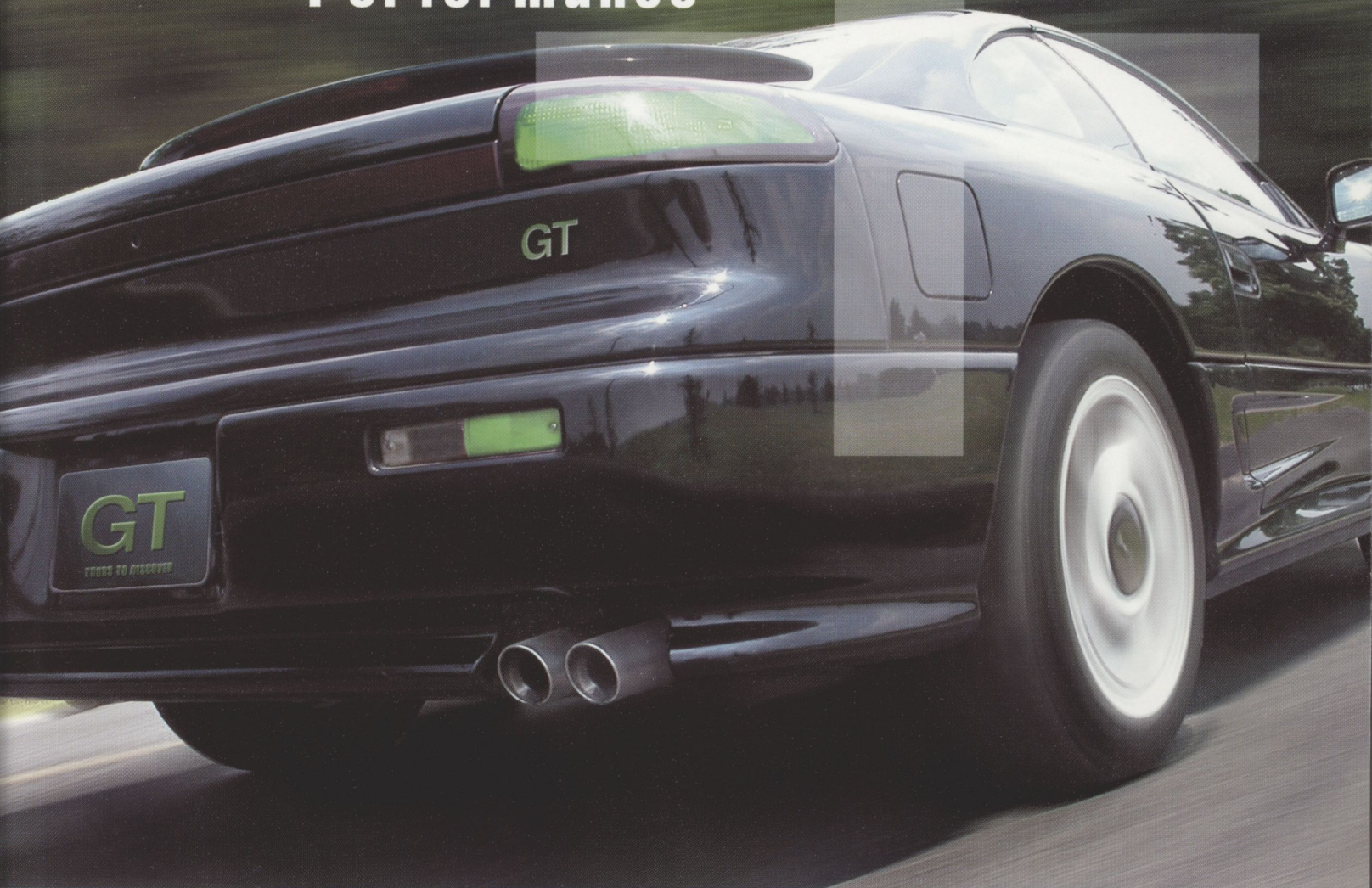
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## **“Score” Superintendent of the year, Paul White**

On September 15th, at the Canadian Golf Superintendents Fall Field Day, it was officially announced that Paul White, Superintendent of The Briars Golf Club, and OGSA member was the recipient of the “Score” Superintendent of the Year Award.

Paul White has been involved with golf courses since his early teens. First starting as a caddy at St. Georges Golf Club in Toronto, he was given an opportunity at the age of fourteen to work with the course crew during the Canadian Open. When Bruce Woolley, the course superintendent called him two years later to work for the summer, he jumped at the opportunity. Bruce moved to Markland Wood Country Club and Paul stayed at St. Georges working with Bill Hynd. Bill encouraged the eager teenager to attend the University of Massachusetts where he passed the Diploma course with honours. After graduation he joined Bruce Woolley as assistant superintendent at Markland Country Club. Six months later, on a strong recommendation from Bruce, he was hired at Kanawaki Golf Club on the Caughnawaga Indian reserve south of Montreal. The all-Indian staff taught the young man a lot about management and life.

*“The success of his three sons has stemmed from a strong work ethic, instilled from an early age and full exposure to the rewarding career of the Golf Superintendent.”* Peter A. White, Assistant Superintendent, Nottawasaga Golf Course

Leaving Kanawaki behind in 1972, Paul moved to Glendale Golf Club in Hamilton, where he concentrated on raising the quality of playing conditions and establishing a comprehensive equipment maintenance program. Seven years later he moved to Lambton Golf Club where he was one of the first superintendents to cut their fairways with triplex mowers at 3/8 of an inch.

*“Paul has tremendous vision - he knows what he is trying to achieve, and how to get there.”* John Sibbald, President, Briars Estates Limited

Paul could not pass up the opportunity to become course superintendent at Glen Abbey where he had the thrill of working at another Canadian Open, this time as superintendent.

*“I believe Mr. White’s generosity of his time and of himself, commitment to the golf industry and compassion for people allows*

*him this opportunity to be recognized as a leader amongst Golf Course Superintendents.”* Keith Bartlett, Master Golf Course Superintendent

The Mississauga Golf Club came calling the next year with an offer he could not refuse. Over the next ten years Paul made major improvements to the driving range, built a pitching green complex and landscaped the clubhouse area with native stone.

*“I believe that my father’s support for education stems from his undying desire for self-improvement. He is always learning, experimenting and putting into practice new ideas or new technology.”* James R. White, Superintendent, King’s Bay G&CC

In 1999, Paul took the position at the Briars Golf Club, a Stanley Thompson course north of Toronto. The first year, he was busy installing drainage for ten greens, automating the pump house, installing fairway drainage and upgrading staff facilities.

Over his career, Paul has served on the O.T.R.F., O.G.S.A., and C.G.S.A. Pension Committee and the Toronto Conference Committee. He also served as President of both O.G.S.A. and C.G.S.A. Board of Directors. Paul takes an active interest in furthering the knowledge of his peers in the turf industry and serving on these committees has been his contribution to future generations of superintendents.

*“For me, and the rest of the membership at the Briars, Paul White is the superintendent of the year this year and every year.”* Robert I Cohen, Director, Briars Golf Club Limited



Paul White

*continued on page 24...*



## What's new

### COBI & ELLIE COLIN EDUCATION FUN

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Karen Colin**, who passed away during childbirth on Saturday, August 30th.

Karen was the wife, best friend and soulmate of Tim Colin and mother of Cobi and newborn Ellie.

If you wish to make a donation, an education fund has been established through Tim's friends and colleagues at Carruther's Creek Golf Centre:

Payable to: Cobi & Ellie Colin Education Fund  
Account No. 0300 3099-564  
Bank of Montreal  
154 Harwood Avenue, South  
Ajax, Ontario L1S 2H6  
Attention: Linda Lee

ALL DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

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### EMERALD ISLE CHALLENGE

Milliken Turf Products, makers of the Emerald Isle line of products, would like to congratulate John Cunningham from the Mandarin Golf and Country Club in Markham, Ontario. John is the winner of the Emerald Isle Challenge, and will be the guest of Milliken Turf Products and distributor Plant Products Company Ltd, on a seven-day golf excursion to southern Ireland. The trip includes many of the country's top golf clubs as well as significant cultural and historical attractions. Congratulations John!

### NU-GRO HIRES NEW SALES/MARKET MANAGER

The Nu-Gro Corporation, based in Brantford, Ontario is pleased to announce that Doug Hubble has joined the company in the position of Sales/Market Manager of Professional Turf Products. Doug brings an excellent industry background and is extremely familiar with our professional turf products, having held the position of Sales Manager for Turf Care Products Canada Limited. We are confident that Doug's sales and marketing experience coupled with his extensive product knowledge will allow him to immediately provide you with the level of service and expertise that you have come to expect from Nu-Gro.



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THE INAUGURAL**

**Ontario Golf Course  
Management Conference  
and Trade Show**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel**

Registration Form Enclosed with  
This issue of Green is Beautiful  
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Early Bird Registration applies to  
Payment Received by December 3rd.  
Note Registration to be sent to CGSA  
see top of form for details



**more information available  
go to [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca)**



# Golf course highlight

## Seguin Valley Golf & Country Club

144 Badger Road, R.R.#2, Box 8

Parry Sound ON P2A 2W8

Website: [www.seguinvalleygolf.com](http://www.seguinvalleygolf.com)

Golf Course Superintendent:

Chris Hudswell

Email: [hudswell@vianet.ca](mailto:hudswell@vianet.ca)



Unique forward floating tee to the Island 7th green

### COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Seguin Region

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

Public

Typical opening and closing date

May 1 to October 31

Name of Superintendent

Chris Hudswell

How many years have you been a superintendent?

7 years

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

2 years

Are you a CGCS or Master Superintendent?

No

How many year round staff?

2

How many seasonal staff?

25

How many mechanics and assistants?

1 Mechanic: Pat Richer and  
1 Assistant: Trevor Turner

How many gardening staff?

None full time

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back tees and forward tees?

6862 yards from the back tees and  
4552 yards from the front tees

How many bunkers?

26

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

8 times

What was the year of original construction?

1999

By whom and when was the course remodeled?

Evans Golf

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

6,000 square feet

What type of irrigation system?

Hunter - 3 years old

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

2.75 acres of greens

2.75 acres of tees

28 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

Bent A-4 Greens  
PennTrio Fairways/Tees

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?

20 USGA greens

What is the predominant soil type?

sand

What equipment do you have in inventory?

6 - Toro Greensmaster Flex 21  
3 - Toro Greensmaster 1600  
1 - Toro Greensmaster 3100  
3 - Toro Groundsmaster 3500 D  
2 - Toro Reelmaster 5400 D  
1 - Toro Sandpro 3020  
1 - Toro Multipro 1250  
4 - Toro Workman 2100  
1 - Toro Workman 3200  
1 - Toro Topdresser 1800  
2 - Toro 4300 D  
1 - Toro PA 17 Fertilizer Spreader  
2 - John Deere Gators 6x4  
2 - Ez-Go Work Horse  
2 - Yamaha Golf Carts  
1 - Salsco Roller  
1 - Tycrop MH400 with attachments  
2 - Kubota 4310 Tractors  
1 - Kubota M8200 Tractor  
1 - Kubota R520 Loader  
2 - Supertilt Trailers  
1 - Tee Gee Grademaker  
1 - Bergal B40 Blower  
1 - Command Blower  
2 - Stihl Backpack Blowers

2 - Stihl FS85 Line Trimmers

2 - Honda Water Pumps

1 - Aerway

1 - Ryan Junior Sodcutter

1 - Greensgroomer Brush

1 - Flymower

1 - Honda Push Mower

2 - Scotts Rotary Spreaders

2 - Scotts Drop Spreaders

2 - Ford F150

1 - Ford F250

1 - Myers Snow Plow

1 - Byers Sander

1 - Agrotrend Snowblower

2 - Honda Four Wheelers

2 - Skidoo Snowmobiles

Assortment of hand and power tools

### COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

In 2003 we finished constructing the back 9

### LONG RANGE PLANS

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

New driving Range  
Landscaping the Clubhouse  
Finish maintenance facility  
Thinning the tree canopy around the greens & tees

### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

The golf course is spread out over huge piece of property which involves a lot of travel time

As well, the maintenance facility is not close to golf course - again, lots of travel time

### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Opening the golf course after undergoing a complete renovation before course was ever opened.



# Seguin Valley Golf & Country Club

Article and Photos by John Bladon

Editor, *Green is Beautiful*

Constructing and growing in a golf course is no small task. Commencing renovations without even having opened the doors for business is another thing all together.

Recently *Green is Beautiful* met up with OGSA member Chris Hudswell at his worksite in Seguin Township. A University of Guelph graduate, Chris has been entrusted with the renovation and grow in of a golf course originally known as "The Sanctuary." He recently celebrated his 2 year anniversary onsite. That celebration will conclude on September 20<sup>th</sup> with the long awaited opening of the back nine at what will now be known as "Seguin Valley Golf and Country Club."



Approach to 8th green

Set on a massive acreage just south of Parry Sound, the public play facility was the dream of owner Robert McRae. McRae, a former pilot and visionary, had been gradually buying up pieces of land from friends, neighbors and other vendors until he finally stood firm on the current 2000 plus acre parcel. Chris was hired and brought onsite shortly before Labour Day in 2001 by President Ron Dennis. I asked him about his responsibilities when he first arrived. "Mr. McRae and Ron made it clear they wanted to be open for business ASAP" he replied. "The original project management had not gone well. The first order of business was to take an inventory of where things stood and then develop a strategy to get those goals executed." When Chris first toured the site he saw fully constructed greens seeded with Penncross creeping bent. The bent was so long he was amazed to see it had begun producing seed heads. "We've come a long way since then" he remarked with a wry smile.

As we began our tour, I was impressed by what I saw. The



New asphalt cart path through former 15th green site

clubhouse, set for a spring 2004 opening, saw sprawled in the distance high above the first tee. The full log structure looked like a wooden fortress ready to defend the hilltop from battle weary golfers. We proceeded to the first tee and began our trip around the new layout. Equipped with 5 sets of teeing grounds, Seguin Valley could play as long as 6862 yards or as short as 4552 depending on your nerves. Newly reconstructed greens had been seeded to A-4 creeping bentgrass and PennTrio bent used for both tees and fairways. Chris explained that a native sand lens had been poured over the entire routing and that Hutcheson's 80-20 had been selected as the putting green rootzone. As we continued, I was reminded of similar trips around courses like Rocky Crest and Taboo. Carved through the towering hardwoods and around jutting Pre-Cambrian shield, in this author's opinion, Seguin Valley would eventually rival those Muskoka gems.



Chris, Griff and Ron - Chris & Ron accessing renovations on the back 9

*continued on page 28...*



# The 2003 Bell Canadian Open

*In Conversation with Rhod Trainor, Golf Course Superintendent, Hamilton Golf and Country Club  
Article and Photos by John Bladon  
Editor, Green is Beautiful*

*I*t is Wednesday morning and a fog hangs in the air. The roar of 18 wheelers, fork trucks and maintenance equipment is intertwined with the fog. The Bell Canadian Open officially went into the books when Bob Tway dropped a two footer on the 18<sup>th</sup> green early Sunday evening but, the real work has perhaps, just begun - teardown! As I rolled up to Hamilton's maintenance facilities, bustling with activity, Golf Course Superintendent Rhod Trainor extends his hand with a smile and I offer my congratulations on a very successful Canadian Open. We retreat to the peacefulness of his office.

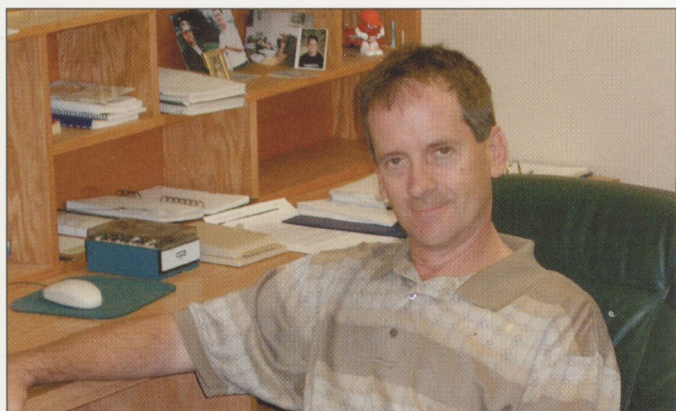
*GisB:* So how was your weekend, I laughed?

*RT:* One of the better ones in recent memory, he chuckled, both for the City of Hamilton and particularly for all of us affiliated with Hamilton Golf and Country Club. The city's corporate community really responded with support and the golf course really stood up against the highest levels of scrutiny. It really was a tremendous team effort and I believe we did our membership proud.

*GisB:* The feedback from the players, through the media, appeared to be almost unanimous in their appreciation for the golf course and its conditioning. Did you feel that was the case?

*RT:* Indeed it was, from not only the players but, many of the officials as well. When PGA Tour officials tell you the bunkers were arguably the best they had seen all year, you really sit up and take notice.

*GisB:* Can you take us back through this whole process of preparing for a major championship? How did the ball start rolling?



Rhod Trainor

*RT:* In rough terms, it started back in 2001. Negotiations began with the RCGA and as they proceeded it ended with our membership voting that fall on whether or not they wanted both the benefits and responsibilities of hosting an Open.

*GisB:* Were there any big hurdles in the negotiations with the RCGA?

*RT:* The biggest item that needed amending was our practice facilities. To provide a practice range consistent with the standards offered at a major event like this was the immediate concern. Our former facilities just weren't large enough. Beyond that, it was a matter of lengthening some of the holes through tee reconstruction and renovation.

*GisB:* Was there an architect involved throughout the process?

*RT:* Yes, Tom Clark of Ault, Clark and Associates. They are an American firm out of Kensington, Maryland and facilitated our Master Plan. Dick Kirkpatrick was also involved as an onsite consultant throughout all our renovations and preparations. All, tremendous people to be affiliated with. They contributed immeasurably to our success here.

*GisB:* Beyond the practice range, would you walk us through the renovations to the golf course?

*RT:* Certainly. Like I said, we had to do some tee reconstruction and renovation. All told, 24 tees were built and eight of them were in use during the championship. Despite the fact that we only really needed those eight, we made the decision to renovate entire tee complexes. Logistically, it only made sense. Many of those areas were scheduled for future renovation or had antiquated irrigation, so we decided to take the opportunity to be proactive. The membership really made a commitment to the entire process. Those renos were completed by June of 2002. In the fall of that year, we began recontouring fairways. The specifications required that they be between 25 and 28 yards wide. We brought the fairway lines inward by regrassing areas with Kentucky Bluegrass sod. The decision to do the sodding not only improved our playability but also enhanced the visual appearance of the golf course.

*GisB:* How much sod was laid all told?

*RT:* Let's see, it was approximately 46,000 rolls.

*GisB:* Wow! Ok, it is now the spring of 2003. What had to be done from an agronomic point of view as the date of the Open began approaching?





Hamilton 13th green



Hamilton 10th tee

*RT:* We proceeded with regular maintenance until the first week of June. At that point we began growing the rough and establishing heights of cut. We had to facilitate a roping campaign to keep members out of the rough and on the fairways. Beyond that, the intense preparation began during advance week.

*GisB:* Advance week?

*RT:* Yes, simply a reference to when the PGA Tour agronomist, John Scott was scheduled to arrive onsite and begin fine tuning the golf course with us.

*GisB:* Could you walk us through the work done with John and at what stage in this process did the course close to member play?

*RT:* Five days prior, the golf course was closed to member play. Once John arrived we began working with green speeds, bunkers and roping. Firstly, it was agreed that 10.5 on the stimpmeter would be our maximum because of the severe slopes in many of our greens. He also began probing bunkers for sand depths and we spent two full days doing final bunker preparation. Lastly was the roping of the golf course for spectators. It took two and half days.

*GisB:* Prior to the start of the tournament, when was the last of the maintenance done on the rough and how was it completed?

*RT:* We did two separate mowings to the rough around green sites and on the bunker faces. That final mowing took place once the roping process was completed. Ironically, those mowings were done with hand rotary mowers. It took about 130 man hours.

*GisB:* Why hand rotary mowers?

*RT:* They are necessary because of the heights we were mowing at. The larger self propelled units we use here on a daily basis do not perform well at those heights. Quite simply, there is no equipment available in the industry that will provide the quality of the hand rotary mowers.

*GisB:* Were there any other major adjustments needed, equipment wise, for the tournament?

*RT:* Not particularly. I suppose the biggest item was lighting equipment. We cleaned out every Wal Mart, Kmart and Home Hardware from Brantford to Burlington. (Laughter) All told we ended up spending an extra \$1600.00 on headlamps and flashlights.

*GisB:* Ok, so we've arrived to tournament time. What had to be done day in and day out over the four days?

*RT:* Well, each morning we changed pin placements, double cut greens and prepared bunkers. During the evening hours, once play was completed we cut fairways, collars and approaches and tee boxes.

*GisB:* Were the greens rolled during the event?

*RT:* No, not at all. We achieved the desired green speeds without having the need to roll.

*GisB:* I noticed during the television broadcast things really began drying out as the tournament progressed. How much irrigation was done?

*RT:* Aside from light hand watering of greens, we did very little. It was important to keep things on the dry side. It improves playability and the plant complex, generally, is healthier in that state.

*GisB:* Again, through the media, we heard all the compliments the golf course and its conditioning received. I understand the PGA Tour and John suggested it was one of the easiest transitions at a first time tour stop. Did anyone come by and relay that personally?

*RT:* There were lots of positive comments from members, players, the media and the public and they were all appreciated. Like I said, I think we did our membership and the city proud. On a professional level having the PGA suggest that is a great compliment. I really appreciated it coming from John Scott as well. He is a former superintendent and so I felt like we related to one another as fellow agronomists.

*GisB:* So what is next for Rhod Trainor?

*RT:* Hmm., once teardown is complete, perhaps I'll manage to get caught up on some rest. After that, perhaps another Open? He looks at me and winks.

Rhod Trainor has been at Hamilton Golf & Country Club for 14 years. He is a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and is a past president of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (1992). He served as chairman of the executive committee of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium for 8 years. He has been married, to his lovely wife Sue, for 23 years and has 3 wonderful children, Katie, Michael and Kurtis.



Hamilton 15th Green



# Bunker Renovation at St. George's Golf and Country Club

by: Jason Hanna, Foreman  
St. George's Golf and Country Club

In the spring of 2003, St. George's Golf and Country Club embarked on a bunker restoration and renovation project. This is to be no ordinary renovation. The purpose of this project is to essentially return the bunkers to their original design along with new drainage, adding new sand and a grass lip. Each of these aspects of the renovation will be discussed later in the article.

Renowned golf course architect Stanley Thompson originally designed St. George's in 1929. The course was built as a business endeavor to increase the property value for real estate developments and for the guests of the Royal York Hotel.

Over the past seven decades, the one time massive, jagged bunkers which are known as Thompson's trade mark have shrunk and/or been filled in, slowly evolving into different shapes. This can be credited to the fact that the original bunkers were just too difficult to maintain for obvious monetary and workforce deficiencies. Also, some bunkers were simply too punishing to make for a fair modern day golf course.

With the recent addition of a new irrigation system, recurring problems with the consistency of the bunkers and a desire by the membership to return the course to its original design, a full renovation was the logical choice. As mentioned above, returning the bunkers to their exact original design would not work. Therefore, golf course superintendent John Gall devised the term "sympathetic bunker restoration". The goal of this renovation would be to within reason, return most of the bunkers on the golf course to their original design with the addition of a few new bunkers that had been filled in over the years. With the help of Ian Andrew and Doug Carrick from Carrick Design, aerial photographs, photographs from the clubhouse

and the natural topography of the property, it was not too difficult to come up with many of the original designs for the bunkers.

Next, it was decided in order to capture the original "rough" look of the bunkers and to simply be different, grass lips would be attempted rather than the soil edge already existing in the bunkers. Two potential benefits of this new design would be less contamination from the edge and due to the "rough" look less time would have to be spent manicuring the edges of the new bunkers. This approach to bunker construction certainly sounded good in theory but there were many challenges in construction to overcome before the project could continue. Namely, how could a grass lip be constructed in such a way that it would not collapse under its own weight or from that of the earth behind it? After a great deal of research, and experiments it was determined that moulding burlap bags filled with topsoil to form an edge for the sod to be placed seemed like the best choice. To tackle the project TDI International specifically measured a section of 12-inch pipe that was placed inside the bag and then filled by hand before removing the bag from the pipe. Using this method, each bag had the exact same amount of topsoil inside. The last step was to sew the bags shut using an industrial sewing machine. This proved to be the most efficient method for filling the bags.

Due to the magnitude of the project it was decided that it would be split into two phases. The first phase took place from spring 2003 through the first week of June and the second phase commencing after Labour Day. This approach although much longer, allowed the membership to have the course to themselves during the busy summer months. Another benefit to the two-phase approach allowed us to

have a three-month trial period with the new bunkers to address any problems and implement the necessary changes in the second phase.

The holes selected for the first phase were those that were simply in the worst shape or were relatively easy to access during the wet spring months experienced. A mini excavator with rubber tracks was used in each bunker to remove the existing sand and to work any changes that were specified in the design. This process generated a great deal of contaminated sand and soil. This material was transported throughout the property by tractor drawn trailers to an area in front of a tee complex with hopes of shaping a new tee if enough fill was generated. This practice cut costs in transporting and disposing the waste along with providing free fill. After each bunker had been emptied of its original sand and shaped, Ian or Doug would approve the sub grade before the drainage would begin. It was interesting to find that as the sand was removed, some bunkers had over three feet of sand before the original sub grade was reached. It was found that most of the bunkers had little or no drainage, but very few drainage problems. Therefore, this ample amount of sand most likely acted like a large sump or wet well. It was time to install some proper drainage. Each new bunker would have a series of drainage patterns ranging from herringbones, to smile drains. In order to correct drainage, eliminate washouts and improve playability a product known as Sand Trapper was used on all steep slopes. This wool-like material is approximately a half inch thick and is quite similar to the material found in furnace filters. This material has two main purposes; hold onto the sand on steep slopes and prevent plugging of the golf ball or fried egg lies, and secondly,



to allow water to flow between the sub grade and the Sand Trapper instead of on top of the sand, which would create ideal conditions for a wash out. The Sand Trapper was installed tucking the outside edges underneath the burlap bags. Each of the seams were overlapped by approximately one inch and fastened using sod staples placed every 12 to 16 inches apart. The bottom line of the Sand Trapper was tucked into a hand-dug trench where upon 2-inch perforated drainage tile was placed and then back filled with bunker sand. The function of the drainage tile is to aid in the removal of water as it flows under the fabric. The 2-inch tile is then connected into the 4-inch drain within the bunker. In all bunkers, perforated drainage tile was used inside the bunker and solid drainage tile outside.



A completed bunker prior to sodding

As the project progressed, drainage proved to be difficult due to the rolling terrain of the golf course and from trying to avoid long trenches across fairways. Originally in these difficult situations the plan called for installing various sized sumps to contain the drainage water from the bunkers before it can leach into the ground. Jim Sara, the project manager for TDI advised against this practice, explaining that the surface of the sump hole can sink and that many sumps are never designed large enough to handle the large volume of water that can potentially drain from a bunker during a heavy rainfall. To get around this, drainage designs needed to become more creative, one of the most impressive examples was on the eighteenth

hole, where a series of greenside bunkers were tied together by four inch drain. In some spots the drain was trenched up to five feet deep before a sufficient slope could be achieved.



Placing the burlap bags around a fairway bunker



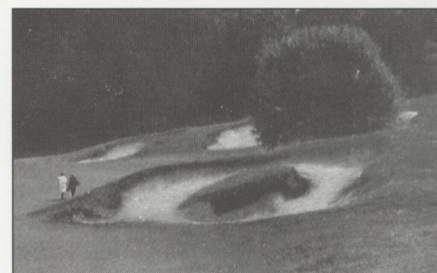
The final product

In the areas surrounding the new bunkers and especially on the faces poor soils and years of sand buildup were removed and replaced with topsoil. Most areas surrounding the bunkers were sodded with Kentucky Blue grass, with the exception of faces, which were sodded with fescue sod. The expectation of the fescue sod is to provide a hardier grass on the slopes that will be under heat stress during the summer months. A great deal of hand watering and stapling went into this step.

Upon completing the drainage and sodding it was time to begin adding the new sand. After speaking with superintendents at other golf courses and using a demonstration bunker for a year to obtain member feedback, it was decided to use Pro Angle bunker sand. Pro Angle, from Ohio and purchased through Hutcheson Sands is a manufactured sand, derived from grinding silica to form

particles with sharp jagged edges of various sizes. This characteristic is what separates Pro Angle from many of the other sands on the market, which have rounder particles. The above mentioned particle characteristics of Pro Angle were desirable for this project due to the firmness of the sand, which the golfers liked, and its ability to remain on steep slopes without blowing away or sliding down.

A bulk material handler was used to install the new bunker sand. This particular machine was well suited for the job because of its ability to haul over four yards of sand, and its operator friendly features. The conveyor belt attachment was handy in distributing the sand in the bunkers. The real work was the many hours of shoveling the sand by hand to ensure that the proper amounts were spread evenly throughout the bunker. The final step was to run a plate tamper over the wet sand. This allowed us to open bunkers shortly after renovation. On average each bunker required about 30 man-hours to prepare it for play.



The 15<sup>th</sup> fairway over 60 years ago

During the summer months a few challenges and lessons were learned. Maintaining the Sand Trapper proved to be one of our first challenges. Many of the seams were becoming exposed or frayed. Initially, it would seem that the solution to this problem would be simply piling more sand on the affected area, but more sand on the steep faces would only become soft allowing shots to plug or wash out to occur, therefore, eliminating the purpose of the fabric. To solve this problem, the seams of the affected areas were butted up against one



## Bunker Renovation at St. George's Golf and Country Club continued...

another and stapled, rather than the initial overlap. This method provided such a tight seam that it was difficult to find after the sand had been replaced.



The 15<sup>th</sup> fairway last year



The 15<sup>th</sup> fairway after the renovation

The burlap bags and any spaces left between them provided a great habitat for wasps and hornets. Unable to come up with a solution to this problem, hornet and wasp spray was the only option at

controlling these potentially dangerous pests.

Anthills in the bunkers quickly started to detract from the look of the new white sand, as they were bringing up soils from the sub grade. In some spots there were as many as 25 hills in a couple square feet. An effective solution to this challenge was placing small volumes of a granular insecticide on the surface of each hill. In most cases the ant activity decreased or ceased within a day.

Some bunker faces/edges facing South-West became extremely hot during the long summer afternoons. Naturally, as a result, the turf in these areas dried out at a startling rate. At first it could be thought that simply installing more part circle irrigation or increasing the water budget for these areas would solve the problem. Although they did not solve the problem, it was found that the only method for ensuring the survival of the grass was to hand water these edges. Perhaps in years to come as the new turf continues to root further this may become less of an issue.

Earlier it was mentioned that this new bunker design might decrease the amount of labour spent on bunker maintenance. This may be true for trimming and mowing, but from all other aspects these

bunkers have presented some new challenges, which require effective problem solving to find realistic solutions. With the second phase of the project now well under way, there is no doubt that many new challenges and learning experiences will arise.



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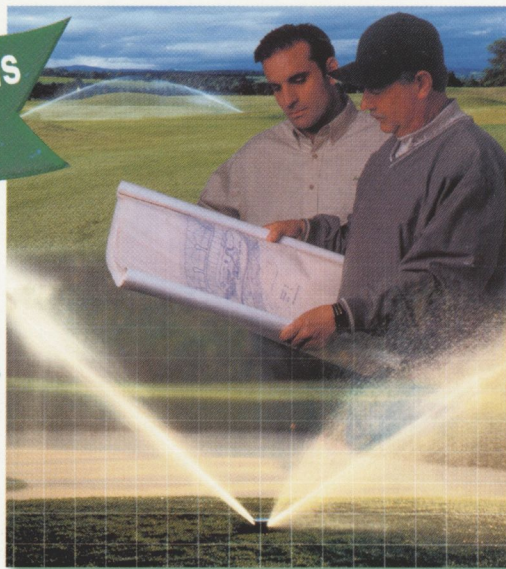
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# Cultural Practices

by Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent  
Credit Valley Golf & Country Club



Dragging in the sand following a light topdressing



Application of sand topdressing



Deep tining the fairway with shatter tines on the Aerway



Progress of incorporating sand into the profile as of October 2002

The topic of topdressing of fairways has been practiced at many facilities across the United States and Canada for years for a multitude of reasons. It was during my first year as superintendent at Credit Valley in 1999, the Green Committee and Board of Directors requested information regarding any alternatives to the aerification process normally completed in July of each year. This allowed the opportunity to introduce a couple of solutions to the directors with the main idea including the topdressing of the fairways.

First, a little background information about Credit Valley. The current layout was designed by Robbie Robinson and built in 1970 following land transfers and careful planning. The new layout included expansion

deeper into the valley and moved away from the business of Dundas Street. The Credit River winds itself through the valley and was to play an integral part of the new design.

In 1999, upon investigating the subsurface beneath the fairways, it was discovered that in some areas of the valley, there existed as little as 1" of soil on top of rock and shale. What was being experienced included very poor rooting, poor moisture retention and heating from beneath leading to turf that found it difficult to survive the summer months without ample amounts water and other inputs. Another difficulty experienced on annual basis was during the aerification process, it was common to break some 200 tines each time the fairways were



conventionally aerified with hollow tines set at a depth of three inches. Where the tines were able to penetrate into the ground was quite often a heavy soil with a large amount of clay. This made the destroying of the cores difficult because as the clay cores dried, they became projectile objects during the mechanical busting. This created a labour intensive situation to remove as many of these 'bullets' from the playing surface before they could be mowed. The amount of surface disruption was large and was often weeks before completely healed. As you can understand, the question about alternative aerification practices was a legitimate question from the directors responsible for the club.

The proposed plan consisted of deep tine aerifying the fairways with an Aerway unit complete with shatter tines every October followed by topdressing of sand. Additional topdressings were to be completed during the playing season and were planned for May, July and September. The spring and fall applications were to be heavy and the summer application lighter to minimize the stress factor. The main goal of the topdressing program was to build a subsurface layer above the rock and shale to allow the turf the opportunity to support itself with a healthy root system. The more sand we could apply, the quicker the results.

In order to achieve the desired results, many other factors needed to be considered, including equipment choice, selection of sand, potential soil/sand layering, impact on fertility management, impact on water management and irrigation heads, impact on surrounding roughs, wear and tear on mowing equipment and of course cost for each application.

We experienced excellent results with the Aerway shatter tines breaking up rock and improving the movement of water, nutrients and of course, grass roots. Sand was also working its way downwards through the slits created by the shatter tines, which increased the amount of root structures found deeper into the profile. While this was being experienced, we also expected some layering to begin forming requiring a more conventional approach to offset the resource movement downwards. Therefore, we'll begin to aerifying with solid tines in front of the topdressing to begin creating the channels through the sand layer found in some areas of the golf course to be 1 1/2" thick. We experienced some turf loss this past summer due to shallow rooting that refused to move through the sand layer, therefore indicating it is time to open up the channels. The range in sand layer thickness around the course is 4/5" to 1 1/2" and it is anticipated that with

continued applications going forward we will build upon this initial layer with continued success.

Results experienced since beginning the program:

Smoother fairway surfaces improving mowing quality and allowing the golf ball to 'sit up' much better. Our members feel they are getting a better lie on many of our fairways outside of terrain.

Quicker surface drainage following a rain.

Using calcareous sand has produced a green up following each sand application.

Firmer and smoother approaches in front of green sites. Less earthworm castings have been observed later in the spring and earlier in the fall except during extremely wet weather when the castings will emerge regardless.

Learning experiences early on in the program:

Be sure to cover irrigation heads prior to the application of the sand and leave them covered until the sand has been dragged to avoid problems with head performance.

Ensure adequate moisture is present prior to topdressing.

Approach with some level of patience. Being aggressive with the amount of sand being applied during a single application can lead to many frustrations for the two weeks following.

While our fifth season of topdressing fairways comes to an end, I believe it has been a successful road traveled thus far. We have adapted our maintenance regimes surrounding the fairways each year and look forward with great anticipation as conditions continue to improve. This program has worked well at Credit Valley and has addressed the subsoil issues with the amount of rock so close to the surface. Is it for everybody? While it has created many positives for Credit Valley, many questions and investigations must be completed at each golf course before embarking on this type of maintenance program. Communication has played a key role in the success of the program and the Credit Valley Board should be congratulated for making the long-term commitment of topdressing the fairways. While success has been experienced to date, we must continue to monitor soil health tests, irrigation practices and other variables in order to provide excellent playing conditions for the members at Credit Valley for years to come.



## "Score" Superintendent of the year, Paul White continued...

Paul's family is fully involved in the golf business. His son Peter is Superintendent at Nottawasaga Inn Golf Club, James is the Superintendent at King's Bay Golf & Country Club, and Scott is Assistant Superintendent at Donalda Club. His daughter, Melissa enjoys working on the golf course but has completed her studies in history at Trent University, and is looking forward to attending teachers college. Since their move to Keswick, his wife Helen has begun to play more golf and is busy visiting their new grandson, William.

*"I know that my father's love of golf and turfgrass management is second only to the love he has for his family."* Scott White, Assistant Grounds Manager, Donalda Club

Paul has a great enthusiasm for his profession and is enjoying being involved in a hands-on operation. He is held in very high esteem by his colleagues, as is evidenced by some of their comments.

*"When I think of professionalism in the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association, I think of Paul White"* Professor J.M. Vargas, Jr.



Paul and Bogey

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## Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

### Fall Clips & Cuttings

While pruning back and tidying up the garden in the early fall, I like to collect some of the clippings and propagate plants by cuttings. Along with the obvious

economic advantage, propagation by cuttings is a thrill. With a small investment in time, a few inexpensive supplies and an experimental spirit, you can substantially increase your stock of desirable plants.

Cuttings are generally classified into three groups. Softwood, usually taken in the spring or early summer, semi-hardwood, taken in the late summer or fall and hardwood, taken when the plant is dormant. Semi-hardwood cuttings can be taken now (early fall). Broadleaved evergreens such as boxwood, holly and euonymus are in a rootable, semi-hardwood state from August until November/December. The cuttings are taken from the current season's growth rather than the older wood, closer to the trunks or main stems. Cuttings should be 3-6 inches long with the basal one-half of the leaves removed. The growing tip should be pinched off. Dipping the bottom end with StimRoot #1 (rooting hormone) will help to encourage rooting. As a general rule when taking cuttings, work in the early part of the day in a cool, shady location.

Keep the cuttings away from the direct sun to prevent water loss.

For smaller scale propagation at any time of the year, I use flats filled with a rooting mix such as perlite, vermiculite or coarse sand. I keep the root zone warm and place a plastic cover over the flat to keep the humidity high. For slightly larger scale propagation and especially for semi-hardwood cuttings in the fall, I find that a cold-frame is ideal for my needs. A cold-frame is a bottomless, box-like structure with a removable top glazed with glass or covered with some transparent material. The frame should be situated in an area protected from the wind, facing the sun and usually against a building. When the lid of the frame is closed, the area inside will be kept warmer. This added warmth will assist in the rooting of cuttings, protect tender plants over winter or will allow you to start seeds earlier in the spring than outside conditions will allow. If you want to be slightly more sophisticated and extend the growing season inside the frame even longer, you can convert it into a hot-bed by adding heating cables to the soil. The hot-bed could be used for rooting hardwood cuttings which are taken in the early winter.

Cuttings can be rooted in any substrate providing good air/water relationships. Sand, perlite, vermiculite, shredded bark and peat are some of the common components of rooting mixes. In my

cold frame, I have added a thick layer of a sand/ compost/peat mix which is raised slightly from the original soil level. Topdressing sand, mixed 50/50 with an organic matter such as peat or compost would be a suitable substrate inside a cold frame.

This fall I have concentrated my efforts with boxwood, since this is one plant which roots easily, is useful for hedges and edges and you tend to need a lot of them. I am very keen on the ornamental appeal of knot-gardens formed by boxwood! I 'stick' the cuttings about 1 inch apart and 2 inch deep in my cold frame now. I use the lid to control the temperature and humidity levels by keeping the lid open on warm and rainy days and closed on cool nights. By doing this the cuttings will root over the course of the fall and early winter and be ready for transplanting by next spring or fall.

Success in propagation by cuttings is not a guarantee but it can be achieved by trial and error. By starting with something easy, like boxwood, you will have encouraging results and be inclined to expand your operation. For further information and resources for propagating plants, please contact me through my website [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com)

Visit my website [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com) for more tips on gardening.



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The start of Everett's career in the industry began in 1987, with Grand Valley Farm Supply, in Elmira. It was a trying time for this rookie sales rep. However, 2 golf course superintendents, namely Hugh Kirkpatrick and Greg Aljoe took him under their wing.

His next endeavours lead him to the Ontario Seed Company where he worked for the Uffelman family. He started the Golf Course Division from the ground up and gained invaluable experience doing so. He gained a lot of knowledge of the business aspects through Scott, Buck and Jim Uffelman.


In 1993 Everett was given the opportunity to work as a Sales Rep for McCracken Golf Supply. Dennis McCracken was revered in the industry as one of the most knowledgeable people in the golf course industry. His approach was service with knowledge, and he always put the customer's needs first.

Having worked for 2 excellent family run businesses Everett got the chance to work for a corporate company, United Horticultural Supply. He found a definite difference compared to a small business. After a couple of seasons in the corporate world he was given the opportunity to start his own business.

It has been a trying time and a lot of doors where shut when he started Master's Turf Supply. This has not dampened his spirit however, and Master's Turf is starting to develop into a successful company and the service and knowledge is a real asset to the golf course industry. Everett appreciates the people in the turf industry that have believed in him from the start, and without them Master's Turf Supply Ltd. wouldn't have been a successful company.

There are presently 3 sales representatives servicing the Ontario market. They are: Everett Nieuwkoop, South Western Ontario; Gary Tate, North and Niagara Region and James Woloszanski, Eastern Region.

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# On the road again

by Angelo Capannelli  
*Hutcheson Sand and Mixes*

The article *On the road again* is exactly that. The experiences of a particular salesperson, in this case me, on the road. Sometimes there is a single topic or an event that I devote the entire article to, and at other times there are several that are worthy of mentioning, as in this case with the PGA Championship, the Bell Canadian Open and the Garibaldi Tournament.

The PGA Championship this year was being held at the Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY. Rochester is a short trip, only 2 1/2 away, from my home, in Waterdown, Ontario. Being that this tournament is considered a major it would attract the best players in the world and especially it was being billed as Tiger's "last chance" to win a major in 2003. The excitement would only be multiplied to see Canada's own, Mike Weir, play well at this tournament and to be considered "Player of the Year" on the PGA tour. Oak Hill Country Club is part of a wonderful little community of Pittsford which boasts estate homes, and you guessed it, plenty of Oak trees.

The golf course itself has hosted many major golf tournaments and most recently the 1995 Ryder Cup matches. Mr. Paul Latshaw Jr. and his staff had the golf course finely tuned and in the shape a golf course should be to host an event such as the PGA championship. Thick rough and fast tight greens were the order of the day. The golf scores on that Friday were representative of those

conditions. We managed to follow Mike Weir through 18 holes and an additional treat to that was his playing partners were Jim Furyk and Ben Curtis, 2 major champion winners. I think Mike Weir beat both of them that day. Well done Mike!!!! A great day on a great golf course and only a few hours away from my home. I can't wait for the Ryder Cup matches at Oakland Hills next year.

A couple of days later it was off to the Garibaldi Tournament at Victoria East Golf Club in Guelph, Ontario. The DeCorso family hosts this event every year to bring together Italians and their guests from parts of Ontario and the U.S. to pay tribute to Garibaldi, an Italian explorer? I think? Next time you see Pelino Scenna ask him to explain the significance of Garibaldi. Personally, besides playing a good golf course that is always in great condition, it's an excuse to indulge in some fine Italian culture. As if I need an excuse to do this? It is a day where I can eat good Italian food ( there is no bad Italian food ) drink some red wine from the private DeCorso cantina and listen to an accordion player named Mo serenade the guests on the golf course. Well done DeCorso family!! Register me for next year's event.

The Bell Canadian Open was just contested at the Hamilton Golf & Country Club in Ancaster, Ontario. I think we will all agree that the tournament was a huge success. The player's loved the golf course as they

were playing an old "traditional" golf course that presented a huge challenge. Narrow fairways and deep rough combined with fast, firm greens with many subtleties, kept the scores low for Canadian Open standards. Player's like Mike Weir and Ian Legget suggested that our National Open should be a good test of golf similar to the U.S. Open and thus, Hamilton Golf & Country Club provided exactly that! Our compliments go to Rhod Trainor, Tracy Fowler, Brian Haum and the entire green's staff at Hamilton Golf & Country Club for a job well done. Oh, and whomever brought the Haagen Dazs ice cream to the hospitality tents, well done also !!!!





# Seguin Valley Golf & Country Club

continued...

I asked Chris about all the challenges that existed with the site and if there were any particular accomplishments he was proud of. "The first two things that come to mind are having to completely rewire the irrigation system after the original installation and managing the fertility requirements over the sand lens. Going from managing turfgrasses on blue clay to pure sand is quite a switch" he smiled. "Beyond that" he replied, "some of the site rehabilitation work we did in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, I'm very proud of. Along the edge of McCrae Lake, we agreed to construct fish cribs to help with the spawning of native fish species." I asked him about the specifications of the cribs. "Essentially, they were a 2 metre deep box built out of hemlock." Chris explained that hemlock or cedar is generally used because of its high resin content and therefore longer lifespan when submerged. "We sank the cribs in winter and then had a 30 day window in July, when there was no risk of disrupting any spawning, to backfill 1.5 meters of granite and 0.5 meters of triple mix. We then planted the cribs with native lily pads, sedges and rushes."

As we concluded our tour, I asked him about the club's plans for the upcoming winter and next season. "Our highest priorities are to continue improving the conditions on the

golf course and complete the practice range" he replied. "Once winter sets in we'll work to prepare the clubhouse for next season's opening and proceed with a critical path on items that will address fine tuning the golf course."

For information on Seguin, visit their website at [www.seguinvalleygolf.com](http://www.seguinvalleygolf.com) or email Chris at [hudswell@vianet.ca](mailto:hudswell@vianet.ca).



New 1st green with former green site in background



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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North

Lots of courses now have a memorial tree program, which is little more than a way of taking advantage of other people's misery by getting them to purchase overpriced nursery stock you can't fit into your budget, but some courses have found a way to continue collecting membership fees even after death. They've made part of the course a bona fide cemetery. You can join the club as a junior and never get good tee times, pay more as an adult and not have time to play, get a reduced price as a senior and not be healthy enough to play, and then buy a plot, pay perpetual care and never play.

It's a pretty good scam, and it got me thinking. This time of year, the budget is always a little tight, and short of becoming an obstetrician or a mortician, there's probably not too many more ways of getting the golfers to give us money. So, in the spirit of all those Canadian Living magazines my wife leaves in the bathroom, I present "How to Stretch your Budget this Holiday Season". (Obviously I stole the title from an article about how to make Christmas decorations out of pipe cleaner and toilet paper rolls, but get the idea.) This is the advice that Martha Stewart would give you if she wasn't so busy figuring out how she's going to decorate a 4 by 8 foot room in an attractive yet functional way. I feel qualified to speak on her behalf, as I happen to have some of her paint on the walls of my office right now. It was left over from one of my wife's multiple redecorating projects and I brought it in. The guys seem to like it as long as I don't call it "Summer Pear" when it's clearly "Bile Green".

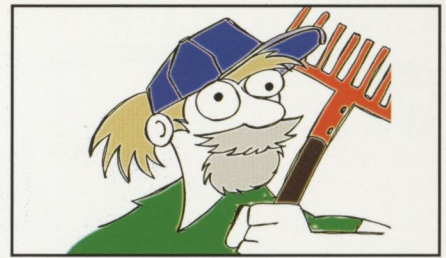
Now I know a lot of you guys, and I know exactly what you're thinking when I start talking about generating revenue in the shop, but rightly or wrongly, "cock fighting" is still illegal in this country. You can't install a runway and a brass pole without infringing on all kinds of bylaws, and yes, you still need a liquor license even if you make the booze yourself. Casinos are out, and someone would notice the huge hydro bills if you set up a hydroponics operation. So when all the really good ideas are against the law, what's a fellow to do?

Take back all the empties from the whole summer to the beer store in one big pile. With a huge pile, those lazy beer store guys will *never* count them and you can 'overestimate' yourself about a 20% profit right here! Then, my recommendation would be to take the whole whack of cash to the nearest track and bet the lot on the first horse with a name that has a golf connection. It's just that easy!

Behind your shop, there's a fortune in fertilizer skids. The deposit on them is already paid and you *could* send them back and get that money back. Sure, you *could*. Or, you could cut them into little pieces and sell them to campers for firewood at 10 bucks a bag. At a half dozen bags per skid that's a 100% profit. But there's an easier, faster, and more profitable use. Smash them to bits with a skid steer or by running over them with a tractor. See, making money can be fun too! Then, gather up all the little pieces and sell them on Sunday morning television and on the internet, by *implying* that they are genuine chunks of Noah's ark. The word *implying* is very important here. It's the difference between profitability and culpability.

But, let's not forget about the other side of your balance sheet, the expenses. Why spend the hard earned money that

you just made by selling chainsaw sculptures and worn



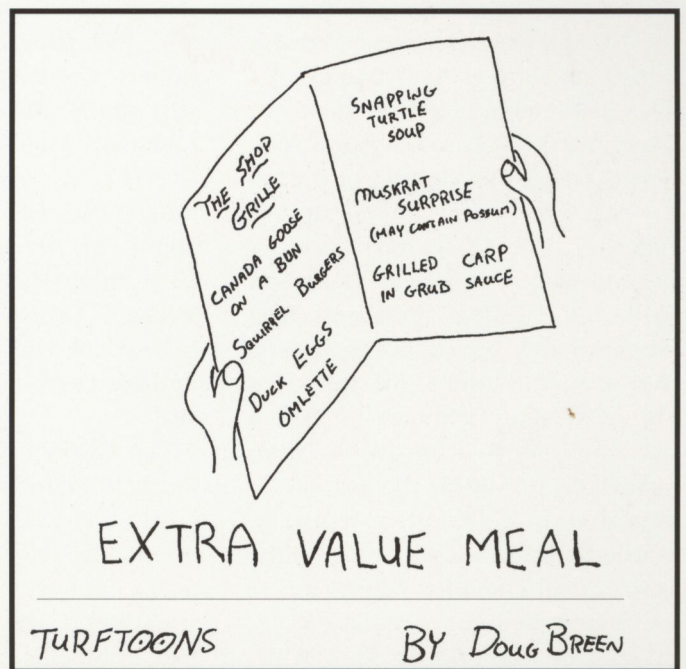
bed knife wind chimes on expensive inputs like fertilizer or seed? If TV shows like Changing Rooms have taught me nothing else, they have taught me the magic of faux painting. Whys go to all the labour and expense of maintaining troublesome greens when a few dollars worth of paint and Saran Wrap can give you the same effect?

No need to waste time cutting down that dead tree. Just fasten some dead leaves back on there with a staple gun. If no leaves are available, a little green crepe paper or a shredded green garbage bag will have the same effect. This is also an excellent opportunity to use your hot glue gun, a wonderful tool which will fasten anything to anything for a maximum of 25 minutes.

Here's a budget saver. I've found that people will do almost anything for free golf. Remember that jerk in high school who always pulled down your shorts in gym class and stole your girlfriend. You could get him, his Porsche and his MBA, to clean out that grease trap in the kitchen and thank you for it. Because *you* have free golf. Why pay staff to do all those jobs no one likes when you can get your friends to do them for nothing?

Do flagsticks really need to be so tall? Cut them in half and get two for the price of one! Why not a papier mâché retaining wall? Artificial flowers are always in bloom and so much.

There are literally dozens of other budget stretching ideas like these, which are available to you if you purchase my new book, "How I Balanced my Turf Budget by Writing a Book. Just send three easy payments of \$29.99 to my account in the Cayman Islands. If enough of your cheques clear, I'll start writing.





# Looking back

## 15 years ago today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1988 were **Thom Charters** (president), Weston, **Neil Acton** (vice), Brooklea, **Robert Kennedy** (past), City of St. Catharines, **Gord Nimmo** (tres.) Sarnia, **Ron Heesen**, Beachgrove, **Rhod Trainor** (editor), St. Thomas, **Greg O'Heron**, Peterborough, **John Taylor**, Twenty Valley, **Scott Dodson**, Summit, **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst, **Mark Hagen**, Wyldeewood and **David Gourlay**, Beacon Hall. **Cindi Charters** was the office secretary.

**On the move:** **Barry Endicott** left Millcroft Golf Club and went to Nobleton Lakes Golf Club and **Walt Dudnick** left Dalewood and went to Millcroft. **Scott Dodson** started his new job at the Summit Golf Club and **Barry Britton** left Glendale to start a new golf course called Lionhead, in Brampton. **Greg O'Heron** started his new position at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club this spring and taking over for him at Markland Wood is **Vince Dermott**. **Ray Richards** goes from Base Borden GC to Midland GC while **Bruce Clark** leaves Midland to assume the superintendent's responsibilities at the Newmarket GC. **Steve Verral** is setting up shop at the Royal Ottawa GC after some good years at Catarqui G & CC, in Kingston. **Rick Serrao** leaves the Thunderbird Club to become superintendent at Ingersol G & CC. **Bill Bowen** is beginning a new job at Dalewood Golf and Curling Club and **Ron Heesen** leaves Beachgrove to become the superintendent at the new Monterra GC in Collingwood. Filling his shoes at Beachgrove is **Mark Schneider**, previously the assistant at Westmount. Another assistant, **Wayne Rath** from Credit Valley is the new superintendent at Islington G & CC **Simon George**, of Indian Wells, takes over Oakville G & CC while

**George Garner** moves over to Glendale G & CC. **Paul Romahn** goes from Dundee CC to Elmira G & CC and from the Indian Creek GC goes **Jim Burlington** to assume his new responsibilities at Erie Shores G & CC. **Mike Post** moves from Strathroy to Huron Oakes in Sarnia. **Doug Colley** went from Duke Lawn and joined **Jim Tanner** and **Dave Park** at Marmac Hydraulics to sell the new 5-plex Lesco fairway mower. **Butch Middleton**, former superintendent at Ottawa Hunt GC has joined G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. **Mike Smith**, from Glen Abbey, joined Duke in the Toronto area and **Rick Appel** is in the western part of the province.

**New Members:** **Randy Higgins**, Toronto Hunt (F), **Joey St. Pierre**, Essex GC (F), **Hugh Shields**, Talbot Park GC, (F), **Blair Rennie**, Unionville GC (B), **Leo Daigle**, Carrying Place (F), **Hughie Smith**, Thornhill GC (F), **Mark Young**, Muskoka Lakes (F), **Dan Mayzik**, Essex GC (F), **John Kinch** Muskoka Lakes (F), **Richard Ziegel**, Burlington Springs (B), **T.H. Roest**, Lely Ltd. (E), **Phillip Dickie**, Fast Forest Inc. (E), **Josh Brown**, Glendale G C (F), **Robert Cresswell**, Pleasant Valley (B), **Mark McClure**, Burford Golf Links (B), **James Monkman**, Uplands GC (F), **Art Van Veld**, Simoro Golf Links (D), **Gil Edwards**, Sault Ste. Marie (B), **Art Maw**, Evergreen GC (B), **Brian Haus**, Glenway GC (F), **Michael Creed**, Oshawa GC (F), **John Cockerill**, Summit GC (F), **Andrew Gaydon**, Shemin Nurseries (E).

The **CGSA** Conference and Show was held in Toronto from March 6th – 10th at the Harbour Castle Weston. Attendance records were shattered with almost 1,600 delegates attending. The **OGSA** sponsored a Past Presidents luncheon. Those in

attendance were **Hugh Kirkpatrick** (1985), **Paul Scenna** (1978), **Barry Endicott** (1986), **Bill Hynd** (1972), **Al Beeney** (1977), **Dave Gourlay Sr.** (1968), **John Arends** (1971), **Bob Moote** (1967), **Jim Wyllie** (1973), **Paul Dermott** (1975, 1976), **Dr. Lee Burpee**, University of Guelph, **Barry Britton**, CGSA President, **John Sequi**, GCSAA President, and **Randy Scott**, Canadian Superintendent of the year. **John Steel** was recently inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

**Barry Endicott** chaired the 2-day **OGSA Symposium** held at the University of Guelph. The speakers included **Dean McEwen**, **Annette Anderson**, **Dr. Lee Burpee**, **Dr. Jack Eggens**, **Norm McCollum**, **Jim Molenhuis**, Glenway, **Dave Gourlay Jr.**, Beacon Hall, and **John Arends**, Centennial Park. **Dr. Jim Watson** was the closing speaker.

The **GCSAA** Conference and Show was held in Houston with **Dan Uzelac** (just recently retired), **Dennis Pellrene**, Scarboro, and **Barry Endicott**, Nobleton Lakes, giving talks. **Mac Frost** was the Chairman of the **RCGA** Green Section and it was announced that an **RCGA** Green Consultant programme was being offered for a fee of \$400.00 per visit. **Thomas Unworthy** passed away in the summer.

The final meeting of the **GBGA** was held at Muskoka Lakes Golf Club on September 13<sup>th</sup>. **Dave Smith** was host for the day and **Marlon Giesler**, assistant at Brooklea, had the low round with a 75 including a hole in one. Previous Golf Days were held at Brooklea, **Neil Acton**, Bonaire, **Randy Fielder**, Blue Mountain, **Kim Hanley** and Barrie, **Ed Doda**. **Ray Richards** was the president.

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# The Grass Isn't Always Greener

by Neil Acton

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Professional turfgrass science and maintenance have done admirably well in keeping up with an ever-demanding golf population. As our golfers travel more, enjoying numerous golf courses in the process, they often return home with newfound expectations of what maintenance improvements they would like to see implemented at their home clubs.

Financial factors aside, there are many reasons why certain maintenance practices employed successfully at the golf course down the street may well prove disastrous if implemented at your club.

My first example is an obvious one, that being green speed. Many golfers are under the assumption that the superintendent simply lowers the height of cut on the greensmowers in the morning and presto! - Augusta National greens. Oh, if it were only true, we superintendents might be able to spend a little more time with our families. The truth of the matter is quite another story.

Fast, smooth greens are developed over time and kept that way with diligent expertise. To stress the turfgrass plant to that degree, all factors affecting turfgrass growth and development must be suitable. Turfgrass variety, root zone medium, irrigation capability, water quality, green size, microclimates, amount of play, as well as golfer acceptance are all factors which come quickly to mind.

Another consideration is the more frequent disruptions to play your golfers will experience. Fast greens require more of everything - mowing coring, vertical mowing, topdressing, pesticides and syringing. Excessive green speeds witnessed on television or experienced at 1 or 2 day

invitationals are usually only short-term conditions. Such speeds maintained for any great length of time may jeopardize long-term turfgrass health.

One of the more visually appealing as well as agronomically beneficial practices to appear in the past few years has been the mowing of fairways with light mowers and the subsequent removal of clippings.

This program is great if your turfgrass varieties are correct and your fairways are smooth enough. However, this practice would not turn out very well if adapted on predominantly Kentucky bluegrass fairways. Even the dwarf varieties of Kentucky bluegrass cannot withstand sustained cutting heights below 1/2 inch. The bentgrasses have excelled in this area. Even if your club is prepared to level and reseed your fairways to bentgrass, make sure you secure your bentgrass seed prior to doing anything drastic. Turfgrass seed shortages, particularly bentgrass, have plagued the industry the past few years.

Most every golfer expects his golf ball to stop dead once it hits the green surface. It doesn't seem to matter how they hit the ball (probably a Surlyn cover), or how deep the grass was where they hit the ball. What seems to matter to them the most is how much water the green received last night. Should the ball fail to come to an abrupt stop, that blasted superintendent didn't water the green enough. FALSE!!

First, let's discuss the golfer. Fewer than 5% of golfers strike the ball properly to create backspin. These same golfers also use Balata balls which spin faster, thus creating more spin. This minority also hits the majority of their shots from short

fairway turf where no grass will come between his clubface (utilizing those square grooves to the utmost) and the golf ball. If these people can't stop the ball, then let's look at problems other than insufficient water.

Are the greens constructed properly with the correct root zone medium? Are the greens angled to the golfers or do they run away from them, quite a common problem? (The transit will be required to ascertain this - you can't go by the eye.) Has play been kept off the greens at times of excessive moisture to avoid compaction? And last but not least, has the superintendent been permitted to aerify the greens whenever he has deemed it necessary or has there always been an "important" tournament or competition to take priority? The practice of hounding the superintendent to over-water the greens to accept any shot, no matter how poorly executed, just compounds the problem. Over-watering not only weakens the turfgrass in general, it also promotes further compaction.

Golf courses are living, growing environments which require constant monitoring and care. The Professional Golf Course Superintendent is trained and educated to act and react to subtleties and nuances experienced on a daily basis on the golf course. His, or her, thoughts on any matter concerning the golf course should be sought and heeded. Their goals are the same as yours - that is, to provide the best possible playing conditions and surroundings with available resources.

After all, he is your silent playing partner.





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