

**INSIDE:
2005 OGSA/CGSA
JOINT CONFERENCE**

December 2004

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

2005 OGSA/CGSA Joint Conference

Super & Pro Save Golfer's Life

A Pox On Your Fairways

The New Organics

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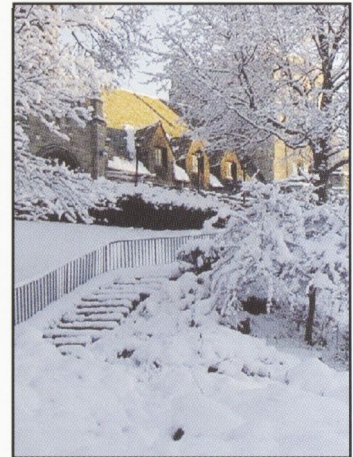
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Park Country Club of Buffalo

*photo by Scott Dodson, CGCS
Golf Course Superintendent*

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

President's message

by Rob Ackermann Weston Golf & Country Club

Since my last report, the OGSA Board has completed a comprehensive strategic plan. In order to accomplish this daunting task, I had all of our directors locked in a room with no windows for a day to think about nothing but the OGSA's current and future directions. The planning session was extremely productive and resulted in 7 Key Result Areas that are linked with many associated ideas and action items. The 7 Key Result Areas are as follows:

1. Financial Viability.
2. Member Services.
3. Professional Development.
4. Staffing.
5. OGSA's relationship with other superintendent associations.
6. OGSA's relationship with other golf associations.
7. OGSA's role in environmental issues.

All of our directors will now have specific responsibilities, related to these Key Result Areas, which will allow the OGSA to stay on a path of continued growth and success.



I have long maintained that the most important part of our profession is people. Without good people, not much worthwhile happens. Now, after 8 years as a director of the OGSA, my time is up. I would like to thank you for providing me the opportunity to interact with the wonderful people involved in our great profession.

Now, what gives with the picture above? Well, recently someone asked what I'm going to be doing with all my spare time once my duties on the board comes to an end – my three part answer is in the picture above.

All the best over the holiday season and beyond!



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Green is Beautiful 2004

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Editor's message



by John Bladon
Nu-Gro Corporation

Well, another change of season has arrived and with it comes a season of revamping, reinventing, refurbishing, learning and planning.

The Green is Beautiful Editorial Committee had its annual meeting with the focus being next year's planning, improvements and selecting Article of the Year and Photo of the Year. If you as a member have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to email Dorothy or myself.

This final edition of the season is filled with some more fine submissions. I would like to thank all those regular contributors for their efforts during 2004. Daisy Moore, Angelo Capannelli, Mark Prieur, Barry Endicott, Doug Breen, Larry Murray, Doug Johnson and Pam Charbonneau...cheers to you for making this publication a better one! Also, all those superintendents and associates who made contributions throughout 2004, many thanks for your efforts.

Lastly, the joint CGSA/OGSA conference promises to be outstanding. In the interim, I hope you and your families have a great holiday season. See you in Toronto!

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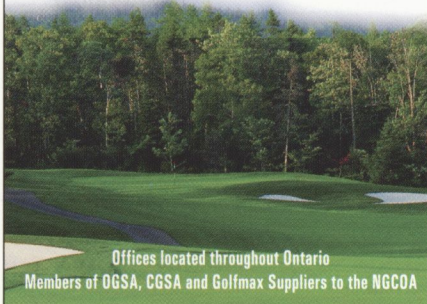
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Victor Freiberg Ken Graham
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David Schmelefske

From roots to shoots

The Year In Review 2004



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass
Specialist

The winter of 2003/2004 started with a pretty dry early fall and an extremely wet late fall in 2003. Because of this, many superintendents applied their preventative winter fungicide protection and then, they received enough rain to make the fungicides ineffective. There was a lot of variation in the performance of the fungicide applications depending on the date they were applied. As a result, some superintendents came out of

the winter with more snow mould than they had seen for many years and others came out very clean. The snow, when it did fall, fell on frozen ground and in some instances the temperatures were a bit too cold for snow mould development. It is interesting that some courses in the area had ample pink and grey snow mould and Dr. Hsiang, who needed the snow mould for his fungicide efficacy trials, did not get any.

Diseases

As usual, the spring was pretty cool and wet. This provided ideal conditions for Fusarium patch well into late spring. The outer edges of snow mould scars were active during many days during the spring and there were new Fusarium patch spots developing as well. On shaded greens it remained active well into the late spring and early summer.

Summer, what summer? I think we had our warmest and driest weather in September. There was only one or two days this summer where temperatures exceeded 30°C. The good thing about the weather this summer is that conditions were ideal for growing turf. Conditions throughout the summer were more like late spring conditions, with lush turf that was rarely under any type of stress. The turf growth really never slowed down and it needed to be mowed often.

Summer diseases were pretty much none existent except for dollar spot. We had a tiny bit of brown patch show up on our greens at the GTI and Erica Gunn, who provided turf diagnostics at GTI, came across it in a few samples during the summer. As far as dollar spot goes, it started extremely late this year. There was some good pressure in early July and it tailed off until later in August. The usual culprits, like anthracnose basal rot and take all patch, were also diagnosed in the lab, as well as some summer patch. There were no confirmed cases of Pythium blight this summer, that I know of.

The dry conditions during early fall meant that there was almost no disease to speak of. Now that we have had almost a solid month of overcast, wet and cold weather we have had extreme pressure from Fusarium patch. One of the keys to keeping snow mould in check during the winter is to control the inoculum load going into the winter by keeping Fusarium in check. This will be extremely important this fall.

Insects

I am continually amazed at how early leatherjackets begin feeding in the spring. It appears that as soon as the snow

melts they are there at the top of the thatch feeding voraciously. Feeding damage peaked a bit later this year and was well into mid-May. We saw our first feeding damage on the greens at GTI by the end of May. The feeding damage resembles spring Fusarium patch but is a lot more sunken because the turf leaves are eaten down to the crowns, and often the crowns are destroyed as well. It was during the months of June and into July where the greens were damaged because of the starlings pecking out the leatherjackets. Some areas of the greens looked as if they had been core aerated, there were so many holes.

There were reports of annual bluegrass weevil damage during the summer and there was some late damage from black turfgrass atenius. Our damage at GTI showed up in mid-August. About that time, there was also some black cutworm damage. In addition, we had some fall army worms infest one of the GTI greens. The damage that they caused was very similar to cutworm damage. They continued to feed well into September.

Adult flights of European crane fly were very, very heavy this fall. I think that they are the heaviest that I have seen since some of the first years that they were discovered in Ontario. The peak of adult flight was a bit early this year with highest numbers of adult flights the first and second week in September. I would say that because most golf course turf is irrigated that you can expect to see a healthy population of leatherjackets this fall and next spring. We have been looking for leatherjackets on non-irrigated turf and have yet to find any. It was so dry during most of the adult flights, that I am a bit doubtful that any of the eggs would have developed. It is possible that if the winter is very severe there may be some mortality of the leatherjackets but we don't even really know how susceptible they are to extremely cold weather during the winter. Stay tuned. Hopefully, with each winter that we experience over the next few years we will learn more about the conditions that affect their winter survival.

Moss

Moss is something that just keeps becoming more and more of a problem. It was a good year for moss. I don't think that it is related much to the weather that we had this summer so much as it is related to current cultural practices on golf greens. Dr. Eric Lyons, the new turf professor at the University of Guelph has an interest in moss. He hopes to attain some funding to look at the biology of silvery thread moss and he has some unique ideas of how we can adjust some of our fertility practices to perhaps keep moss under check.

Stay tuned as well for the next edition of "From roots to shoots". I am currently at the Crop Science Society of America meetings where over the course of the 4 days more than 200 scientific papers on turf are being presented. In the next edition I will highlight some of the leading edge turf research that is being conducted around the United States and Canada.

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club

Contained in this magazine issue is additional information on the upcoming 56th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January 6-11, 2005, Toronto. This joint CGSA/OGSA event is the highlight of our year, and all indications point to a precedent-setting show in terms of size and selection of things to do and see. There can be no doubt that the conference week on the whole seems to present some excellent opportunities for education and camaraderie. We have attempted to bring forward a sampling of some new and unique activities such as, three full days of pre-conference seminars with some exciting and interesting speakers, an opening and closing keynote speaker, enhanced concurrent sessions, as well as an internet café and trade show delegate education including larger and more comfortable space for trade show luncheons. Another first is the inaugural "Awards Luncheon" held on Sunday to honour the recipients of various distinguished awards of a national or regional nature. During the conference itself, we have concurrent sessions on Sunday, and a wide array of lecture topics apart from 'turf' are also offered. Topics include, among others: HR management, tree master planning, enhanced communication tactics with boards or committees, Audubon, and two popular superintendent panel discussions. For apres-conference times, there is the President's Reception at the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Monday Night Party, and the Gala Banquet with entertainment.

Contained in this magazine issue is additional information on the upcoming 56th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, January

I would like to personally thank the Conference Advisory Committee consisting of Sean DeSilva (co-chair), Rob Ackermann, Paul Scenna, Jeff Stauffer, Corrie Almack, Marie Thorne and our headquarters staff for contributing to the success of this event. I also want to recognize the volunteer contributions of both Kelly Scenna and Anne Burrows for their invaluable help with the development of the social and spouses program, in conjunction with our very capable staff. Well done everyone!

The development of this joint conference was indeed a long-standing goal of both Associations, and partially brought to fruition with the guidance of many individuals, including Past Presidents and past and current Directors of the OGSA and CGSA. They are all to be commended for their foresight and responsible direction. The other notable advocates of a joint event remain the grassroots support of the membership and exhibitors. This formula for success is now used across Canada at similar regional turf conferences.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy your week at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Remember to invite and register your support staff such as mechanics, horticulturists, assistants, second assistants or technicians – all of whom could benefit.

Their attendance helps to ensure a strong provincial presence, while their registration dollars contributes a portion directly to OGSA coffers. At the upcoming CGSA Annual meeting on January 10th 2005, a presentation will be made to consider the adoption of "accreditation and mandatory education" and a slight reclassification of our membership and our standards. This process is a continuation of the approach begun by the NOS principles. As reported over the past few years, if adopted, the program would certainly have some degree of impact on our profession. You are encouraged to become familiar with the proposal and voice your concerns or support for this motion.

The 2006 conference is scheduled for Vancouver and is a joint CGSA/WCTA event. The 2005 Fall Field Day is now confirmed for Jasper Park Lodge Golf Club. I would suggest that you register early for play at this Stanley Thompson gem. If you should have any questions or concerns at all about any CGSA activities, please contact me at any time. What better time than now, in the history of our profession, to belong to both your Regional and National Associations. Thank you for your support over the past season!

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



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Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Chapter Delegates Meeting
by Sean DeSilva, Director of GCSAA Relations

The 2004 Chapter Delegates meeting was held at the Kansas City Marriott, on September 25 and 26th, 2004. There were 98 delegates in attendance representing 103 GCSAA chapters. The major initiatives being covered at this year's delegates meeting were as follows:

2005 Golf Industry Show

After a steady decline in attendance during the 2002, and 2003 conferences, the GCSAA entered into a partnership with the NGCOA for the 2005 conference, and have also entered into a partnership with the CMA for 2007 and beyond. The following is what to expect from the 2005 conference:

- The educational portion of the conference will remain as it has in the past.
- 800 exhibitors in 250,000ft² of trade show vs. 648 and 240,000ft² in San Diego.
- The trade show floor will include educational programs and Interactive Solution Centers in Greens Construction, Agronomics, Clubhouse, Equipment Maintenance, Irrigation, Electric Vehicle Test Centers, and Driving Ranges

GCSAA Financial Discussion

The GCSAA continues to remain strong financially, and is broken down into three separate companies. They are as follows:

1. GCSAA
2. GCSAA Communications
3. The Environmental Institute for golf.

Final Financial Projections for 2004 will be as follows:

Operating Revenues = \$17,573,000
Operating Expenses = \$17,258,000
Equals Net Operating Income = \$315,000
Investment Income = \$240,000
Equals Total Net Income = \$555,000

Chapter Assessment Tool

The OGSA and GCSAA share a common vision in serving and meeting members' needs. The GCSAA has

developed a chapter assessment tool designed to help individual chapters develop long range improvement plans. All chapters will be required to complete the assessment tool during the first year of each affiliation agreement. The OGSA will be required to complete the Chapter Assessment tool within the next 6 months.

New Chapter Affiliation Agreement

The current Chapter Affiliation Agreement expires in December of 2005. The OGSA signed a one-year extension on our current agreement, while the new affiliation agreement is being finalized. Highlights of the new agreement will be as follows:

- Will clearly specify programs and services available to the OGSA and its members.
- Membership conformity and by-law changes.
- Completion of the Chapter Assessment Tool.
- Amendments will be able to be made to the Chapter Affiliation Agreement before it expires.

The OGSA will be required to change by-laws from a "Class B" member to a "Superintendent Member" with the GCSAA minimum requirements. All other classifications can remain the same. The by-law changes must be submitted to the GCSAA by January of 2006.

Association Name Change

From an association's perspective, its name is perhaps the most important vehicle for communication. The GCSAA has formed an independent task group to study the issue of the GCSAA name and the viability of changing it. The task group will be bringing forth its recommendations in 2005.

Update on Headquarters Location Process

After the completion of Phase 1, by an independent task group, it was

determined not to move on to Phase 2 at the present time. The GCSAA headquarters will remain in Lawrence, Kansas. However, the feasibility of "satellite" offices is currently being investigated and discussed by the GCSAA Board of Directors.

Certification Program Update

The new certification process will come into effect on November 1, 2004. The new testing methods will include:

- Portfolio – the completion of hypothetical case studies and problem solving techniques.
- Written Examination – a closed book exam that consists of 229 multiple-choice questions.
- Attesting Procedure – will be completed by a chapter liaison appointment and practical application skills.
- If you have any questions related to the above certification, please contact the GCSAA Certification Department at 1-800-472-7878, ext. 3602.

GCSAA Election

All candidates were met who are running for the 2005 GCSAA Board of Directors. They are as follows:

- Tim T. O'Neill
– Office of President
- Sean A. Hoolehan
– Office of Vice President
- David S. Downing II
– Secretary / Treasurer
- Ricky D. Heine
– Secretary / Treasurer
- Gregg A. Blew – Director
- James R. Fitzroy – Director
- Mark D Kuhns – Director
- Robert M. Randquist – Director
- Immediate Past President
– Mark J. Woodward

More information will be gathered during the last few months regarding the OGSA vote. I look forward to your comments and feedback.

Health & safety

Tree Trimming and Supervisors

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

I trust that you have all had a wonderful, prosperous summer and that you can now look forward to a well earned bit of time off.

The following thoughts are for the coming summer or perhaps some of you may be contemplating doing some tree trimming over the winter. Whatever your situation here are some things to think about.

In the last couple of months there have been two deaths of individuals who were working in or around trees. One died while climbing up into a tree and he fell, killing himself on the way down. It doesn't take much. Just recently, on September 21, 2004, an accident claimed the life of a 32-year-old worker who was electrocuted after he came in contact with a 4.8-kilovolt power line while trimming a tree south of St. George, Ontario. The investigator has indicated that the worker was trimming a tree just outside a home when he hit the hydro wires. It would appear the power had not been shut off. The main question that everyone is asking is; was the worker qualified to do the work? If so, what safety procedures were in place at the time of the accident?

If you are going to work around trees, or have someone in your employ work around trees, then you must ensure that the workplace is safe and that you and the individuals working with you have evaluated the area for hazards.

Information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) notes the two leading causes of death in tree-trimming operations in North America, in the last 10 years, have been electrocutions and falls. There were 68 electrocutions and 52 falls relating to tree trimming.

Dr Thomas Bender, director of the NIOSH division of safety research, says these fatalities and injuries are preventable. "We must act now to inform workers of the crucial prevention steps that can save their lives," he says, adding that workers must be told of hazards and means of prevention. He explains that many tree trimmers and their employers may not be complying with Occupational Health and Safety standards according to their jurisdiction and are, therefore, unaware of the risks posed by inadequate or improper safety procedures and equipment. He suggests the following:

- **Conduct an initial and daily jobsite survey before beginning work to identify hazards and implement appropriate controls.**
- **Assume that all power lines are energized and avoid all contact (direct or indirect) until it is verified that the lines are de-energized.**

- **Maintain minimum working distances from energized conductors.**
- **Use only non-conductive tools, materials and personal protective equipment.**
- **If work must be performed near a power line or within minimum working distances, make sure the employer has contacted the utility company to discuss de-energizing, grounding, or shielding the power lines.**
- **Inspect trees and limbs for structural weakness before climbing or cutting.**
- **Use appropriate fall protection equipment.**
- **Inspect all equipment before each use to ensure that it is not damaged or defective.**
- **Use safe work procedures to prevent inadvertent cutting of climbing ropes, lanyards, and safety belts or straps.**
- **Use safe work procedures for climbing, felling, topping, and pruning trees.**
- **Ensure that employees required to operate mobile equipment (for example, aerial buckets) have been properly trained.**
- **Participate in any training programs offered by the employer.**
- **Do it right. Do it safely.**

*Merry Christmas.
Enjoy the winter!*

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by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

MSDS COMPLIANT?

Winter has quickly come upon us, that is for sure. It seems that each golfing season moves faster and faster. This gives us the time to reflect on the season's success and failures and tweak things for the following year. Conferences, tradeshow, holidays and Fort Erie hockey do not make up all of the winter. One must constantly focus

on improving and updating the methods in which they do things. One such task is updating the WHMIS workbook, that fortuitous MSDS binder. The old method involved searching for the supplier who sold you the item, then calling and asking to speak with the representative from the department who deals with the MSDS. Then the fax of the MSDS, which never came in clear anyway (remember the fax paper that came in rolls?).

Fast forward to the present where internet technology enables us to retrieve information at the click of a mouse (note to my Father: I told you this Internet thing was going to catch on!). Getting MSDS information in one website allows one to be updated in just a few minutes, or

few hours if you are still on dialup.

One retrieval service you can use is available through the Plant Products website, www.plantprod.com. There is a link titled MSDS that will take you to COMPAS URL: www.compasmsds.com. The actual link that you would search with is <http://full.compassites.com>. The first page that will appear is a disclaimer that COMPAS is not an actual replacement for a hard copy provided from the manufacturer. After accepting the disclaimer you can search for your item either by supplier or product name.

Be warned, this site is the true meaning of too much information. For example, a search for Daconil 2787 will yield 17 results. Listed are the sheets for each formulation (Ultrex Zn etc.), as well as country of origin and don't forget the French language versions. There are different formats of each sheet listed such as, the original manufacturers, a two column PDF and there are a few Wordpad formats for those without Acrobat Reader (all files are PDF format and require Acrobat 6.0 to use). This site alone should provide all the information you need to keep your MSDS up to date. Good luck and have a Happy Holiday season.

Mechanic's corner

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

With the onset of the holiday season we all know that trade shows and educational seminars are not far off. This year, the Canadian Conference will be held in Toronto. It will include a Mechanic's Program, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11th. The program will include the following speakers:

E-Walk Walking Greens Mower, LF 3400 Controls & AR5,
presented by Paul Zellner from Jacobsen

RTV 900 presented by Brian Lee of Kubota Canada

Toro Product Service Tips and Updates; Product Troubleshooting Procedures; New Turf Industry Equipment Technologies,
presented by Carl Osterhaus of The Toro Company.

Tire Applications, Proper Installation, Safety and Maintenance,
presented by Dave Cook of Triwest Tire Canada, in Concord, Ontario.

Registration to the Mechanics Program includes access to the trade show on both Monday and Tuesday and lunch on Tuesday.

As you can see, the day will be very informative to all attending equipment managers. Don't miss out on this opportunity and get registered immediately. Also, make sure you bring your service questions to discuss at the trade show. Equipment representatives are present to sit down and help you with your problems. I have found that some of the problems or suggestions you offer will track back to listening ears at the manufacturing level.

I am looking forward to meeting and talking to my friends and all the readers, at the conference.

The OGSA year ender ... Crossword

Questions

Across

- Super at Canada's #1 golf course
- Merit active ingredient
- This Bill is a Niagara fixture
- Devil's "Wright" hand
- Gateman and _____
- WOGSA "Ryder Cup" Host
- 1995 OGSA President
- Former Board of Trade Super
- CGSA Executive Director
- Syngenta Superwoman
- This Chad's Mad
- Stauffer promotes this
- Sometimes found on trees or at St. Georges
- KW super Janzen's fave band
- This year's spring field day host
- The Toro _____ 21
- Monster Bluegrass grower
- Keith and John Boy have nothing in common
- _____ Mowing
- OTRF Founder
- McLean and _____
- His turftoons are loons
- Guelph super owner
- This Paul hosted 2004's Ontario Amateur
- Owen Sound's environmental award winning super
- Seguin Super
- Richard's Craigowan has a second name
- New Turf Research Chair
- CGSA Super of the Year
- Pro David and Super Paul of Brantford

Down

- Pelino's assistant
- Former Dean of OAC
- This H P super is not related to Richard
- Successor to Beeney
- OGSA and Weston GC
- She needed an ark in Peterborough
- Nu-Gro President
- Mickalko's course? _____ Creek
- Clublink turf kings
- Schmelefske and Crew
- OGSA's office manager
- He worked under Stanley Thompson at one time
- Bartlett Expert...
- He's the man at Burnside...
- From Roots to Shoots columnist
- Former U of G Turf Professor
- The City of Hamilton loves this Rob
- Kingsville's Lemieux
- OGSA Past President
- This Scott of London is no 18 _____
- GTI Director
- Hutcheson Sand
- _____ Urea
- Beacon's Heron
- The fairway snake and The National?
- European _____
- Periodic table of the elements. See Iron



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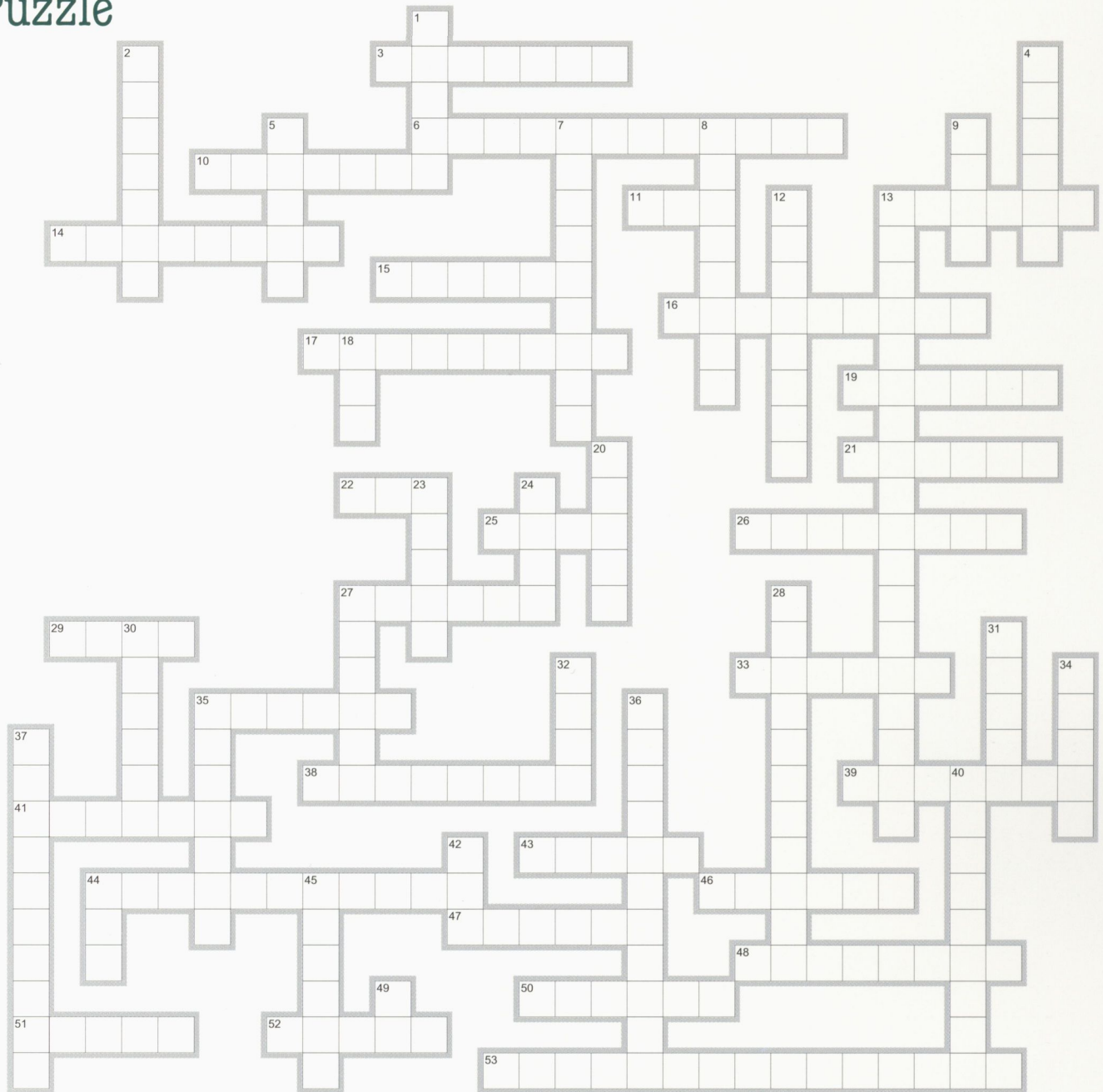
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The OGSA year ender ... Crossword

answers on Page 22

Puzzle



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Catch of the day

Master's Turf Supply held its Annual Customer Appreciation Day aboard of the C.S. Powell Charters in Port Dover on September 10, 2004. It was a gorgeous day after a week of heavy rain from the hurricane down in Florida. Unfortunately, this caused the fishing to be less than desirable. John Ashley, from Mount Elgin Golf

Course, caught the most fish that day. A special thanks to Terry Polischuk from Lynn Meadows for hosting the fish fry.

We would like to thank our customers and we hope to see everyone back in 2005.



What caused this?

by Jeff Silli, Ross Cutler and Tom Hsiang

Jeff Silli & Ross Cutler are employees of Sparrow Lakes Golf Club in Welland, Ontario

Tom Hsiang is a Turf pathologist at the University of Guelph

In late August, this problem was seen on a golf course in the Niagara Peninsula near Welland, Ontario. Jeff Silli first observed the phenomenon, and Ross Cutler took this photo. The image shows a patch of yellowed turf with a non-circular green center. Just diagnosing from the image, and with the time of year in mind, the most likely disease suspects would be take-all patch, summer patch, brown patch or localized dry spot. The cause of this problem was not obvious until a second occurrence was observed. See if you can figure out what caused this, and then turn to Page 21 for an image of the second occurrence (photographed by Ross Cutler) with our best guess as to what caused this problem.



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Member profile

Interview with Scott Wheeler,

Golf Superintendent, Forest City National Golf Club
by John Bladon, Editor, Green is Beautiful

On a quiet, chilly, November morning, I met up with longtime OGSA member Scott Wheeler. Scott has been the Golf Superintendent at Forest City National Golf Club in London now for the past four years and we sat and talked about his 20 plus years in the workplace and the evolution that brought him to Forest City.

Ironically, Scott did not initially appear to be destined for a career as a turfgrass manager. Born and raised the son of a poultry farmer and following his graduation from Ridgetown College in 1983, Scott actually went to work for Cuddy Farms. After 7 years working as a manager at a commercial farming operation, Scott decided it was time for a change.

"I suppose I came to a place where I felt I had already spent a lifetime around farming. I was playing a lot of golf and wanted to do something a little bit different. Somehow it felt like a natural migration from field crops to turf."

In 1989, Scott walked on to the property where Westhaven Golf Club was under construction and introduced himself to Mark Hagen, now of Hyde Park Equipment in London. After "bugging" Mark relentlessly for a job, he finally succeeded in getting hired. Following his first season working under Mark, Scott was given the title of Assistant Superintendent and never looked back. He insists that Mark was his most prominent influence as he matured.

"Mark was amazing to work for. He really took me under his wing and made sure that I was exposed to every opportunity to learn. He always made certain I attended seminars with him and willingly shared his knowledge."

Eventually, Mark moved on to build The Oaks in London and Scott was immediately promoted. He spent the next 10 years at Westhaven as the golf superintendent and while in their employ, in August of 1998, received



Scott Wheeler

his CGCS certification from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Now at Forest City, under Scott's maintenance regime and new ownership, the property has flourished. In this author's opinion, it may arguably be the best value in the Ontario golf market...how often can you play bentgrass tee to green, with a cart and 4 1/2 star conditioning for \$60.00?

Finally, Scott is also a family man. He is married and has four sons: Nicholas, Benjamin, Mackenzie and Mitchell. Nicholas 19, is currently attending St. Francis University in Loretto Pa. on a golf scholarship and competes in the NCAA Div 1 Northeast Conference. He, wife Lori, who is an accomplished photographer, and family live in Ingersoll just outside of London.

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite Major? **The Masters**
- Favorite Piece of turf equipment ever? **Toro Pro Core**
- Ultimate foursome...you and what three? **Trevino, David Feherty and Darren Clarke**
- Favourite Golf Architect? **Tom Fazio**
- Lowest Round and where? **76, Westhaven**
- Favourite Meal? **Anything Italian...Anything Wolf Blass....**
- Favourite Course outside of Canada? **Tie between Camp Creek, and Southern Dunes in Florida**
- Favorite Movie? **The Shawshank Redemption**
- What is in the CD player right now? **James Taylor**
- Rate your home lawn of a scale of 1-10 **Well below average!**
- What do you envision yourself doing if you weren't working the turf industry? **Likely doing something else in agriculture...**

Golf course highlight

Springfield Golf & Country Club

2054 Gordon Street, Guelph ON N1L 1G6

Website: www.springfieldgolf.on.ca

Golf Course Superintendent: Ray Dlugokecki



Pond Project

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Wellington

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

Semi-private with 200 members

Typical number of rounds

33,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date

April 14 to November 14

How long have you been a superintendent?

14 years

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

15 years

How many staff?

2 year round and 7 seasonal staff

Who are your assistants and mechanics?

1st Assistant: Phil Legault

Mechanic: Doug Schultz

How many gardening staff?

1 part time: Marianne Kirk

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?

5,682 yards from the back tees and

4,503 yards from the front tees

How many bunkers?

39

How many times does water come into play?

7 ponds come into play 10 times

Who was the original architect?

John F. Robinson

What was the year of original construction?

1989

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

4,000 square feet

What type of irrigation system?

Rain Bird Stratus II – 4 years old

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?

102,000 sq ft of greens

72,000 sq ft of tees

12 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

Bent/Poa – greens and tees

Dwarf Bluegrass/Poa - fairways

How many USGA and loam greens?

19 loam greens

What is the predominant soil type?

Clay loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

2 John Deere 6x4 Gators

1 John Deere AMT 600

1 Club Car Carrvall 11

1 Cushman Commander 4800

1 Yamaha Cart

2 Cushman Trucksters

1 Jacobsen GK V mower

1 Jacobsen PGM 22 mower

1 Jacobsen GK IV mower

1 Jacobsen Tri-King 1900 D mower

1 Jacobsen Tri-King 1800 G mower

1 Jacobsen LF 3400 5-Plex mower

1 Toro GM 3000 (verticut heads)

1 Toro GM 300

1 Toro 1000 Walker

1 Ransomes 728 Outfront Rotary

1 Lastec 721 XR Rotary

1 Kubota L4310 diesel tractor

1 Hahn Multi-pro 418

1 Hahn 150 gallon spray tank

1 Toro PA-17 fertilizer spreader

1 30 gallon utility sprayer

1 Smithco Super Rake

1 Smithco Easy Rider w/brush

1 Smithco 21' Sprayer with Raven

1 John Deere Aerocore 800

1 Bannerman Aerway Slicer

1 Jacobson 8' aerator

1 Agrimet 3 pt. blower

1 Ryan Jr. sodcutter

1 Agri-trend 5 T dump trailer

1 Scott's Accupro 2000 rotary spreader

1 Scott's drop spreader

3 Stihl line trimmers

1 Stihl 034 chainsaw

1 Red Max reciprocating edger

1 Kamatsu power edger

1 Stihl backpack blower

1 Foley Accupro spin/relief grinder

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

Deepened irrigation reservoir

Re-shaped 6 bunkers and replaced drain tile

Completed extensive monitoring of ground water levels and surface water taking and their effects on our wetland complex for PTTW renewal

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Install irrigation wet well and new pumps
Repair and replace original bunker drainage

New pesticide building and mix/load pad
Audubon certification

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

17 acre Class 2 Provincially Significant Wetland is highly monitored and impacts all maintenance programs.

Limited supply of groundwater recharge into reservoir requires irrigation cutbacks in summer.

Clay loam greens rootzone results in compaction and drainage problems.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Currently certified in 3 of 6 Audubon categories.

Water quality tests including site specific pesticides produced excellent results.

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

Use of Profile, porous ceramic soil amendment in conjunction with Verti-drain and core aeration has saved having to re-build 2 or 3 greens.

Accreditation avenue

by Jeff Stauffer
Director of Government Relations

An IPM Accreditation exam is being offered at the 56th annual Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 @ 9:00 a.m.

Please note that you must pre-register with Ridgeway College to write the exam as there will be no on-site registration available.

The study materials required for the exam are: OMAF Publications

- # 816 Turf IPM Manual
- # 384 Turfgrass Management Recommendations
- #162 Diseases and Insects of Turfgrass in Ontario

You will also find other related information to the IPM Accreditation at www.ontarioipm.com

Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show

Available credits for IPM Accreditation Program

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Environmental Planning for Golf	10
Shaded Growing Conditions	5.3
Poa Management	10
Grow in Quality Control	10
Soil Conditions and Water Quality	10
Golf Irrigation Auditor	15.3

Conference Education Program

Tree Maintenance	1
Water Quality	2
Grow-in USGA Specifications	1.33
CTRF Update	0.66
Pesticide Exposure and Human Health	1.33
IPM Accreditation Step II: The desk review	1
Sprayer Calibration and Pesticide Records	1

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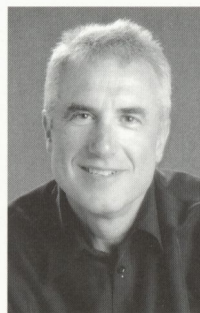
Going For Gold: Lessons In Greatness From The Olympic Games

Considered the dean of Canadian sports commentators, with more than a quarter of a century of broadcast experience, Brian Williams maintains a youthful exuberance that is appreciated by fans of every sport he covers.

Brian Williams

He reminds you why you watch the Olympics: the sheer excellence of the participants. He tells compelling stories of struggle and success from Winter and Summer Olympics around the world. As someone who has met and interviewed Canadian athletes in all sports at the top of their game, he shares with you the qualities they have that account for their success. Whatever it is you do there is a "gold" you can strive for. So as he entertains with his anecdotes he also provides a powerful message about what it takes to be at the top in your chosen field.

Williams has also hosted Grey Cup Weekend, Formula 1 Racing, World Cup Skiing, World Figure Skating Championships, World Junior Hockey Championships, horse racing, championship golf and tennis. He also provides play-by-play coverage of Blue Jays Baseball on CBC.



The Role of the Superintendent in a Demanding Era of Mixed Messages

Lorne Rubenstein is one of the world's best known and respected golf writers. The author of six books and the golf columnist for the Globe and Mail for more than 15 years, his writing awards include three first-place finishes from the American Golf Writers Association and a Canadian National Magazine Award.

Lorne Rubenstein

Today's superintendent has an increasingly complex role in a challenging environment. Lorne puts the mixed messages in perspective and offers some strategies for meeting complex demands.

He started playing golf and caddying at age 11, developing his skills enough to enter junior tournaments and caddy on the PGA tour. By the late 70s, he was writing on the subject of golf for a number of publications (notably the Canadian Open program), starting his weekly column for the Globe and Mail in 1980. Rubenstein then became an editor for SCORE Magazine, and a frequent contributor to other national golf publications in the U.S. and U.K.

For television, Lorne has written and co-hosted programs such as The Acura World of Golf, a half-hour show on The Sports Network - for which he also conducts interviews and provides a stand-up weekly commentary.

Lorne's latest book is Mike Weir: The Road to the Masters, published by McClelland & Stewart.

TRADE SHOW

The Trade Show opens in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Monday January 10th at 10 am. The Ceremonial Opening is scheduled for 11:55 am. Meet your exhibitors until 5 pm and continue your visits on Tuesday between the hours of 10 am and 2:30 pm. New this year will be an Internet Café right on the exhibit floor.

O.G.S.A. Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, January 11, 2005
Room 206D
7:00 a.m. Breakfast & Social
7:30 a.m. Meeting

SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction has become a CGSA tradition that is enjoyed by item donors and auction bidders alike. The 7th Annual CGSA Silent Auction promises to be a great opportunity to see what's new, have some fun, and pick up some great bargains for you and your course. Proceeds go to the Superintendents Educational and Professional Development Fund.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The CGSA Awards Lunch on Sunday January 9th, a new event this year to honour our award recipients, is sponsored by Bayer Environmental Science.

The President's Welcome Reception on Sunday January 9th is your chance to meet old acquaintances and establish new friendships. This reception is always viewed as a can't-miss event. This year's event will be held at the Hockey Hall of Fame, and is sponsored by Rain Bird International.

The Monday Night Party will feature Bowser and Blue. This event is sponsored by John Deere Company and John Deere Credit. (Space is limited, reserve early)

The Closing Banquet will be held at the Intercontinental Toronto Centre Hotel on Tuesday January 11th. This event is sponsored by Jacobsen, a Textron Company.



an excellent
opportunity
for you to...

- Network with your colleagues from across the country
- Hear internationally renowned speakers
- Visit the Trade Show for the latest in Golf Course products and services and meet with industry colleagues
- Participate in the 7th annual Silent Auction and save money on your golf course needs

The New Organics - This is not your Father's Manure

by David Sim

To many turf professionals the words "organic fertilizer" don't mean much in their day-to-day operations. Ours is an industry that has seen great technological leaps in the last 60 years and organics have fallen by the wayside in favour of cheaper and more complete nutrient delivery methods. Let's face it, organics have been used, (in their simplest form) for several thousand years and the basic composition hasn't changed one bit. In fact many of the organic fertilizers available today are derived from the same sources the very first farmers utilized. So in an industry where the latest technology guides our watering, monitors our weather, and keeps our records, is there any room for such antiquated tools as organic fertilizer? Well take a fresh look, because today's organics are not your father's manure.

Most turf professionals divide fertilizer into two types, synthetic and organic. However, if you look at their source elements all fertilizers can be divided into two different categories, urea based and protein based. This is where the new organics differ so completely from the old.

Since the dawn of agriculture the farmer has used fertilizer to give back to the soil what his plant takes away. And in all that time probably every conceivable source of nutrients has been sampled. If it grew, flew, walked, hopped, crawled, slithered or messed the bottom of your shoes, somebody undoubtedly tried it as fertilizer. Obviously the most popular fertilizer worldwide was, and still is, composted animal manure or sludge. These composts contain organically derived urea. While other forms of urea are fairly quick to release, manure and sludge based urea is chemically bound and must be further decomposed to release nutrients. This breakdown occurs through hydrolysis and microbial decomposition.

As manure and sludge based products decompose and release nutrients they reduce in volume by about 90%. This means they leave behind roughly 10% of their weight as a deposit of inert organic material. This inert material, or ash, provides no benefit to plants but if worked into a clay soil can, over time, serve to soften the clay. However in sandy soils this inert material forms a black layer, which can hinder drainage, and components that are not fully decomposed provide a breeding ground for plant disease. Manure and sludge based organics also have a component of free soluble ammoniac nitrogen that, once broken down, is subject to leaching and volatilization.

Protein based fertilizers, which are a central component of the new organics are considerably different. Protein based fertilizers, derived primarily from plant and animal meals and have an almost insignificant ammoniac component, are typically slow to release nutrients, and are not water-soluble. They require biological activity to decompose before the nutrients are available to plants. Because decomposition is a function of soil temperature and moisture, which are the parameters that affect plant growth, the release characteristics more closely track the

actual nutrient needs of the turf plants. These matched parameters mean the plants have the opportunity to more fully utilize the nutrient and less is lost to leaching and volatilization. Meal based fertilizers are also more fully decomposed. They reduce in weight by over 99%, which means it presents no risk of enhancing any black layer build-up.

The new organics take advantage of the best attributes of urea and protein based fertilizers by combining them. A 50/50 blend of urea and protein based products provides users with the faster response of urea and the longer lasting release of meal based products. This reduces the frequency of traditional organic applications while still reaping the long-term benefits. In a 12-2-12 blood, bone, feather meal product, for instance virtually 100% of the weight is beneficial to the plant and soil. By eliminating the manure or sludge carriers, in favour of methylene and synthetic urea these fertilizers also eliminate the approximately 10% ash content that goes with them thus removing the potential for black layer. The benefits, however, don't stop there.

Beyond simply feeding the turfgrass plant these new fertilizers have some other substantial benefits. Animal meal products provide the amino acids and carbohydrates needed to feed microbes in the soil, which facilitate the decomposition of the other nutrients, suppress disease-causing organisms and create a favourable environment to help break down thatch. They have extremely low soluble salt contents, which eases concerns of burning fine turf. Some are specially formulated to dissolve easily upon contact with water, reducing mower pick-up and "sticking" to mower parts. There are manufacturers that add humic acid and kelp meal extracts, to reduce plant stress and increase soil Cation Exchange Capacity. These components are beneficial to all soil types and are especially effective on low CEC, high sand mixes. A few industry-leading producers even add biological inoculums known to have disease suppression activity.

Organic fertilizers have changed more in the last fifteen years than in the entire preceding history of turf. By combining the things our fore-fathers knew with the things modern science has taught us, the new organic fertilizers can not only feed your turf, but also feed your soil, and turn increasing public scrutiny into positive response.

David Sim holds an Honours Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation (HBOR), and a BA in English Literature from Lakehead University. He has worked in the turf industry for the last 18 years. He is a certified greenskeeper and horticulturist and has taught greenskeeper apprentices with Sir Sanford Fleming College for the last 11 years. He is a certified golf irrigation auditor (Irrigation Association) and works for AllTurf Ltd. as a representative covering irrigation products in Eastern Ontario. As if that were not enough he is also a happily married father of two boys living in Mt. Albert, Ontario.

"A Pox On Your Fairways"

The Toronto Golf Club vs. Her Earthworms

by David Kuypers, Assistant Property Manager

The Problem

Earthworm castings have been an increasing problem at The Toronto Golf Club over the past fifteen years. This phenomenon has been widely attributed to the fact that long residual chemicals that impact earthworms, like chlordane or benomyl, are no longer in use (Backman 2002). During the early spring and late fall castings occur when earthworms ingest soil and leaf tissue to consume nutrients then deposit the casts as mounds of soil at the entrance to their burrows. These castings left by overnight earthworm activity are an aesthetic and management problem, as well as a negative impact on the playability of the fairways. The affected fairways would be covered in castings which would be smeared if the fairway was mowed while still wet. The fairways would have to be skipped until it had dried, then dragged and then mowed. This process relied on weather conditions conducive to the drying of the castings and would increase the need to grind the reels on fairway mowers that were always mowing through the dried castings. During the summer the earthworms would migrate deeper in the soil, due to more favourable moisture content and soil temperature, and would cease to be a problem (Backman 2002). Being a beneficial inhabitant of the soil, there is no chemical control available to discourage earthworm activity, so another solution was required to "discourage" the earthworms from inhabiting the fairway during the cool-wet weather of spring and fall.

The Research

An analysis of the research conducted by the USGA confirmed the problem. Conditions that are favourable for healthy turf are also optimal for earthworm activity (Williamson 2003). The intent of the research was to find some aspect of the soil that could be exploited to make the root zone of the fairway less inviting to earthworms. The USGA conducted experiments with different levels of soil pH, which had no impact on earthworm activity, as well as an experiment to reduce soil organic matter by removing clippings and using hollow-core aeration. Again, no impact on earthworm activity was noticed. The only treatment that reduced earthworm activity was topdressing with sand; the more sand the more reduction in activity (Backman 2002). Empirical evidence seemed to contradict this on the golf course, as castings in bunkers, which had an angular sand, were also a problem. However, topdressing fairways seemed to be the only option, the theory being that an angular topdressing sand would be an abrasive substance against the sensitive cuticle of the earthworms and they would move to a more hospitable soil environment, like the rough, or Lakeview Golf Course, across the street.

The Application

The process began November 2003, after fall aeration. Armed with a Turfco CR10 material handler and 200 tons of angular sand all the fairways were topdressed with 0.5-0.75" of sand. The sand was brushed in and fairways were mowed to remove any chip too large to be brushed in. The results this spring were excellent, worm castings were dramatically



reduced to the point where the morning mowing was not disrupted. Topdressing at a reduced depth of 0.25" was repeated again in May, after spring aeration. However, there was no topdressing applied following aeration in July. This fall the worm castings were back in a significant number. The fact that topdressing was not done on fairways in July following aeration may have opened channels through the relatively shallow topdressing layer for the worms to return. The topdressing was repeated at the heavy rate this November.



Was it, therefore, the heavy topdressing last November that reduced earthworm activity in the spring? Again, the evidence suggests the topdressing had an impact. The 12th fairway had a large earthworm population last fall and it was topdressed at twice the rate of the 11th fairway, which runs parallel. Now, the 12th is almost free from worm castings while the 11th is heavily populated. Seemingly, more sand in the upper rootzone is less favourable than less sand. Or was there another biotic factor that reduced the activity of the earthworms this spring? We are awaiting next spring to determine if the "worm has turned" again in favour of The Toronto Golf Club.

References

1. Backman, P.A., et al. "Worming Your Way Out of a Turf Situation" *U.S.G.A. Green Section Record*—July/August 2002.
2. Williamson, R. Chris., et al. "Innovative Management of Earthworm Casting on Golf Course Turf." *U.S.G.A. Green Section Record*—September/October 2003.

Super & Pro Save Golfer's Life

Submitted by Rob Sloan, Superintendent
Cardinal Golf Club

At Cardinal Golf Club, as at most courses throughout the country, our most pressing daily issues usually revolve around, pace of play, green speeds and a host of other problems, that we often see as larger than life. For at least one day in mid September all of that changed.

For two Cardinal employees in particular things changed forever. Trevor Clark, Cardinal's West Course Superintendent was going about his daily routine when he looked back from the 9th green and saw a golfer down. Trevor immediately went to the man's aid and found him to have no vital signs. Trevor used his two way radio to call the Pro Shop for assistance. Rob Brandon, a member of Cardinal's professional staff, answered the call and after calling 911, quickly responded to the scene with Cardinal's on site defibrillator. Showing remarkable poise, Trevor and Rob, who had both been trained in the proper use of the machine, administered a shock to the man's heart and performed CPR until emergency medical crews arrived on the scene.


There is no question that the heart attack victim in this case was extremely lucky, his attack took place in close proximity to the clubhouse. Trevor happened to be working on that very hole and had open communication to call for



L-R Trevor Clark & Brandon


assistance and last, but certainly not least, two level headed, quick thinking individuals were on hand to administer the aid the man so desperately needed. The initial cost of acquiring the defibrillator and the subsequent training of 20 – 30 staff annually on its use is at first glance considerable; however, saving a client's life has made those costs a non-issue.

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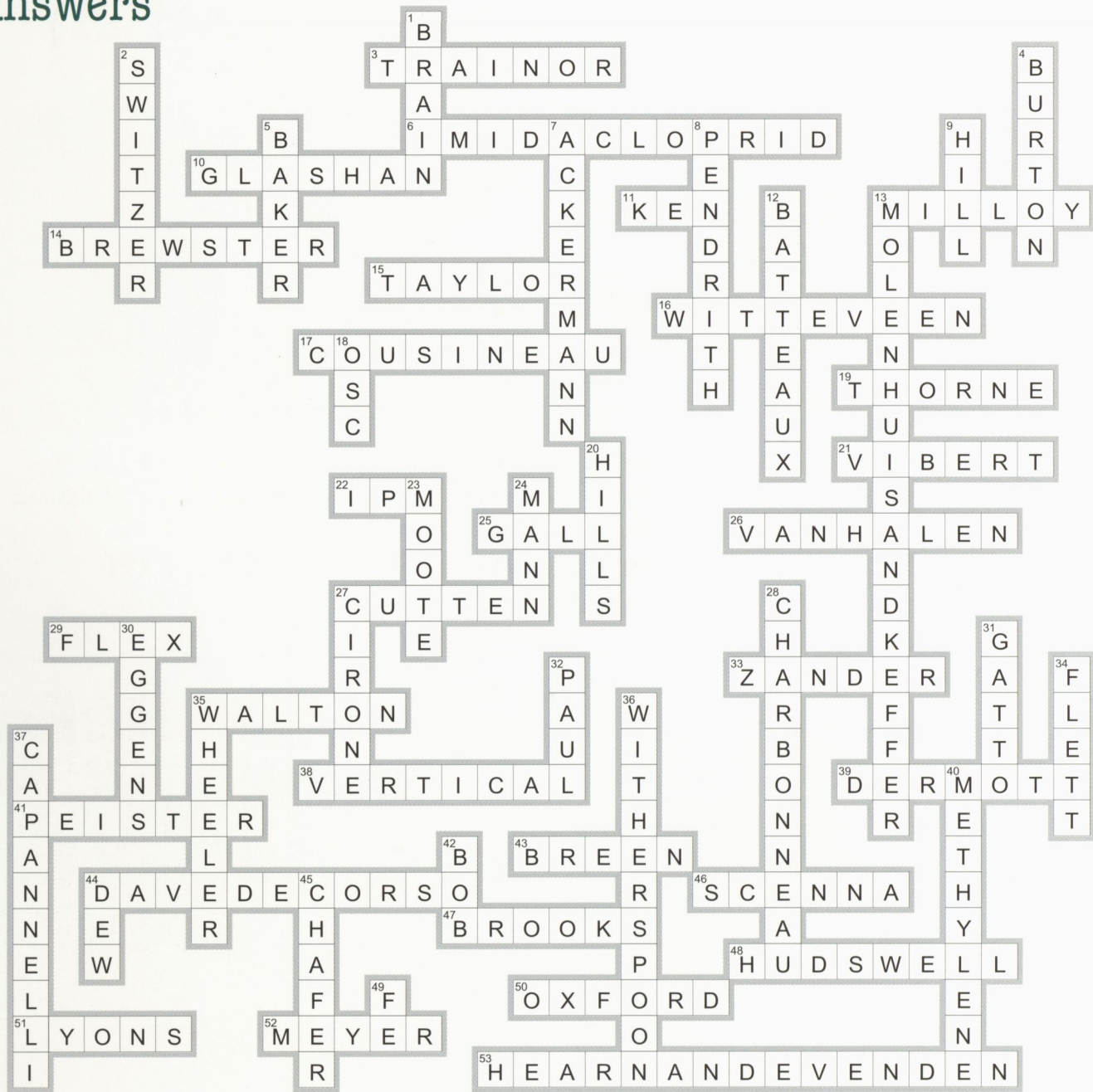
What caused this? continued from page 13.



We guessed that the two green areas were footprints, and the browning around the footprints was due to an insect repellent spray. The solvents in the spray caused the phytotoxicity.

The OGSA year ender ... Crossword

Answers



out on a Limb

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On the road again

by Angelo Capannelli
Hutcheson Sand and Mixes

“Is it going to be another article written about the events that you have participated in,” asked one of my colleagues on the editorial committee. Yes, I said!!! Until my fellow colleagues in the associate sector (that doesn’t include you, Kevin Falls) of this magazine step up and start sending us articles on their experiences on the road, or otherwise, I am going to continue to entertain myself and the readers, hopefully, on my exploits as a sand salesperson “on the road” across the country.

On October 18th, the Mississauga Golf & Country Club hosted the 4th Annual Fall Classic Event. This event brings together members of the Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association and the Western New York Golf Superintendents Association in a Ryder Cup format. The weather was great, for a third Monday in October, with the temperature seasonal and the sun shining with a little breeze. The golf course was in excellent condition, thanks to the efforts of Bob Brewster and Colin White who happened to bear the weight of me being his partner in this competition. The format is quite simple: 24 members from each team compete with a partner or on their own

against their colleagues. The first 12 players on each team are paired together to play 6 holes of scramble golf, 6 holes of 2 man better ball and then the final 6 holes there is a singles match against your colleague from the other country. Each format is worth 1 point to go to the final tally. The remaining 12 members of your respective team compete in a singles match over 18 holes. For these singles matches there is 1 point awarded for each nine holes and 1 point for the overall score. There is a possible 3 points that 1 player can receive in any given match. Remember this point system because it is important when I tell you the final result.

When the team from the United States arrived in style aboard a coach we, the WOGSA team, felt that we were certainly going to have a challenge on our hands. “They came prepared to recapture the cup”, was a comment from our president, John Taylor. I think he actually said, “Wow, look at the size of that bus?”

The really interesting thing about the result of the previous 3 Fall Classics is that no team has been able to win on their home soil. Unfortunately, the 4th fall classic as it turned out was going to be no different. When the American team

arrived it was observed that they were missing 2 players. This represented a wee challenge for the team captains, Scott Dodson and John Taylor. After careful deliberation and comments from both sides it was determined that Brian Rosenberg would compete for the Americans. Brian, did you have a choice in the matter? Apparently you went willingly? As it turned out, Brian went on to beat his good friend and true Canadian, Duncan Brewer 3-0. (1 point for the front nine, 1 point for the back nine and 1 point for the total). The final result of the 4th Fall Classic: USA (Western New York) 29 – Canada (WOGSA) 26.

Congratulations to the USA team captained by Scott Dodson. We look forward to winning the cup back next year when we are back at a golf course in the United States.

Honourable mentions:
Early morning navigational problems on Circled Way, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Thanks to Ron Craig and Nigel Rennie for that one!!!!

OAC 85A reunion up at the Rock Golf Club. Thanks to former OGSA president, Ian Bowen for your hospitality.

Use Ball Mark Repair Graphic to Educate Golfers

For a golf course superintendent, no message bears repeating more than the need for golfers to repair ball marks. To help superintendents convey this message, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has available a graphic drawing that shows how to repair a ball mark in four steps.

The graphic, available online in the Resources section of www.gcsaa.org, can be enlarged and made into a poster for locker rooms or pro shops, or it can be reduced to scorecard size and combined with etiquette information specific to your facility. Working with a printer, superintendents can create information that can be distributed along with scorecards at check-in areas or the first tee. You also may want to consider positioning the graphic, along with text on proper golf course etiquette, in facility newsletters.

Superintendents can extend the use of the graphic beyond their courses by providing the graphic to local newspapers and regional golf publications. It could also be used as the basis for pitching a story to television and radio reporters.

For more information, contact Jeff Bollig, director of communication, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4430 or jbollig@gcsaa.org.

What's new

Member Dues

Invoices for membership dues were mailed to our members the first week of September. Payment is due October 31st. If for some reason you did not receive your invoice, please contact the office asap.

Don't Miss Out

Let the office know that you want to receive your OGSA news by email. If you are still receiving hard copy mail you are not getting ALL THE NEWS.



Syngenta's Greenpartners Program

Golf Superintendents who are members of the GreenPartners program can now donate their points to the OGSA, for the good of the Association in helping to meet it's critical needs. As an added benefit, donations from superintendents to the OGSA will be matched by Syngenta. If you are currently a GreenPartners member, please log on to www.greenpartneronline.ca to register.

The OGSA would like to thank Jim Moore of Puslinch Lakes Golf Club for donating his accumulated Green Partner Points to our association.

Do you want to have a voice in your association?

Attend the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 a.m. in room 206D at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

All members are welcome to voice their opinion and ask questions, although only the following members are eligible to vote in the election for the positions on the Board of Directors: Class AA Active, Class A and Class B.



OGSA/CGSA Joint Conference

Do not mail registration forms into the CGSA after December 10, 2004. On site registration will be available.



PESTICIDE LICENCES

If you have not sent yours in yet for Classes AA active, A, B & C, please do so now. We require a copy of your current pesticide licence for our records.

TURF TIPS

Got a Turf Tip? Email it in to the office and we will post it on the web site. Our website www.golfsupers.on.ca is a powerful vehicle of communication with our members and the golf industry. Help us to keep the web site current and active. We appreciate your input.

OGSA WEB SITE

Our Members Only Section of the website is very active. You can only access this site with a valid email address and a password. If you have not been able to get into the site, it is possibly because you have not notified us of your email address and given us a password you would like to use. Call us and we will set you up with the information you need. 1-877-824-6472

Planning on building or renovating a golf course?

The American Society of Golf Course Architects has developed a new brochure, "The Golf Course Remodeling Process - Questions & Answers", available without charge to anyone interested in the planning process. As technology, the economy and player expectations continue to impact golf course design, superintendents and others are exploring remodeling more often. To obtain your complimentary copy contact the ASGCA by mail at 125 N Executive Dr., Suite 106, Brookfield, Wis. 53005 or by email at info@asgca.org or by phone: (262) 786-5960

ASGCA also offers its nationally recognized Remodeling University program. For information on the program (Remodeling 101). For information or to schedule a symposium call ASGCA Headquarters (262) 786-5960.

For more information on ASGCA visit their web site www.asgca.org.

Responsible Stewardship



by Daisy Moore

The agri-food industry is big business, driven by beef, dairy and crops. Horticulture doesn't have much clout in the industry but is affected by and benefits from the fallout of mass production. It is up to the horticultural industry – and this

includes golf – to make the best of the rest of the available land. This means being responsible stewards.

The Ontario Institute of Agrologists (OIA) is an organization of professionals in agriculture working to establish the highest standards for the agri-food industry, and it sponsors events to bring together ideas across the industry. Recently, I attended an OIA seminar entitled "Globalization and Rural Development". The presenter was a sociologist from the University of Toronto and the audience was comprised of large and small scale farmers, bankers, marketing and corporate representatives, students of agriculture and a horticulturist. The speaker chronicled the horrific effects of corporate globalization on rural communities. The decline of the family farm began in the 1970s and rural communities continue to suffer on all fronts. She painted a pretty bleak picture of our world but she offered up organic farming as the saviour of rural heritage in the midst of all the gloom.

A line was soon drawn between the sociologist and the rest of the room and that line got progressively thicker as the presentation continued. By the end of it there wasn't a person in the room who hadn't formed some pretty strong opinions, having been annoyed or offended in some way. The result was a rather lively discussion as people flew to the defence of everything they stood for.

What I learned from the presentation was that organic farming is an excellent example of a successful new enterprise, born from the need for an alternative. Organic farming is also a way of life that is built on the idea of stewardship of the land and stewardship of the community. The idea is that rural communities need resources, money, employment and people, and so people are encouraged to buy locally, grow locally, engage in recreation locally, and so on. To bring in money, though, the countryside itself is now seen as a commodity, and there are marvelous opportunities for those with an entrepreneurial spirit.

What would define a responsible steward, a good neighbour, who fits the bill in helping in the development of a rural community? In Elora, we recently were given a race track with slot machines attached, a non-traditional use of the countryside, but a new economic use to be sure. That's a bit of a stretch to get on my list of good neighbours but there are those who would disagree. I thought about how a golf course has the credentials to create a positive impact on the community it surrounds. There is a lot of work yet to be done to build and sustain a positive response to the golf course environment. Being a responsible steward of the land and being a good neighbour are at the heart of it.

As a reminder, the Horticulture Program during the CGSA/OGSA conference will take place on January 11, 2005 9:00am-4:15pm. It will be of interest to golf course gardeners, garden committee members and anyone interested in horticultural topics. Here is a preview of the topics:

Twiners, Stickers, Clingers and Hookers

– Chris Graham, Britalli Gardens

Herbs in the Ornamental Shrubs on the Golf Course

– Koidu Sulev, Richter's Herbs

Using and Maintaining Shrubs on the Golf Course

– Sue Clarke, Niagara Parks School of Horticulture

Ornamental Grasses and Perennials in Public Spaces

– Janet Anderson, JEA Perennials

Native Plant Gardening

– Charles Kinsley, Ontario Native Plant Company

Gardening on the Golf Course

– Daisy Moore, Daisy Moore on Gardening

Tips from Golf Course Horticulturalists

from Juanita Baxter from Rosedale and Chris Troubridge from Weston

Registration for the Horticulture Program includes lunch on Tuesday as well as access to the trade show on that day. Visit my website www.daisymoore.com for more tips on gardening.

Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

Last night I went to my son Walker's "goal setting" meeting. For those of you not currently involved in the Ontario elementary school system, that is what they call "meet the teacher" or "parent - teacher interview" sessions now. It's an interesting play on words. When I was in grade 2, they were called "meet the teacher" nights. The idea was that the teacher, was being interviewed by their employer, the parent. The conversation went something like this. "Mr. and Mrs. Breen, your son Doug seems like a happy little guy, but he's a dullard, can't read, and he'd best prepare for a lifelong career as a septic tank sucker." Then my dad would say something like, "My taxes pay your salary, I know he's a moron, but teach him to read even if you have to beat him."

By the time I was in high school, they were called "parent - teacher interviews", the insinuation being that some of the responsibility for my inability to read was my parents' fault. "Mr. and Mrs. Breen, your son is a dullard and we have to work together on this." My dad helped out by getting me a job with a local septic sucking service.

But now, they're called "goal setting sessions" and your kid's academic shortcomings are 100 % your fault. The teacher abandons all responsibility and says, "Mr. Breen, your son often comes to school with no pants on, what are you going to do about it?" Then, unless you say, "I'll make a commitment (in writing) to be sure the boy isn't naked when he leaves the house", they keep you after class and make you write out lines. I figured that between his teacher and a steady diet of SpongeBob squarepants, he'd be Billy Shakespeare by now, but apparently it's all up to me.

I'm always amazed by the subtleties of the English language. You change the name of a familiar bi-annual event like "meet the teacher" night, and there is a complete power shift in whose responsibility it is to educate an entire generation.

Real Estate Agents are great at this linguistic manipulation. "Cozy basement apartment", means a dank pit with tiny rooms, low ceilings and no windows. "Handyman's dream"= rundown shack. "Historic"= old. "Vibrant nightlife" means living between a crack house and a brothel. "Close to transit lines" leads to a dozen kids trashing your yard every 15 minutes while they wait at the bus stop conveniently located on your front lawn.

Used car ads are even better. "Clean" means that no one actually left a rotting deer carcass in the back seat. "Reliable"= very, very ugly. (K-cars were actually built by a

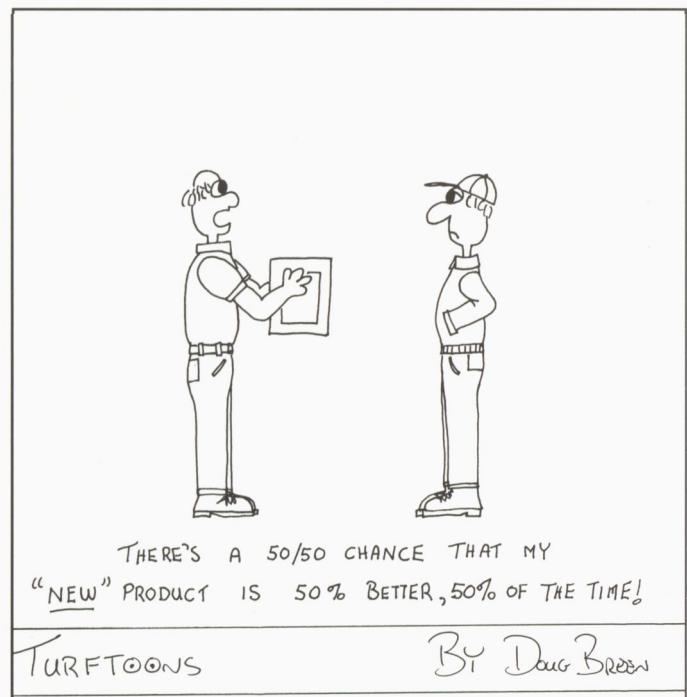


division of Chrysler named Reliant... need I say more?) "New paint"= recent car accident. "After market modifications"= street raced.

Every year, more and more advertising lands on my desk, and some of it is just as bad. Mathematically speaking, "33% more" can mean at least a half dozen different things. (weight, volume, coverage, active ingredient...). A "Budget-saver shovel" has a balsa wood handle. "As is"= doesn't work very well. "New and improved" is likely just new, "labour savers" never save labour, and if someone tells you "you can't live without it"... yes you can.

I've been tricked into buying a few white elephants and Edsels in my day, and the best advice I ever got, whether in education or consumerism, is that nothing worth doing is easy, nothing good is free, and if a deal seems to good to be true... it is.

Now I have to go help Walker with his homework so I don't get a detention.



Looking back

10 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

1994 Board of Directors: **Bruce Burger** (president), Lakeview, **John Taylor** (vice), Twenty Valley, **David Gourlay** (past), Club Summerlea, **Simon George** (sec.), Oakville, **Alex LaBelle** (tres.), Carlton Golf Club, **Doug Suter** (editor), Credit Valley, **Rick Serrao**, Glendale, **Ken Nelson**, Sutton Creek, **Ian Bowen**, Oshawa, **Paul Dodson**, Aurora Highlands, **Jerry Richard**, Craigowen and **Mark Schneider**, Owen Sound.

New Members: **Patrick Simms**, Thornhill CC (F); **David deHaan**, M K Rittebhouse & Sons (E); **Caleb Howald**, Ariss Valley G C (B); **Gord Dol**, Dol Turf Restoration (E); **Craig Mortimer**, Cedar Brae GC (F); **Donna Harrison**, Garden City Municipal GC (B); **Claudio Vona**, Castlemore GC (F); **Gary Allen**, Westminster Trails GC (F); **Bruce Paterson**, Angus Glen GC (F); **Eric Williamson**, Angus Glen GC (F); **Ernie Amsler**, Angus Glen GC (B); **Mike Ettles**, The Toronto Hunt (F); **Tim Schaly**, Muskoka Lakes (F).

On the move: **Alex Labelle** moved from the Carleton Golf and Yacht Club to Merryhill Golf Club, near Kitchener. **Warren Vout** left Cedarbrae and went to Brampton Golf Club, where **Blake McMaster** has become GM, after years of being the superintendent. **Steve Hallard** took over at Cedarbrae. **Ken Graham** was the new superintendent at Huntington, and **Alex McLeod** went from Hockley Valley to Spring Lakes. **Jim Molenhuis** left Lionhead to work at the new Club Link Course, Lake Joseph. **Jimmy Sara** left Trafalgar and took on the position at Carlyle. **Dave Schmelefske** left Merryhill and joined Ontario Seed Company, and **Everett Nieuwkoop** joined McCracken Golf Supplies.

Article Reprinted from Summer 1994 Issue of Green is Beautiful

Head Wrench Speaks Out

by Ray Joyce – Turf Equipment Manager, St. George's Golf and Country Club

A different bedtime story

After arriving home, after one more twelve-hour day, my five year old daughter, Jennifer asked me where I worked. Instead of a bedtime story, I took the opportunity to explain. I proudly told Jennifer of St. George's and its rich history with ties to the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Royal York Hotel, the great golf architect Stanley Thompson, and the castle-like (she would think so) clubhouse. I reflected back 24 years to a time as a student when I worked part-time as a delivery driver for a party goods rental company. Then, I would drop off chairs, tables and linens to all the golf clubs in the west end. I told her of the 25 foot Christmas tree I saw one year in the rotunda of St. Georges, and of the visual impact of the clubhouse in the snow with its festive lights twinkling.

Finally, after memories faded, I got back to present day and went on to explain my duties as Turf Equipment Manager at 'one of Canada's top five golf courses'. Never one to easily fall asleep, I asked her if I had answered her question, the wide-awake Jennifer said, "Yes, daddy . . . but, what about the animals?"

Bill Bowen, superintendent at Dalewood Golf Club, passed away from an apparent heart attack, in his sleep, at the age of 61. **Dr. Jack Eggens** is taking early retirement and **Sam DePinto** retired from Beverley Golf and Country Club.

The Spring Field Day was held at the Cutten Club on May 30th hosted by **Richard Creed**. **Thom Charters** and **Bruce Burger** were tied for low gross with a 73 and **John Taylor** was low net.

The Superintendent Pro Tournament was held at Victoria Park on Sept 6th hosted by **David DeCorso**. All proceeds were donated to the Canadian Diabetics Society, in memory of **Bill Bowen**.

The OTRF Golf Tournament was held at Cherry Downs, hosted by **David Cherry**. 82 golfers participated, with **Ernie Hauser** winning low gross with a 69 and **John Cherry** coming in second with a 71. **Thom Charters** was low net (69) and **Bob Heron** second low net (71). **Andrew Keffer** and **Doug Cherry** were the best ball team winners.

The Alex McClumpha Golf Tournament was held on Oct. 3rd, at Thornhill Golf and Country Club, hosted by **Keith Bartlett**. It was the 50th anniversary with everybody receiving a nice watch commemorating the event. Over 100 attended this shotgun. The winner of the George Darou Trophy for best senior golfer was **Roy French**, of Sturgeon Point Golf Club. Other winners were **Gord Sommerville** 1st net 72 from Oshawa Airport GC and **Robbie Robinson** 1st low gross 72, from Hidden Lakes G C.

What animals? Since I didn't mention the crew in my story, I was perplexed. I asked for an explanation. "The animals in the barn", she replied. And there it was, the term used by members and old-time staff. 'The barn', the term that gets my back up. I demanded to know where she had heard this. Realizing she was on unsure ground, the response was cautious. "Well, tonight after supper, mommy tried to call you at work to find out what time you would be home. Some lady answered and said she was sure that no one was still in the barn at that time of day and mommy should try again tomorrow."

After kissing Jennifer goodnight and promising to take her to work one day, I went to the living room and started the notes for this article.

To be sure, there is, at least at this writing, a barn on the property of St. Georges. It has some local history and served as a repair facility and machinery shed during a more simple time in the club's past. A time of gang mowers and tractors and, yes, Canadian Opens. But for the past six years, the nearly one million dollar turf equipment inventory has been housed in a modern, although cramped, storage and

Head Wrench Speaks Out continued...

repair facility.

Barn indeed. The image conjured up is one of unprofessional people doing unprofessional work. I take fierce pride in what I do because in our field we produce more with less. It is simple to solve problems by throwing money around. You want proof? Look at how most clubhouse operations work. Got a broken window, call the glass people. Broken vacuum, get the yellow pages. Although a broken shaft on a \$1,200 hydraulic pump from a \$30,000 fairway mower is a \$250 part purchase, the downtime in fixing this is the same as if I had bought a new pump in the first place. Why bother? Because of the routine 10 to 12 hour days, pride and professionalism.

Image problem due to myth. The myth is that turf equipment mechanics do not dabble in their chosen venue. The government has decided that golf course equipment repair is a separate field and, therefore, a licensable profession. A single piece of paper is not going to reverse years of ingrained thinking that mechanics are slow-witted cousins who didn't do well in school, but 'were good with

their hands'. This image problem exists. It perpetuates. And it needs to be addressed by all parties concerned. How many times have unfamiliar people come into our repair facilities, asked to speak to the superintendent, then left without a word? How many telephone messages have you diligently taken by these same individuals, but you can't put a face to the name?

As long as I live, I will never forget the day I met our new General Manager. Chauffeured to the shop on a freshly polished golf cart, the superintendent stopped dead center of the open bay door and announced, "Mr. Murphy, this is our new equipment lift". "Very nice", was the reply. "And who is the fellow working under the raised machine?" "He's our mechanic", was the answer. "Does the mechanic have a name?" prompted the GM. After a very hurried introduction he said it had been a pleasure meeting me, to which I replied that it is a pleasure to meet anyone. In conclusion, people of the wrench, remember the first step in an image upgrade is a good old-fashioned barn burning. It is long overdue.

May the quiet joys of this

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From the directors and staff at

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