

February 2004

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

1st Annual Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show

Using Trinexapac-ethyl in Light of New IPM Guidelines

**Bunker Renovation at St. Georges
Golf & Country Club – Phase II**

**Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program
at Hamilton Golf & Country Club**

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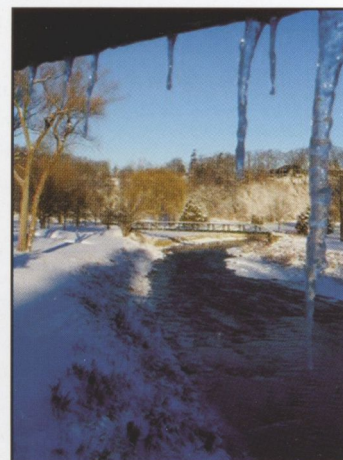
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COVER PICTURE

Winter at Credit Valley Golf Club

Photo by Jeff Stauffer

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

President's message

I am grateful for the opportunity to address the membership of the OGSA as your new president. I promise to you that I will match the dedication and commitment to our association demonstrated by those that have held this position before me.

My first order of business is to thank Mr. Jim Flett, our past-president. Jim has over a great number of years made many significant contributions to the OGSA. Most significant is his establishment of our web-site. At a time when a web-site was just a "cool concept", Jim pushed ahead and made it a reality. In a very short time the web-site has become the OGSA's most valuable communications vehicle. Jim, the OGSA wishes you well in your future. Thanks for all the help.

I welcome to the 2004 Board, Mr. Rob Gatto, Kings Forest Municipal Golf Course, Mr. Doug Breen, Golf North and Mr. Jarrod Barakett, Deer Ridge Golf Club. These gentlemen are joining a committed group of superintendents that will work hard on your behalf.

In my time on the OGSA Board, I have witnessed first hand the power of setting and achieving goals. Whether the issues relate to environmental stewardship, education, publications, member services, or even to golf tournaments, the OGSA is achieving success by setting goals. In many instances, the goals that

are set seem unattainable. Where do you turn when you hit the wall? You look inward. Commit yourself to breaking down barriers and working hard. Success will come your way. I share this story because I feel there is a valuable lesson in it that we can take to our golf courses and our lives at home. Setting and achieving goals is a proven recipe for success.

Congratulations are certainly in order for all those involved in the inaugural Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Tradeshow. I salute all suppliers, delegates, speakers, administrators, and organizers. Together we have established a template for future success. For 2005, OGSA has partnered with CGSA to present the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Tradeshow January 7th - 11th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (North Building). We hope to see you there.

On behalf of the OGSA Board of Directors and staff, I wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year. Achieve your goals!



by Rob Ackermann
Weston Golf & Country Club



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Guelph Turfgrass Institute
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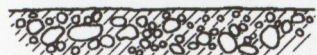
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Green is Beautiful 2003

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Editor's message

by John Bladon

Happy New Year all! 2004 was ushered in with the completion of the 1st Annual Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show at the Sheraton Centre in downtown Toronto. By all accounts, the feedback on the event and facilities has been very positive and the OGSA has done itself proud. A summary of the events surrounding the conference are enclosed in this issue.

Green is Beautiful is pleased to have a number of new members join the Editorial Advisory Committee. I would personally like to welcome Bill Green, Greig Barker, Brian Haum, Jason Hanna and Scott Sleep, and I look forward to feeding off the infusion of new energy to the committee. To that end, we have decided on a new regular feature called "Member Profile", to become a mainstay in the magazine for 2004. We will be featuring Superintendent and Associate members alike throughout the upcoming year.

With the off-season in high gear, trade shows, conferences and professional development are priorities at the moment. Educating ourselves on what is new and upcoming is critical in keeping on top of what seems like a never-ending list of changes relating to our functioning in this profession. *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an article authored by Dr. Brenda Nailor on how growth regulators fit into the IPM scheme, as well as Phase II of St. Georges Bunker Renovation, by Jason Hanna, and a feature on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program at Hamilton Golf & Country Club, by Tracy Fowler.

Again, Dorothy and I would welcome your feedback. If you know of a member who ought to be written about or may have an interesting project underway, please contact us. *Green is Beautiful* lives and breathes because of your contributions.



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport

Provided by Ministry of the Environment

YEAR 2003		
	Average	Actual
January		
(rain)	24.9 mm	0.0 mm
(snow)	31.1 cm	41.4 cm
(total)	52.2 mm	35.4 mm
February		
(rain)	22.3 mm	22.6 mm
(snow)	22.1 cm	23.6 cm
(total)	42.6 mm	46.8 mm
March		
(rain)	36.7 mm	27.8 mm
(snow)	19.2 cm	24.0 cm
(total)	57.1 mm	50.0 mm
April		
(rain)	62.4 mm	34.8 mm
(snow)	5.7 cm	15.2 cm
(total)	68.4 mm	60.8 mm
May		
(rain)	72.4 mm	152.8 mm
(snow)	TR cm	0.0 cm
(total)	72.5 mm	152.8 mm
June		
(rain)	74.2 mm	63.8 mm
July		
(rain)	74.4 mm	66.2 mm
August		
(rain)	79.6 mm	53.4 mm
September		
(rain)	77.5 mm	114.2 mm
October		
(rain)	64.1 mm	51.0 mm
November		
(Rain)	62.0 m	135.2 mm
(Snow)	7.6 cm	6.4 cm
(Total)	69.3 mm	141.2 mm
December		
(Rain)	34.7 mm	45.0 mm
(Snow)	29.2 cm	19.6 cm
(Total)	60.9 mm	61.6 mm



Welcome!

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

Peter Asma Class C
Hautes Plaines Golf Club

Robert Bell Class A
Copper Creek Golf Club

Paul Clarke Class D
Ash Brook Golf Club

Mark Philip Durand Class C
Bluewater Golf Course

Matt Gauthier Class S
Hamilton Golf & Country Club

Norman B. Jenkins Class C
Cherry Hill Golf Club

Cory Kirwan Class B
Silver Brooke Golf Course

Stuart McMillan Class C
Lively Golf Club

Robert Oliver Class C
Brampton Golf Club

Derrick Powers Class A
Rivermead Golf Club

Jason Pummell Class C
Bayview Country Club

Ken Robertson Class F
Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club

Howie Schnarr Class A
Chelmsford Golf Course

Dan Warrington Class C
Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto

Peter White Class A
Nottawasaga Inn Resort

Maxium Golf Leasing Class E
Tim Trimper

Turfgrass management research at Guelph

Poa annua Ecotype Evaluation

In the article "Poa annua Ecotype Evaluation" in the December, 2003 issue, the names of funding sources and collaborators were inadvertently omitted. Funding for the research project was provided by the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation, the

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Collaborators include Dr. Julie Dionne, Dr. Tom Hsiang and Dr. Ken Carey of the University of Guelph. Special thanks

to the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, the University of Guelph, and the management and staff from Victoria West Golf and Country Club in Guelph who provided space on golf greens and in cold chambers for this project.

Health & safety

Bill C 45 – Amendments to the Criminal Code

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

Welcome to 2004! I trust that this will be a fabulous year for all of us!

To get it started off right I believe that it is important for everyone to be familiar with some new legislation that was passed in the fall of 2003. The Legislation is known as Bill C 45. This is an amendment to the CRIMINAL CODE of Canada.

Please take note of this information. It may make a difference as to how you view your responsibilities at work. I have not got enough space here to flesh out all of Bill C 45 but I will try to give you some of the critical highlights.

The following information has been taken from the Government of Canada Justice Department web site.

Bill C 45 amends the Criminal Code of Canada by redefining some of the definitions in the Criminal Code and clarifying the positions of certain people in an organization. For instance the "Directing Minds" of an organization have been more clearly defined. The definition of "senior officer" includes everyone who has an important role in: setting policy; or managing an important part of the organization's activities.

The definition therefore focuses on the function of the individual, rather than on any particular title.

In addition, the new definition makes it clear that the directors, the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer of a corporation are, by virtue of the position they hold, automatically

"senior officers". A corporation charged with an offence cannot argue that the individuals occupying these positions actually had no real role in setting policy or managing the organization and therefore were not senior officers.

However, it has been found that the term "employee" was not broad enough to capture all the individuals who may act on behalf of an organization. Therefore Bill C-45 uses "representative," which is defined under the amendments to mean directors, partners, members, agents and contractors, as well as employees.

The Bill refers to "a party to an offence", and Section 21 of the Criminal Code provides that a person is a party to an offence if the person actually commits the offence or aids or abets another person to commit it. Section 22 of the Criminal Code makes a person who counsels another person to commit an offence also a party to that offence. Accordingly, the use of "a party to an offence" in Bill C-45 reflects both sections of the Code, providing a broader definition that will apply to more activities than only when an organization "commits an offence".

How does this potentially affect you as the Golf Course Superintendent?

If a serious injury should happen at the golf course in an area of your responsibility you or your workers could potentially be held criminally liable. This is different than in the past when any action that might have been taken would have fallen solely under the Provincial

Offences Act.

I hope this gives you a bit of an understanding of a couple of aspects of Bill C 45.

For further information, please contact the Department of Justice, online at www.canada.justice.gc.ca or by telephone at (613) 957-4222 or Doug Johnson at doug@safetaid.ca or by telephone at (519)-837-0997

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by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
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It is amazing what can be found by looking into old turf publications. I not only enjoy catching up on all the turf publications that I did not have time to read, but I also like to read really aged publications.

Michigan State manages a great site named the Turfgrass Information Center. The URL www.lib.msu.edu/tgif is where you can select on a number of different links. This is where I found all (well almost all) of the USGA Green Section record past issues. The search tool is one of the easiest I have ever seen. Scrolling by decades (yes, decades) as far back as 1921 (it was called *The Bulletin of the USGA* then *The*

Journal). Articles from "How to buy Seed" to "The role of Greens Committees" can be found here. One of my favourites was the story of Ray Ainsley, the man who scored a 19 on a par-4 at the 1938 US Open at Cherry Hills in Denver. This can be found in the June 1949 issue.

With age comes poor picture quality, most are black and white and are difficult to make out. Even though the articles are converted to PDF format (the newer ones are html), the photos are poor. There was a historical article of the first vertical mower in use (Winter 1949) which was a converted culti-hoe at Hershey Country Club used to control crabgrass. When the article came up on the screen the pictures of the equipment could not be made out. This site is filled with historical references so check it out; a lot can be learned from our past.

The next website is the National

Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). If you have become similar to Tom Hanks on *Castaway* and have been missing on a deserted island for the past four years, there have been turf trials taking place across the continent. These trials have produced a large amount of data and results are slowly being released at www.ntep.org like molasses in spring. This site has been summarizing data on all sorts of variables such as grass species, soil type, et cetera and rating the quality of the turf (on a scale of 1-9) in mass tables. Basically, NTEP determines which cultivars performed best in your area with respect to the stresses that predominate your area. There is a lifetime of results to chew through, but it is mandatory if you are thinking of any renovating or building projects that I am sure everybody is doing right now.

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Using Trinexapac-ethyl in light of new IPM guidelines

by Brenda Nailor, PhD
Engage Agro Corporation
519-826-7878 ext 27
brendanailor@engageagro.ca

New Integrated Pest Management (IPM) guidelines and provincial pesticide codes have charged the superintendent with the task of justifying and recording all pesticide applications. For pest infestations, a superintendent may justify a pesticide application when monitoring reveals that the pest population has reached a treatment threshold. Often, fungicides are applied in accordance with IPM after favourable disease conditions occur and disease symptoms are observed in "hot-spots" (e.g., dollar spot) or when a documented history exists of disease on the course (e.g., pink snow mould). So, how does a superintendent justify the use of Trinexapac-ethyl under the new IPM guidelines?

Trinexapac-ethyl is a turfgrass growth regulator registered under the Pest Control Products Act. Trinexapac-ethyl is not a pesticide by the act's definition because it does not have an effect on any turf pests. By similar logic, Trinexapac-ethyl is not covered by Integrated Pest Management because it does not directly contribute to the management of pests. The dilemma is that all pest control products are governed by the IPM guidelines or pesticide codes. Therefore, we must consider the reasons why Trinexapac-ethyl is used on golf courses, how this product contributes to sound IPM practices and how it can be used in compliance with provincial pesticide codes.

First and foremost, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has deemed Trinexapac-ethyl safe to workers and bystanders, to the environment and to organisms in Canada.

Trinexapac-ethyl is a growth regulator that causes vertical growth to be redirected laterally and down into the root system. The primary benefits of regulating grass growth are increased quality of the turf and clipping reduction. Studies have shown that root carbohydrates and root mass of bentgrass and Kentucky bluegrass were increased following foliar applications of Trinexapac-ethyl. The following environmental, safety and sustainability benefits may be attributed to the physiological changes in the plant that occur after applications of Trinexapac-ethyl:

- **Less Use of Fossil Fuel:** Decreased vertical growth translates to less time mowing, which results in less fossil fuel being used to power the mowers thereby conserving a non-renewable resource while decreasing pollution.
- **Less Water Use:** Studies from New York, California and Kansas indicate that turf requires 10-26% less water when Trinexapac-ethyl is applied at regular intervals

during the growing season. Turf is able to withstand periods of drought stress while maintaining turf quality. Therefore, less irrigation and decreased potential for run-off or leaching is possible with the use of Trinexapac-ethyl.

• **Pre-Stress Conditioning:** Using Trinexapac-ethyl prior to stress periods leads to healthier plants that tolerate stress (such as drought, traffic, heat /cold, diseases and insects), or recover from stress much more quickly than non-treated turf. This creates the potential for all other cultural and chemical practices to perform more effectively. By their very nature, some of the cultural practices on golf courses can be stressful to the plant (e.g., verticutting, aeration and low mowing heights). A healthy plant is more resilient and can withstand stress, and therefore may not be as reliant on chemical controls to maintain the grass in the wake of the invasive cultural practice. By the same token, Trinexapac-ethyl positively affects grass grown in shady areas where abiotic and biotic stresses can be quite prevalent.

• **Worker Safety:** Treatment of the bunkers with Trinexapac-ethyl means that bunkers do not have to be mowed as frequently, thus reducing the risk incurred by workers' mowing these steep slopes.

• **Less Landfill:** CropLife Canada's container recycling program diverts the containers from the landfill. In addition, mowers, blades, cutting reels and bedknives have extended use before being diverted to scrap metal recycling facilities.

• **One Spray Trip, Many Benefits:** Tank mix registrations allow Trinexapac-ethyl applications to occur when the sprayer is already on the course to apply a fungicide. Therefore, use of Trinexapac-ethyl does not necessarily require additional resources to make the applications.

• **Personnel Allocation:** With less mowing time and spray applications, grounds personnel have more time to focus on other components of the IPM program, such as pest scouting and education.

There are many benefits to using Trinexapac-ethyl beyond improved turf quality and applications of Trinexapac-ethyl can be justified for use in light of new IPM guidelines and provincial pesticide codes.



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Nutrite/OSC seminar report

The importance of managing data to improving turf management was the theme that emerged at the 15th Annual Nutrite/OSC Invitational Professional Turfgrass Seminar held in Kitchener on November 18, 2003. Intended to highlight new technologies, provide research updates and share current information, the seminar is hosted by Nutrite Hydro Agri and Ontario Seed Company and supported by industry sponsors

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Dave Schmelefske, OSC, welcomed more than 180 professional turf managers from golf courses, municipalities, lawncare/landscaping companies, golf course architecture, agronomic services, academia, media and manufacturers. Special wishes for a speedy recovery were extended to George Hamilton of PennState, last year's keynote speaker.

Tender care of greens to taking on pests

Speakers presented topics ranging from deciding when to remove greens covers, greens construction research, a new slow release nitrogen technology, and managing water repellency, to pest management, IPM accreditation, and an update on the West Nile Virus in Ontario. The common theme of the day was the importance of data collection.

Host Superintendent Cory Janzen began with "Monitoring Soil Temperatures Under Winter Covers". Before the first snowfall all greens at Westmount Golf & Country Club are covered with solid plastic covers to protect turf from ice damage. Covers also help greens survive long periods of snow cover and situations resulting from poor surface drainage. The trick to covers is deciding when to remove them in spring. Cory decides by analyzing temperature data provided by an internal and external monitoring system consisting of a soil probe and data logger which downloads to a computer. When the internal

temperature under cover is consistently higher than the outside temperature, it is time to remove covers – even if there is still snow on the ground. For more information about this monitoring system, contact Cory Janzen or check www.hoskin.ca.

An update of the research into a new greens construction method was described by Dr. David Casnoff. "The Pennfield System, an Environmentally Sensitive System for Golf Greens & Sports Fields" research rates comparisons within an enclosed system with a sub-surface delivery/injection system along with forced air flow, temperature monitoring and varied soil/aeration treatments. As reported in Turfgrass Trends, there is evidence that environmentally sensitive construction and maintenance methods offer many potential benefits relating to water use and recycling, pesticide fate tracking, reducing human contact with pesticides, and the performance of organic fertilizer to turfgrass establishment and reduced disease incidence. Info: cazz@earthlink.net.

Jim Skorulski, Agronomist, USGA Green Section, provided advice on moving forward with "Pest Management in the 21st Century". Like it or not, the trend toward pesticide free management continues. More pesticide regulations mean more products lost or not making it to re-registration. In addition to standard IPM cultural practices, monitoring, thresholds, fertility programs, logbook recording, scouting reports, etc., superintendents were encouraged to look at contemporary application techniques used by farmers, e.g. GPS (Global Positioning System), and new handling and delivery systems. Spray equipment with direct injection or better nozzle technology (and selection) to control drift, droplet size and variable rate application may be more expensive but 'Bio-rational'. Other advice: maintain a map of the course, an annual plan, and pesticide application data and info records. Communicate collected data and Pest Management programs with golfers and the public.

Norm Day from Agrotain International discussed the science of the new nitrogen slow release technology in, "Understanding Stabilized Nitrogen". Nitrogen use efficiency as well as managing nitrates in the environment are gaining importance on and off the golf course. Grass plants take 40-70% of nitrogen, so what happens to the rest? Losses occur due to immobilization, erosion,



leaching, volatilization, and denitrification; they take their toll on plant health, appearance, the environment and the budget. Agrotain's stabilized nitrogen products incorporate two inhibitor ingredients during the production of urea that work to reduce losses by volatilization, leaching and denitrification without overfeeding the plant. Quick to dissolve, they slowly and predictably release nitrogen to the turf; for example, UMAXX stabilized nitrogen lasts up to 12 weeks. For more info, visit www.stabilizednitrogen.com.



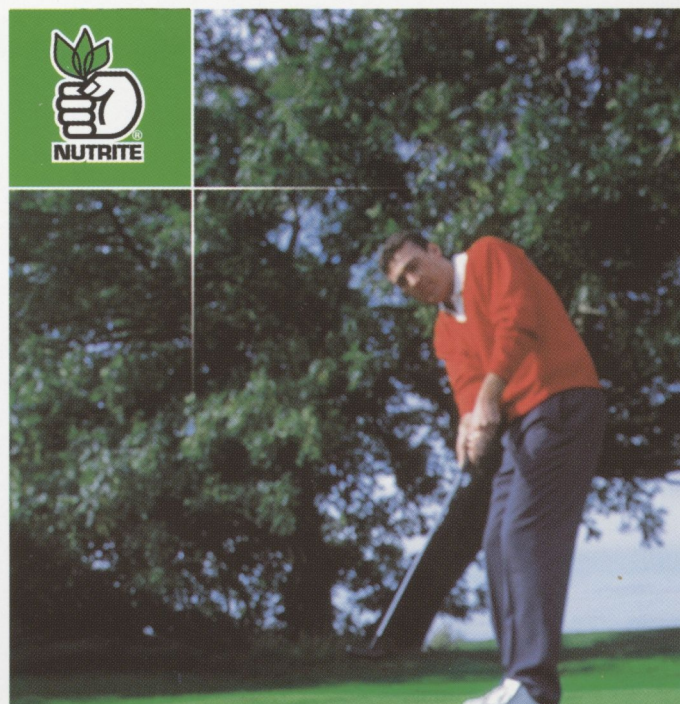
Norm Davy, Agrotain International

In his presentation, "New Water Management Products", Al Lanoie of Turf Science Laboratories showed how surfactants provide hydration sites to treat water repellency. Especially in localized dry spots, for fairways or larger turf areas where soil becomes hydrophobic, managing thatch and soil with surfactants is an economical way to manage water repellency. For more info, visit alanoie@turfsciencelabs.com.

"IPM Accreditation, Are You Participating?" a reminder from Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent of Credit Valley Golf & Country Club, about the Integrated Pest Management Accreditation Exam at the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference in January 2004. The exam is conducted by Ridgetown College and based on OMAF Publications 384, 162, and 816. Pre-registration is required; no on-site registration. Visit www.planthealthcare.ca or www.ontarioipm.com or call 866-385-4762.

"West Nile Virus, An Ontario Update" by Dr. Barry Tyler, President of Pestalto Environmental Products, Inc. confirmed that there have been 1000 suspected cases in Ontario as of January 2003 since the virus first arrived in 2000. Positive actions are the best defense: personal protection (repellents, light/white clothing) and mosquito larval control (reducing standing water). Superintendents were advised to: remove cattails from pond edges (cattails cut down on wind action and some mosquito larvae breathe underwater through cattail roots); report and collect dead crows and jays exercising caution in handling; remind golfers to protect themselves — sell deer repellents. www.pestalto.com

Industry seminars are a great way for superintendents to build upon their turf management knowledge and get together with friends, peers and associates at the same time.

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Golf courses are part of the solution

Much debate is taking place across Canada over the issue of what is sometimes called the "cosmetic" use of pesticides. This term would suggest that there are some users of pesticide products that are just using them for appearances and that these uses should be stopped. This is certainly not the case with the golf industry.

To fully understand golf's involvement with pesticides, it will help to understand a little more about the products that are used and the agencies involved in approving these products. Essentially, all pesticide products used in Canada are tested and approved by the federal government through the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, which operates within Health Canada. Provincial governments are responsible for regulating the sale and use of the products within their specific jurisdictions, including the licensing of pesticide applicators. The Canadian pesticide approval process is one of the toughest regulatory systems in the world. It has been likened to the prescription drug approval process in terms of its rigor. Pesticide products are tested very carefully with respect to health impacts and the concentration levels at which negative impacts are eliminated. Much research into a product's efficacy is necessary in order to determine, not only the concentrations that should be applied, but also the "environments" in which these products should be allowed to be used. Once the product is deemed to be safe when used at a particular concentration, the permissible limits of use for that product are then decreased by 1000 times to further ensure the safety of the product.

With respect to golf, the use of pesticides is anything but cosmetic. The golf course is the golf industry.

Without a playing surface that is both inviting and exciting to play and which truly provides a safe, consistent playing surface, the game and the industry would not survive. Canadians are, per capita, the number one golfing nation in the world. It is estimated that there are over five million golfers in Canada. Golf is a strong contributor to the overall economy of Canada. There are over 2000 golf courses employing thousands of individuals on a full and part time basis. Golf courses across Canada have added tremendous value to real estate developments and breathed new life in to what was considered "marginal land" in some areas. The game of golf encourages exercise and social interaction in a healthy outdoor environment, for many of our citizens and visiting tourists.

Pesticides play an important role in ensuring the integrity and safety of the playing surface but they are far from being the only input in the management process. Golf superintendents, charged with the responsibility of maintaining the golf courses most important asset, generally employ a technique referred to as "integrated pest management" (IPM). This process is a holistic system that applies knowledge of the plant host and the pathogen (pest), to maximize the health of the plant and minimize the environmental conditions that would allow pathogens to cause disease". In short, the more you know about your plant and your pest the better your chance of providing an environment that doesn't result in a pest problem. The more that can be done to affect the growing conditions in a positive way the less pesticide that needs to be used. Not only does this have a positive environmental impact, but also financial rewards; pesticide products tend to be very expensive, so there is a financial incentive to

reduce their use, except when the pests that they have been designed to control threaten the viability of the golf course.

The suggestion by some that golf courses are not "essential," and thus the use of pesticides is merely cosmetic, overlooks the tremendous benefit golf courses provide to our quality of life and to the overall environment. It is well-documented by turfgrass educators and research centres that grass and other plants help to modify air pollution, absorb particulate matter and carbon dioxide and prevent soil erosion. They also help supply oxygen while filtering ground water.

Golf facilities create an environment that is pleasant and relaxing for golfers as well as being a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. An 18-hole golf course averages 170 acres. Pesticides are used only on a small percentage of the facility. In fact, the most intensely-managed areas are the putting greens, which represent only about two per cent of the total course. The majority of the property often consists of natural low-maintenance areas, which usually provide a home for wildlife and include a diverse variety of native plants and large stands of trees.

It is important to note that much of the pesticide used on a golf course is in the category of 'fungicides'. Fungicides are generally the category of pesticides that are least toxic. Many common household products are more of an environmental concern than these plant treatments.

As a recap, golf understands as much as any other sector the need for a safe healthy environment and it seeks to provide just that for both golfers and others. Its use of pesticides is limited to products that have been approved for use on golf

courses and these products generally are applied by licensed applicators using proper techniques and equipment. Golf seeks to use the minimum amount of chemical necessary to ensure that the golf course continues to provide a consistent playing surface. It does so both to protect the environment from any harmful affects and to save money. IPM and other techniques related to turf species, cultural practices and new products have allowed for a significant reduction in pesticide use. Golf also seeks to treat the smallest possible areas with pesticide products. The most heavily used and treated areas are putting greens which make up approximately 2% of most courses and the products that are most often used are low toxicity fungicides.

Golf will continue to utilize and improve the principles of IPM in its effort to provide a customer friendly and attractive product to the golfer. For more information on golf's role in the environment please go to any of the following sites:

www.rcga.org
www.golfsupers.com
www.golfsupers.on.ca
www.ngcoa.ca

This article has been prepared by the Environment Committee of CGSA and is available for use by our members in their club newsletter. You can also print this off from OGSA's web site www.golfsupers.on.ca. Go to *Members Only > Government Relations > Pesticides. > Golf Courses are Part of the Solution.*





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Member profile

Interview with Geoff Corlett Principal, TDI International

by Jason Hanna, Foreman
St. Georges Golf and Country Club

On a Friday afternoon in November, I had the opportunity to meet with Geoff Corlett, Principal of TDI International (formerly Turf Drain Inc.), in their Guelph office. Upon entering their office, housed in a refurbished 19th century home, I was greeted by one of the friendly office staff before heading to Geoff's office to conduct the interview.

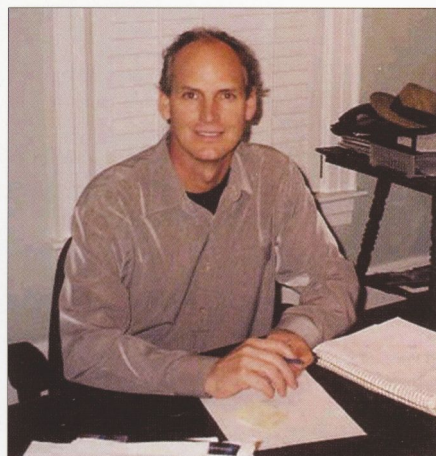
Geoff and I discussed the company's humble beginnings, challenges and the successes that TDI International has enjoyed over the past fifteen years.

Shortly after graduating from the University of Guelph, Geoff and a business partner, created TDI in 1987 as a small golf course drainage company specializing in fairway and greens drainage. What separated TDI from other builders at the time was their use of a laser-guided trencher allowing for exact grades when installing drains.

After starting TDI, Geoff's business partner suddenly passed away leaving Geoff with the responsibility of running the business. In order to operate, Geoff would often work at a project during the day, and then overnight float the equipment to the next job and sleep in his truck. To help with the business Geoff's wife left her government job and began to work at TDI. Initially, TDI employed five people, three part-time employees plus Geoff and his wife.

TDI's break through job was at the Rosedale Golf Club. The initial project called for drainage, but evolved into the reconstruction of a golf hole, tee to green. The project was a success; later projects were completed at other high profile courses such as Glen Abbey. As TDI continued to build their reputation as a world-class builder, word began to travel.

In 1992 while the Ontario economy was doing poorly it was time to look to business elsewhere. With the American cities like Detroit only a few hours away, expanding to the United States was a logical decision. As the company grew so did the company's responsibilities and challenges. Geoff mentions that when you employ only yourself there aren't too many people to let down. As the business began to grow, and it became necessary to take on full-time staff that has responsibilities to their families, you realize how much is on the line. One of TDI International's greatest challenges was becoming a bonded (insured) company to compete with the larger golf course builders and to be eligible for many jobs. Geoff comments that this was one of his greatest challenges in getting the company to where it is today, adding that TDI International is now a company with unlimited bonding.



Geoff Corlett Principal, TDI International

Today, TDI International is a certified golf course builder with over 650 projects under their name. Some of these projects include such prestigious names as Lost Tree (Jack Nicklaus' home course) and Pine Valley. Out of those 650 jobs, only a small handful are complete builds. TDI International focuses mainly on renovations with five different divisions allowing for diversification, never relying on a particular area to generate business.

TDI International is a great success story composed of fine people dedicated to what they do and the goals of the company. With such credits attached to their name as the second best small golf course builder in North America for three years in a row, and recognized by Profit Magazine as one of Canada's fastest growing companies, it will be interesting to see what TDI International has in store for the future.

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major? **The Masters**
- Best piece of turf equipment ever? **Bulldozer, a golf course never looks better than when it is dirt.**
- Ultimate foursome...you and what three? **Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Mike Weir**
- Lowest round ever and where? **80, PGA Golf Club, North Course.**
- This year's Stanley Cup pick? **Maple Leafs, of course!**
- Favorite movie? **Blazing Saddles**
- Favourite meal? **Zuppe de Pesce**
- Favorite course played outside of Canada? **Linville Golf Club, Linville NC**
- What's in your CD player right now? **Sarah Brightman**
- Rate your home lawn on a scale of one to ten (1 worst, 10 best) **Six**
- What do you envision yourself doing if you weren't working in the turf industry?

Post Secondary teaching or Restoring and racing vintage cars.

Golf course highlight

Georgian Bay Club

P.O. Box 40

Collingwood ON L9Y 3Z4

Golf Course Superintendent:

Bert McFadden

Email: bmcfadden@georgianbayclub.com

Website: www.georgianbayclub.com

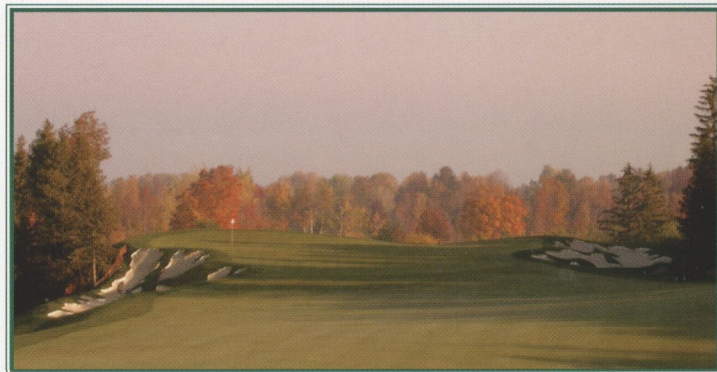


Photo By Bill Green #3 Hole

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Grey County

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

Private

Size of Membership?

378 and counting

Typical opening and closing date

May 20 to October 15

How many years have you been a superintendent?

8 years

Accomplishments:

Seneca College 1989 Grad

Penn State 1993 Grad

Capilano 2000 Grad

Audubon Certified: Chateau Whistler GC

How many year round staff?

4

How many seasonal staff?

17

How many mechanics and assistants?

1 Mechanic: Brian Smith

2 Assistants: Bill Green and Jeff Watson

How many gardening staff?

1 Foreman: Tim Hornick

1 Irrigation Technician: Neil Juniper

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?

7223 yards from the back tees and

5146 yards from the forward tees

Size & length of driving range and range tee:

2 - 1 acre tees - double-ended,
320 front to front

How many bunkers?

72

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

4 times

Who was the original architect?

Hurdzan/Fry, Jason Straka on-site Architect

What was the year of original construction?

2002

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

6,400 square feet

What type of irrigation system?

Toro Site Pro, Age 1 year

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

145,000 sq. ft. of greens

270,000 sq. ft. of tees

46 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

A-4 Greens,

Penncross - Tees, Fairways

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?

California Greens

What is the predominant soil type?

Clay, Clay/Loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

2 - Sidewinder Grounds Master 3500D

2 - Reel Master 5400-D (frwy unit)

1 - Reel Master Trim Mower 3100-D

2 - Greens Master 3250-D (triplex)

1 - National Reel Mower 29-84

1 - Workman 3200 with

Tyco Propass 180 MH

1 - Toro 5500 Sprayer

with 300 gallon tank

4 - Toro Workman 2110

2 - Toro Workman 3200

2 - Club Car Electric (purple)

1 - Club Car Electric (white)

1 - Club Car Villager

1 - Kubota M5700 Diesel Tractor

1 - Kubota L4310 Diesel Tractor with
front-end loader

1 - Varsava Hydraulic Dump Trailer

1 - Tycrop MH 400 MDU

1 - Tycrop Extension Belt Unloader

1 - 40" Tycrop 2 Disc Soil Spreader

1 - 36" Tycrop 2 Disc Soil Spreader

1 - Toro Walkbehind Spray Boom

1 - Land Pride Overseeder 051572

1 - Bergal B-40 3 pt Hitch Blower

1 - Lely 3 pt Hitch Fertilizer Spreader

2 - Toro Transpro Greens Mower Trailers

2 - Toro Transpro Adjustable Trailers

1 - Turf-Co Pro Sod Cutter

7 - MTD 3.5 Tecumseh Pushmowers

2 - Greens Master 1600

6 - Greens Master 21

1 - Express Dual Grinder

1 - Express Dual Bedknife Grinder

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

What projects have you recently completed?

Completed construction and grow-in

8 bridges constructed

Drainage projects ongoing

Construction of range buildings

Catch basin tie-in

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

Tree planting

Walk bridges

Construction of maintenance building

Completion of 2 bridges:

One 160 feet and the other 220 feet
long

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

High winds causing drought stress, some
shaded greens and bunker maintenance

Do you have any success stories?

Grow-in went well, disease was minimal,
sprayed only once on greens & tees until
fall application. Fairways were not treated
during grow-in at all, but did receive fall
application

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

Heavy greens top-dressing
("snowcapping") very heavy at an early
stage of plant establishment when greens
are not filled in from "lug marks" on the
green. Allowed us to level greens for low
cutting heights early on without burying
any biomass associated with more mature
"matt layers" that can accumulate. Greens
were not top-dressed again until a small
amount of thatch had developed at the
surface where we can control it with
verticutting and light topdressings.

1st ANNUAL ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MAN

Despite the frigid temperatures, OGSA's inaugural conference and tradeshow experienced a better than anticipated attendance, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto during the week of January 6, 7 and 8th.

The week of activities kicked off with a free pre-conference seminar. Over 240 participants attended "New Insights on Disease Management", presented by Dr. Lee Burpee from the University of Georgia.

The opening session featured Mr. Mark Hebscher. Few people know sport like Mark Hebscher, and few speakers on sport have his ability to make the subject as entertaining and informative for the die-hard sports fan and general viewer alike. His audience was treated to his famous "Hebsy Awards" that feature the best of sports bloopers, combining his passion for sports with the ability to take one step back and have a good laugh.

Many of our members not only attended the conference but were also active as speakers and chairpersons, and participated in the trade show. Of course, the OGSA Directors and staff

were on hand, with their booth on the registration floor, to greet and assist registrants.

OGSA annual meeting attendees were treated to an early breakfast prior to the presentation of reports and annual election. As members had previously received committee reports well in advance of the meeting, each director briefly highlighted some key components of their portfolio and readily answered concerns of the attendees.

As there were no nominations from the floor, the election of Directors was quickly concluded. Nominees, Doug Breen from Golf North and Rob Gatto, from King Forests Municipal Golf Course were acclaimed to office. We take this opportunity to welcome Doug and Rob to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors for 2004 are: Past President, Mark Piccolo; President, Rob Ackermann; Vice President, Paul Scenna; Treasurer, Bob Burrows, Secretary, Sean DeSilva; Directors Jeff Stauffer, Randy Booker, Jeff Alexander, Chris Andrejicka, Doug Breen, Rob Gatto and Jarrod Barakett has since been appointed to the board.



2004 Executive & Board of Directors

Back Row L-R Doug Breen, Jeff Stauffer, Randy Booker, Jeff Alexander
Front Row L-R Sean DeSilva, Paul Scenna, Rob Ackermann, Mark Piccolo, Bob Burrows



Past President Mark Piccolo & President Rob Ackermann

The 7th Annual President's Reception, an ever popular membership social event, was held on the top floor in the Club Lounge, affording everyone a spectacular view of the Toronto skyline, and a chance to socialize with their colleagues. The official part of the evening included awards and presentations for the year 2003.



Mark Piccolo presenting Dr. Switzer with Crystal bowl award

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Clayton Switzer received the inaugural William Sansom Distinguished Service Award. This award will be presented annually, to a person who the association's membership feels has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration. Dr. Switzer's contribution to golf courses and golf course superintendents in Ontario, across the country and around the world has been enormous. He has contributed to the education of many

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

superintendents by starting the Turf Short Course at the University of Guelph in 1970. He guided turfgrass education as Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College and while Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the golf course industry took a giant step in a positive direction. He was instrumental in drafting the Pest Control Products Act with an eye towards the requirements of the golf industry. The many other activities that Dr. Switzer has been involved in, to the benefit of the golf industry, are too numerous to mention.

Finally, Dr. Switzer is owed a debt of gratitude by all golf courses and superintendents in Ontario, Canada and the world. Many thanks Clay and congratulations!

HONOURABLE MEMBER AWARD

At the OGSA's recent first annual conference, the association honoured long time member Gordon Witteveen who will be receiving a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the upcoming opening conference in San Diego. Only three other Canadians have ever received this award before: John Steel, Keith Nisbet and David Gourlay Sr.



Randy Booker presenting Gordon Witteveen With Honourable Member Plaque

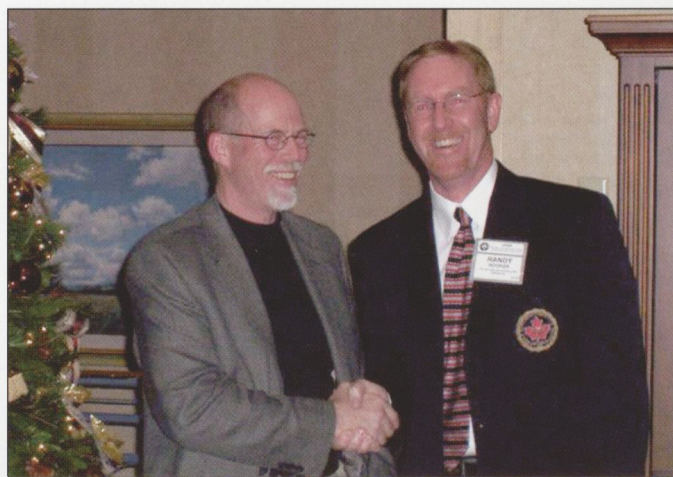
Gordon, former golf course superintendent at The Board of Trade, is one of the founding members of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association and has been a voice for superintendents for better than 40 years.

He was honoured as the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association "Superintendent of the Year" in 1983 and was recognized with the John B. Steele award in 1999, for his outstanding contributions to golf in Canada. More of late, he has written and co-authored four books surrounding

turfgrasses, the profession of golf course management and its history, and is busy working on a fifth. Witteveen now owns a golf course in the Brantford area and claims that golf course ownership is something he should have considered years ago. His eyes lit up as he spoke of walking about the grounds in his bare feet! Finally, he claims one of his favourite pastimes remains playing the game of golf with his fellow superintendents.

Congratulations Gordon from all of us at the OGSA!

25 YEAR MEMBERS



Thom Charters & Randy Booker

This year's 25 year membership awards went to:

- Thom Charters - Bayview Country Club
- John Condon - Lyndinshire Golf & Country Club
- Ray Richards - Mad River Golf Club
- Ted Tom - Innisfil Creek Golf Club

NEW MEMBER DRAW

Again this year we had a draw of all the new member applicants, and their two attestees, who's applications were received between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003.

The lucky New Member Winner this year was Craig Moody, Superintendent at Osprey Links Golf Club in Callander. Craig's application was attested by Jim Moore, Superintendent at Puslinch Lakes Golf Club in Cambridge and David Tascone, Superintendent at Granite Ridge Golf & Country Club in Milton. All three gentlemen received an OGSA Wind shirt.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

HERITAGE AWARD

The OGSA has developed this scholarship program to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of members of the OGSA (open to all members), and are studying a curriculum unrelated to Turfgrass Management.



Katie Trainor accepting award from Chris Andrejicka

This year's Heritage Scholarship is awarded to Katherine (Katie) Trainor, the daughter of Rhod Trainor who is the superintendent of the Hamilton Golf and Country Club.

Katie has been preparing herself for a career in the field of Media Relations, and is currently enrolled in the Commerce Program at Queens University.

TURFGRASS DIPLOMA/DEGREE EDUCATION AWARD

The OGSA has developed this scholarship to recognize scholastic accomplishments and potential leadership in the field of turfgrass management. Students who are Ontario residents and have a career goal of being employed in the golf industry are eligible to apply.

This year's Turfgrass Scholarship is awarded to Virginia Kinney.

Virginia is a student at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology, enrolled in the Golf Course Technician Program. She is employed by Mad River Golf Club, under the direction of Ray Richards and Chad Vibert. Virginia's



Virginia Kinney accepts award from Chris Andrejicka

ultimate goal is to become a Golf Course Superintendent, while becoming more knowledgeable in the golf course irrigation industry, and stimulating other to join the turfgrass profession.

TURFGRASS SHORT COURSE AWARD 2003

OGSA congratulations go to Tim Bouville, who was the recipient of the short course award of \$200.00, in April of 2003, with the highest overall average of 93.5%. Tim, at the time of graduation was employed at Sault Ste. Marie Golf Club.

2nd ANNUAL HUGH KIRKPATRICK BURSARY

The OGSA, in conjunction with the Kirkpatrick family has developed this bursary program to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishments of Assistant Superintendent Members of the OGSA.



Greig Barker & Rose Kirkpatrick

The 2nd Annual Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary was awarded to Greig Barker, who is the assistant superintendent at North Halton Golf & Country Club.

As part of Greig's application for this scholarship he submitted an essay, "Managing the Heart of the Operation". After reading his essay, I'm sure you will agree that Greig is a very deserving candidate. Our congratulations to you Greig, and best of luck in your career! We also would like to thank Mrs. Rose Kirkpatrick for joining us at the President's reception and presenting this prestigious award.

MANAGING THE HEART OF THE OPERATION

by Greig Barker, Assistant Superintendent
North Halton Golf & Country Club

As my career in golf course management began, I was determined to absorb all of the agronomic information that I could. I tried to figure out why and when we would aerify, irrigate, apply pesticides and renovate. Obviously, all of the jobs performed were very important, but I never took the time to step back and think, "How does this all get done?" There is a great amount of organization and planning involved in running a golf course maintenance operation. I began to realize that managing people is a skill that needs to be applied and perfected as much as any agronomic practice.

One of the biggest challenges as an assistant superintendent is to complete all of the required tasks in an organized and efficient manner. I have found that good communication throughout our department aids in good productivity. Communication between the superintendent, the assistant, the mechanic, the foreman and the general staff is key. One of the best forms of this communication that I have experienced is a daily meeting. In the morning all of the day's jobs are listed and explained. This way the entire staff knows what is going on and what role they play in that day's events. I find that this helps everybody feel that they are a part of the "team". It is just like a football team, meeting before a big game.

With the vast array of jobs and tasks to be completed, delegation becomes integral. The ability to plan and assign projects and daily jobs in the most productive manner is a large part of a manager's job. I do believe that the proper training and motivation determines how successful we are in our day to day operation. Delegating responsibility to employees is in itself a method of motivation. If someone feels responsible for a project, they will put more effort into it. Some people feel that if they delegate certain responsibilities, that they would then become less important. Someone once told me that delegation doesn't make any one person have less responsibility, but that it makes everyone on the team have more.

Managing people is an integral part of good golf course

management. Agronomic knowledge and the proper management skills are both essential to be a successful assistant golf course superintendent. As I go through my career, trying to learn as much as I can and acquire as many skills as I can, my goal is to become both a competent agronomist and a great manager of people. It has often been said that if you take care of the staff, the golf course in turn will take care of itself.

2003 GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

BARRY ENDICOTT ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2003

The criteria for awarding the Barry Endicott Article of the Year Award is based on a point system consisting of originality, relevance, clarity, depth, style, illustrations, and readability. The recipient is judged by the Editorial Advisory Committee in November.

The recipient this year is Paul Scenna for his article in the July 2003 issue of *Green is Beautiful*, entitled "Donalda's Barns - A Historical Treasure".

PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD 2003

The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The recipient's photo is judged by the Editorial Advisory committee.

The recipient this year is St. Thomas Golf and Country Club for the photo of "The Stone Bridge" located on the green on the signature hole, which appeared in the February 2003 issue of *Green is Beautiful*.

Accepting the plaque for the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club is the photographer and assistant superintendent, Wade Beaudoin.

In addition to the plaques, both award recipients will also have \$250.00 donated in their name to the OGSA Turf Research Fund by Vanden Bussche Irrigation & Equipment Limited and Rain Bird. We would like to thank Vanden Bussche Irrigation for their participation in our publication, and for their continued support of turf research.



Wade Beaudoin, John Bladon & Paul Scenna

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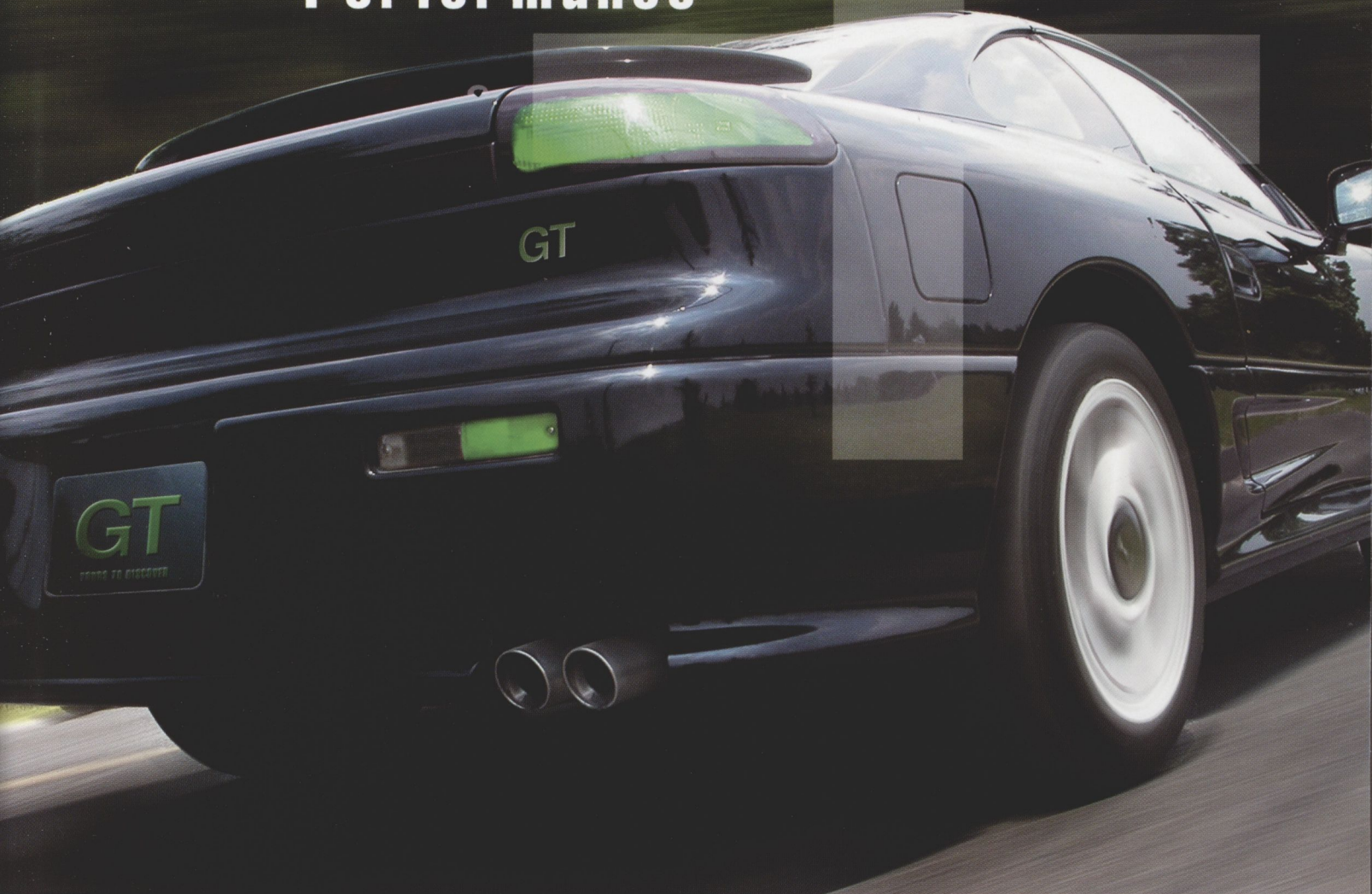
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Bunker Renovation - St. George's Golf and Country Club - Phase II

Article & Photos by Jason Hanna, Foreman
St. George's Golf and Country Club

Shortly after the Labour Day weekend phase two of the bunker renovation project at St. George's Golf and Country Club began. This phase of the project was arguably the most interesting and challenging of the two phases. The main difference was the re-introduction of bunkers that had been filled in over the years and the rebuilding of the ninth green surrounds.

With this phase of the project, taking place in the fall, it was determined that the most aggressive work would be done first before the wet fall weather would become a factor and while sod was still available. Because this phase involved building bunkers from scratch, a D3 bulldozer was brought in to aid the shaping process along with a mini excavator.

During the construction of these bunkers it was possible to implement some of the lessons that had been learned from the first phase. One change was made with the installation of the sand trapper drainage fabric. It was found that when the seams within the bunker were overlapped, the raised portion of fabric became visible over time. Also, maintenance rakes would catch the raised portion fraying the fabric. To overcome this, the edges were butted together and stapled in the same manner as before. This created a smooth surface making it virtually impossible to find the seams once the sand had been added. The manufacturer recommends both methods for installing the fabric. Some bunker edges needed to be slightly modified and repaired. This was due to the fact that they were too steep or composed of sandy soils. This was taken into account with construction of the bunkers in phase two.

By the first week of October it was time to begin the renovation of the ninth green surrounds. It was decided to try to simulate the former ninth greensite and tighten up the approach shot. The goal of rebuilding and the addition of bunkers on this hole was to make a smaller landing area off the tee and make it considerably more difficult for those wishing to go for the green in two. This was achieved by carving a great deal of material away from the front of the green. The fill would be deposited near the landing area for tee shots in order to construct a bunker there. The green surface was reduced by a few yards on both the front and the back in order to accommodate the relocation and addition of bunkers.

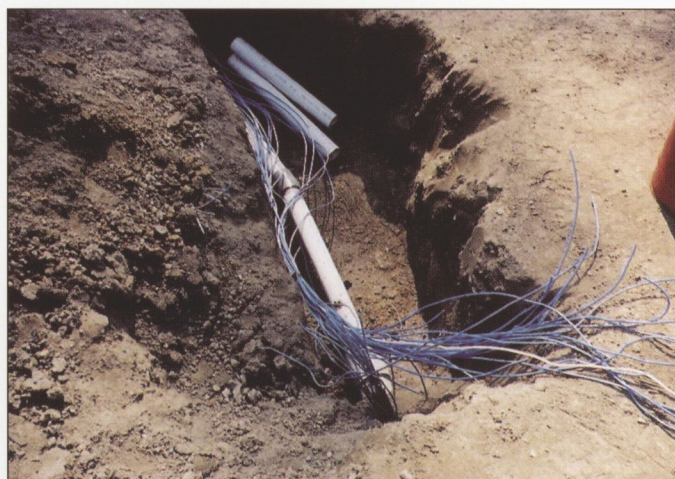


The ninth greensite in the process of being rebuilt.



The ninth greensite shortly after being sodded.

This phase of the project presented challenges not previously experienced in the first phase. With the aforementioned excavation and the addition of new bunkers irrigation lines and heads would have to be installed and relocated. Three years ago, when the irrigation system was installed the potential for a bunker renovation was taken into account. Unfortunately it was impossible at the time to know how every bunker would change. It was decided that the irrigation work would be done in-house. This combined with adding the sand and maintaining the new sod was the responsibility of St. George's greens crew. The main challenge with the irrigation was coordinating our efforts with that of the crew from TDI International. It was important that heads were removed and areas were isolated before they were disrupted and that components were re-installed before areas received final grading and sod. With the changes made in the shape of the green and location of bunkers it was also important to maintain proper irrigation coverage.



Re-wiring irrigation for the ninth fairway.

The wet fall created a couple of problems, not only did the rain delay the project, but the areas with exposed soils became too wet to work. To make matters worse, these areas all consisted of heavy soils. This is when it was useful to have multiple

contingency plans. While the exposed soil was still too wet to work, smaller bunkers similar to those from the first phase of the project were tackled. Most of these only took a couple of days to complete requiring the mini excavator and hand work.

Due to the nature of the above mentioned soils, it became apparent that the sites would only dry to a certain extent. It was important that these bunkers were finished before sod would become no longer available. To finish these bunkers, the crews would setup a network of plywood to create a stable surface to stand on. Many of the drains had to be hand-dug and all of the finishing touches had to be completed by hand as well. Where necessary, dry soil was brought over from a recently excavated bunker.

With most bunkers being sodded in the late fall they will not be rooted and ready for play until the spring. Therefore, when filling these bunkers with sand the approach was changed from getting the bunkers ready for play as soon as possible, to ensuring that the surfaces of the bunkers were covered in order to prevent erosion or silt clogging the drains over the winter months.

Drainage was another main component in this phase. Due to the fact that there was existing drainage already running down some of the fairways it was determined that the bunker drains would be tapped into this. This was very useful because due to the topography in some areas a sump would have been the only

option for draining some bunkers. In other areas it was decided to install better drainage outside of the bunkers. At the third green water drained across the green during spring thaws and heavy rains. This was taken into account with the design of the new bunkers. They will be able to redirect the flow of water to one channel. This coupled with the installation of 6" and 8" main drains will hopefully solve this problem. A city storm sewer drains onto our tenth fairway flooding it whenever neighbours drain their pools. To solve this problem a 12" drain with catch basins was installed to join with a pre-existing drain to remove the water.

Overall the entire project has gone very smoothly. Work was able to continue on the bunkers until the second week of December. Almost all of the bunkers have been completed, with the exception of four bunkers that have already been rough shaped and drained. These will be completed in the spring.

By May 2004 it is expected that all bunkers will be in play. From then on it will be interesting to see what new challenges will arise and how some of the solutions we have already implemented will work. Although it will be great once the bunkers are completed and the crews and their equipment are gone, I'll certainly miss the excitement and learning that comes with a project of this magnitude.



Installation of the drain in the tenth fairway.



Installation of the drain in front of the third green.



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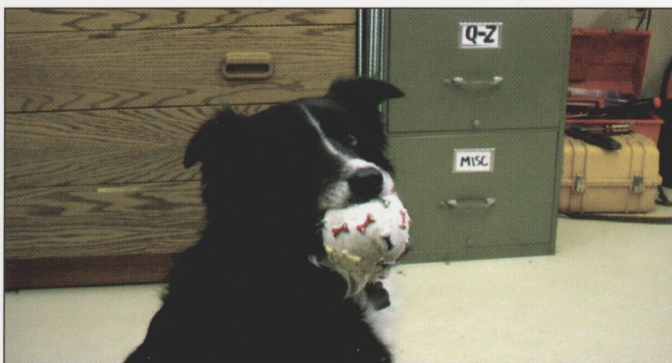
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club

by Tracy Fowler, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

The Hamilton Golf and Country Club has been involved with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System for several years. We are certified in all but two sections, and our goal for 2004 is to pursue full certification. Here are some of our efforts towards achieving certified sanctuary status.

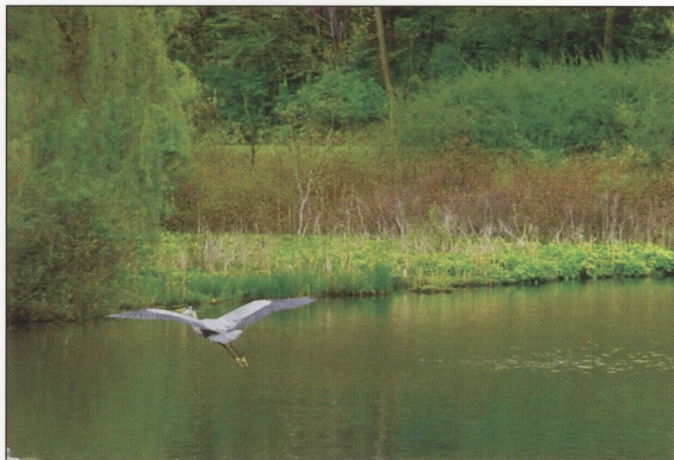
Integrated Pest Management – The Club is committed to maintaining an environmentally sound property while maintaining strong, healthy turf that can resist and recuperate from pests without relying on the use of pesticides. To avoid the over use of fertilizers, soil tests are done regularly to determine exact nutrient requirements for specific turf areas. Scouting and monitoring is done daily to determine pest populations. We keep a variety of records and golf course maps that indicate problem areas and the time of activity. Along with these records, we also keep an extensive IPM Monitoring and Documentation Manual as provided from the OGSA. A safe and tidy maintenance facility is important. We plan to install a poured concrete wash pad with clipping separator in the spring of 2004. Our chemicals and fertilizers are stored in locked buildings while our chemical mixing and loading area is equipped with a water holding tank for quick filling of our sprayers. Each sprayer has fittings to prevent any back flow. All golf course equipment is kept in peak running condition by two world class mechanics – Tom Fowler and Wayne Shaw.

Wildlife and Habitat Management – We are always working to protect and enhance our various types of habitat on the golf course. Food – the clubs tree committee uses a list of native trees, shrubs, and vines in our area. When new plantings are discussed, this list is considered and successful most times in being able to use native plants in our plantings. Water – we continue to keep our water as clean and natural as possible. Wildflower fields, leaving under story vegetation, and increasing and sustaining our healthy buffer zones and out of play areas provides large areas of shelter for our wildlife. Our nesting box program has proven to be more successful each year with a total of 22 bird nests out of 36 houses on the golf course. A portable wood mill is used occasionally to mill the logs from trees that we have cut down. This wood is used to make bird houses, benches, signs, and various projects throughout the maintenance facility.



Bogey

All made by our handiest of handymen Gary Sharp. Another long time club employee – Bogey – is responsible for geese control. Her job is to chase away messy geese before they make our golf course their home.



Heron on #3 East



Fox on #6 Short Course

Water Conservation – Our fully computerized irrigation system always operates at maximum efficiency. A full time irrigation technician detects and repairs any leaks or problems on a daily basis. We change sprinkler run times daily to meet the needs of that particular days observations – weather forecasts, and soil probing for root depth and dryness. We try to limit our water only to provide the minimal sustainable irrigation for each area of the golf course and each particular turfgrass species. With green side, half circle perimeter sprinklers on most of the golf course, as well as at least two quick couplers per hole, we hand water all of the time in the heat of the summer to save on water. We have also incorporated the following practices: Increased number of out of play areas allowed to grow natural to reduce irrigated areas, Increased use of mulches, Addition of more single head control sprinklers, and occasional root pruning

around tees to reduce the competition for available irrigation water.

Water Quality Management – We work very hard to protect our sensitive water bodies. Buffer zones and no mow zones surround all water on the golf course. These areas are also considered to be no spray areas where we physically remove any unsightly growth. We test our water annually to assess the general water quality to determine if there are any impacts from our course management practices. We continue to work with outside agencies that conduct studies and tests on our water.



#8 West Pond



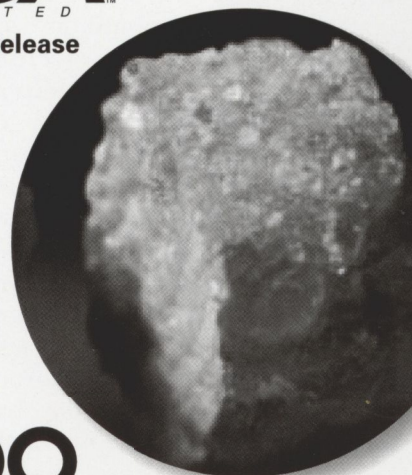
Wild Yellow Flag Iris # 6 South Creek

Outreach and Education – It's important to educate and make people aware of our Audubon efforts. An Audubon Committee is in place at the Club and is composed of members, myself and Course Superintendent Rhod Trainor. This committee is determined to become a certified property. Newspaper and magazine articles help educate our members and employees as well as a monthly staff newsletter. These things have proven to educate everyone here on what we are doing with this program.

The certification process has been a very interesting and informative process. Everyone here at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club is excited and looking forward to a new golf season, and becoming certified while continuing our efforts to protect our precious environment.

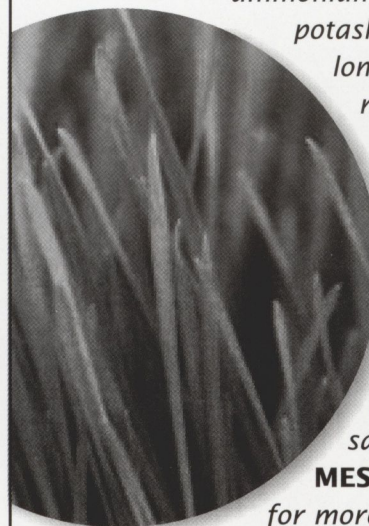
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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

The main responsibility of the club horticulturist/gardener, is to create and maintain the beauty of the public areas: the show gardens, the gates, the

clubhouse, the window boxes, the bag drop area, and the formal beds. You can make a huge impact on the golfing experience and the mood of the space when the gardens are good. Everybody has a bounce in their step when the trees are in flower or masses of trilliums or banks of blue bells are in bloom or when there is a good specimen of virtually any attractive plant.

There are some truly magnificent choices of plants if you want to really impress people. These can be transient plants, like bulbs or annuals, or they can be a perennial but short term show. It doesn't have to be complicated and it doesn't have to cost a lot. It most certainly doesn't have to be groupings of spirea and sedum.

There is no question that golf course gardeners are faced with some of the most horrific circumstances. Confined beds, compacted soil, circular beds, raised beds, peculiar situated beds that's reason for being is long since lost, no irrigation, lack of reliable help, limited resources. Despite all of this, expectations are

high.

There is a trend towards reducing the dependency on annuals in golf course gardens. Gardeners are replacing the structured annual and bulb displays with perennial gardens. I think there is a desire for more diversity in our gardens but the trend is being driven mostly by two perceptions and assumptions.

#1 Replacing annuals with perennials will cost less.

Ultimately this will be true, as long as there is an appropriate investment in planning and perennial plants. Clearly there needs to be a master plan so that the right plants in the right numbers and combinations are chosen for a dramatic or gradual transition, as desired. Garden designers have the expertise to assess the site and the needs and match it with the right plants.

#2 More perennials in the gardens mean lower maintenance.

This is mostly true but it can mean greater pressure on the head gardener because along with having perennials in your beds comes the requirement to know what to do with them. Most gardeners I speak to find that unskilled help just cannot be let loose to weed in perennial beds. It isn't as clear what to do because it isn't as clear what is a weed and what is not. Sometimes it's simpler for the head gardener to do it him or herself. There needs to be an initial

investment in time with unskilled help to train them in the ways of perennial gardening.

Typically, perennial gardens and individual perennial plants take three years to mature. Keeping in mind that the primary objective of the gardens is beauty, you simply can't wait that long for things to look good. Blending perennials, annuals, bulbs, grasses and shrubs is the key to making the transition. Gardeners are introduced to gardening by using annuals. They then graduate and then use exclusively perennials, and then they finally mature and recognize the usefulness of annuals again. When your main goal is beauty, you need to use all the tools in your plant toolbox and annuals are one of them.

From my experience a superintendent feels truly blessed when they have a good gardener. It takes a team to put it all together, but the key is the on-site gardener and how that person manages their resources. When I assist a golf course with it's horticultural program, my focus is to support the efforts of the gardener. This might come in the form of horticultural information or making a plan or working with your staff, or taming gardening committees or simply providing encouragement and ideas.

Visit my website www.daisymoore.com for more tips on gardening.



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Whats new

Membership Roster

The OGSA is making every effort to comply with the Government Privacy Act; in doing so we will be listing only one contact address for our members in the 2004/2005 Roster. That address will be the business contact information. Should you be retired or not currently at a business, we will be sending you a waiver to sign, giving us permission to list your home contact information.

If you have changed any of your membership information and have not yet reported it to the OGSA office, please do so immediately so that we can print the most current information available in our NEW 2004/2005 ROSTER.

Pesticide licenses

Some OGSA assistant and superintendent members have not yet mailed in a copy of their pesticide licence. Please take care of this now, before the busy season starts.

Calendar of Events 2004

Golf tournament dates and locations have been finalized. Information has been posted to our web site, under the heading "Events". Details will be added as they are confirmed. We will also be posting regional association golf tournaments, and events of particular interest to the golf course superintendent and staff.....so add www.golfsupers.on.ca to your favourites, and check it out often.

Employment Referral Service

"Looking for a change?" Employment opportunities are being posted on a regular basis to our web site *Members Only Section*. If you are currently getting your ERS by mail, you might want to consider getting them by Email. It's much faster and quite painless. Just give the office a call and tell them you want to receive OGSA mailings by Email.

The Stork has Landed

Our congratulations to Angela and Keith Bartlett. Their baby girl Emma Julia arrived safely on November 12th, 2003.

Reminder - Score Award - Superintendent of the Year

Procedure and Nomination Forms have gone out to all members. The deadline date to have completed nomination packages in to the OGSA Office is Monday, March 15, 2004.

Plant Products Company Ltd.

Plant Products Company Ltd. is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Horsburgh, Technical Sales Representative - Turf, Eastern Ontario, and Eric Ward, Technical Sales Representative - Turf, Ottawa Valley. Current and prospective clients can contact Scott by e-mail at shorsburgh@plantprod.com or by phone at (416) 573-3449. Current and prospective clients can contact Eric by e-mail at eward@plantprod.com or by phone at (514) 968-8740.

Curling Anyone?

O.G.S.A. Spring Curling Day

Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club is hosting a curling day for all those interested.



Date: Thursday, March 25th, 2004

Time: 12 Noon Start

Host: Randy Booker

Place: Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club
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Phone: (519) 767-3341 or Toll Free 1-888-824-6472 Fax: (519) 766-1704, or Call Randy Booker at (905) 628-6731 ext. 217

If you do not RSVP, on site walk-in's are welcome, however, you will not be guaranteed to play.

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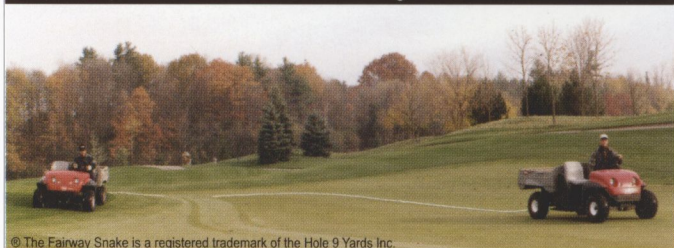
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On the road again

by Kevin Falls
Engage Agro Corporation

Trade show season is upon us. As industry suppliers we know it is now time to invest in a new pair of 'comfy' shoes...you know the ones, they're not in style, but they allow you to punish your feet on the show floor for consecutive days. While shopping for these 'miracle' shoes, you might as well pick up a pair of pants with an elastic waist...we all know last year's pair are just a little too tight.

Now that we have our trade show basics, we wait in anticipation for the top-secret e-mail that notifies us of this year's trade show troop uniforms:

"Ok team, this year's tradeshow uniforms as follows:

Day 1: Red blazer over black shirts, khaki pants

Day 2: Red blazer over white shirts, black pants.

These red blazers are sure to give us the edge this year. See you on the floor".

How can anyone NOT see you on the floor in this outfit? And, you now panic because you've already bought navy dress pants as a way to spice things up this year, but if you show up in navy you will be the ugly duckling that desecrated the matching dress code. It's back to the mall, but you'll reward yourself with a Cinnabon from the food court.

You would hope that such a well-dressed troop would be able to work as a well-oiled information machine on the trade show floor. But more often than not you find yourself deserted and wondering, 'Where are my co-workers!'. You realize you have not seen a fellow 'booth-ee' in 3 hours, you are all talked out and you have to go to the

washroom, bad. You just wish someone would come back from lunch, or the bar, so that you can abscond for a few minutes.


Not only does the code of duties include a strict rotation; but, if you are a savvy trade show veteran you know that your mission revolves around customer perception. One does not want to be 'Mr. Close-talker' or 'Mr. Far-talker'. One does not want to chomp on gum, but one cannot afford the dreaded halitosis. A trade show expert must also consider the handshake adjustment scale: one must not break the customer's hand, but one cannot be the limp hand shaker. At no time should the 'tickle' be employed.

All joking aside, trade show season is one of the most important times of the year. When else do your customers actually come to see you? Industry folk simply need to 'man the booth' and our customers will drop in for a chat as they make their rounds. Trade shows provide suppliers to the industry a unique annual format to interface with the customer base, launch new products and, most importantly, have some fun.

In addition to opportunities for customer interaction, a trade show offers educational seminars delivered by research professors and industry leaders. Not only do the seminars offer valuable up-to-date information, but also the opportunity to create a network of industry contacts. The turf grass trade show is the medium where professionals come together and share information. The benefits of such a gathering far exceed the efforts needed to dodge being "Mr. Smarmy Trade Show Man". So get out your breath mints, stock up your business cards and get ready for the next show. I look forward to seeing you, just look for the guy in the comfy shoes and the elastic-waist pants.

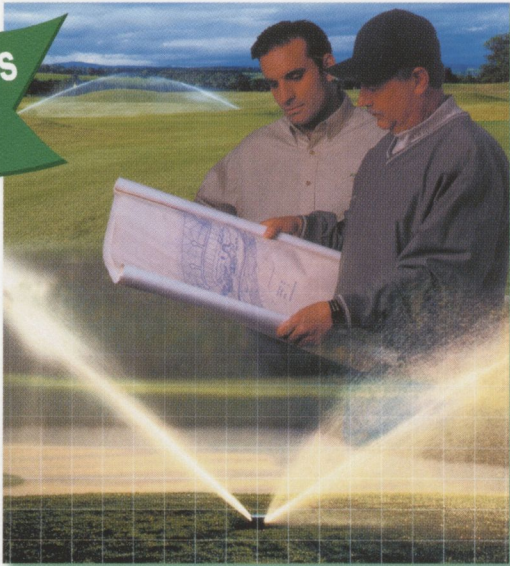
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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

I have a truck. I can pick up heavy things. I have trouble saying no to people who might feed me. Therefore, I have helped a lot of people move.

I have moved several times myself. In this industry, most of us have. It's a nasty side effect of having a career where you can be fired for any reason, at any time; usually right after you get tired of the 45 minute commute and buy a house 5 minutes from your course. Then, you can commute from that house to the next course for three years, move again, get fired again, and so on...

I lived in six different houses in the year before I got married, one for less time than it took us to clean up after the house warming party. It was a university summer sublet where we 'inherited' a roommate who decided to go off of his medication the day we took up residence. I came home from work one afternoon and he had piled all the furniture in the backyard...on fire. The phones were hanging in a tree on the front lawn, he'd made several holes in the drywall with a baseball bat, and he was nowhere to be found. After the fire department left, so did we. Did I mention that he had a pet chicken? In those days, everything I owned would fit into a Tupperware container, so it was no big deal to move out before our new friend, the sociopath, found his way back from wherever he was hiding from the aliens. Moving is pretty easy when somebody burns up all the big stuff first.

But now, after ten years of marriage we have accumulated enough of what can loosely be called possessions, that moving would require several Tupperware containers and a considerable conflagration. As a result, I have decided that I will never move again. I'm at the age where all my friends are having kids and moving into bigger houses so that each of their offspring can have their own on suite bathroom, computer, and DVD player. Not me, I figure that's why there's so many 30 year olds living in their parent's basements. Helping them move out, is a move I'm really looking forward to. I make my kids sleep in the living room and use their room as storage. For entertainment, they get a nine inch black and white TV (complete with Pong), and Conway Twitty's Greatest Hits on 8-track. My house alarm code is the year my son is expected to move out. Sort of an expiry date on the welcome mat.

Generally speaking, the only people who will help you move are people who will someday ask you to return the favour. It's sort of a deposit in the relocation Karma bank. I have helped so many people move, that I could call in favours and move to China... but I never will. I help people move

because I like it. I always warn them up front that I will break their stuff; furthermore, I won't even pretend to feel bad about it when I do. I will also make fun of their prized possessions, and at some point, I'm going through that underwear drawer just to see what's going on in there. There's also a better than average chance that I'll do something to offend the new neighbours before they even get a chance to meet them, and by 11:00 a.m. I'll be looking in the phone book for the nearest KFC (the universal moving fuel).

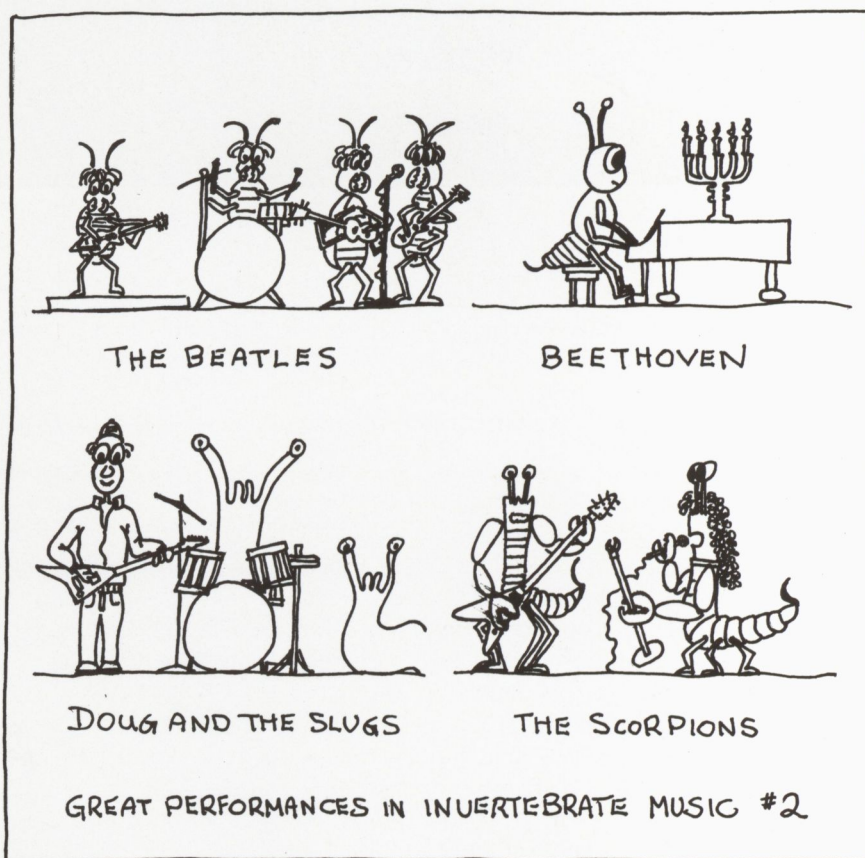
You can learn a lot about your friend's psyche in a move. I moved a guy last weekend where every item in his fridge was wrapped in newspaper to keep it cold and the fridge itself was sterilized to operating room standards. The weekend before, we duct taped another guy's fully loaded fridge door shut and chucked it on the truck. It's all good; there are just people who move the dresser empty, and people who move the dresser full. It doesn't matter to me as long as the KFC is there by 11:45.

I once waited for an hour, while a guy dug



through boxes of clothes in a half loaded cube van, because he realized (far too late) that his keys were inside a coat pocket. Thank goodness the other guys helping us knew every line to every Monty Python movie ever made. That made the hour fly by! Later that day, I helped the same guy spend another hour (on the side of a Michigan interstate) trying to find his birth certificate in the now fully loaded cube van. Naturally, it was with the heirloom china under the VCR in the dryer.

So if you're moving and you like your stuff, call a professional. But if you want to see a china hutch fall down a flight of stairs, eat a barrel of chicken, and have a guy wearing your wife's lingerie, count me in on moving day.



TURFTOONS

By Doug Breen

Looking back

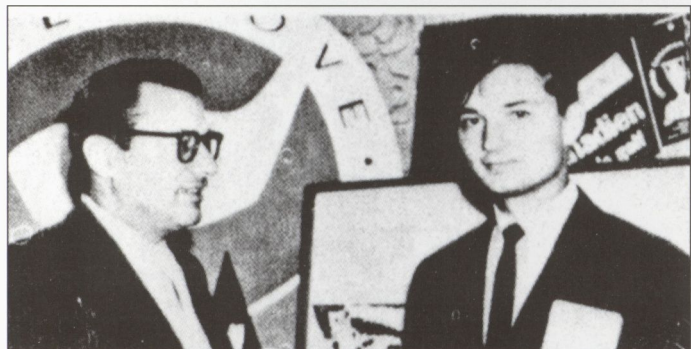
35 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The annual meeting of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association was held on December 10th, 1968 at the Hawthorne Valley Golf Club with **John Arends** as host. The 34 members present elected the following members to the board of directors for 1969: **A.V. Jones**, Aurora Highlands (pres.); **John Grightmire**, Beverley G.C. (vice); **John Arends**, Hawthorn Valley; **Dick Woodward**, Rideauview G. C.; Manatick, **Bill Hynd**, St. Georges G.C.; **Phil Glover**, Rivermead G.C., Ottawa and **Frank Dunn**, Camp Borden G.C.

OGSA held its annual banquet and dance at the Aurora Highlands G.C. at the end of February, hosted by **Allen Jones**. The party was attended by 65 people and was organized by **Bernie Macdonald** and **Frank Dunn**. President **Jones** presented **Fred Grightmire** with an Honorary Membership Plaque.

Bob Brewster, a greenkeeper at Northridge G.C. near Brantford, won the **OGSA** Scholarship Award for having the highest marks in the first year of the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture course at the University of Guelph. **Bob Moote**, past president of the **OGSA**, presented the award at the banquet during the National Turf Conference in Montreal.



L-R Bob Moote & Bob Brewster

New Law: Caddies 90¢ Per Hour

Article Reprinted from 1969 Green is Beautiful

The Ontario Legislature passed an Act late in the fall of 1968 affecting wage earners everywhere in the province. The bill is referred to as the Employment Standards Act and became effective on January 1st, 1969. It guarantees male employees in the province of Ontario a minimum wage of \$1.30 per hour. Up until recently, the minimum wage has been \$1.00 per hour. The surprising fact, however, was that the Act specifically mentioned caddies in one of its sub-sections.

Referring to persons under the age of 18, the Act states that caddies employed by a golf club or in the professional shop must be paid a minimum of 90¢ per hour. Up until now, caddies in the larger cities of Ontario have been paid anywhere from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per round. If the average round of golf takes four hours to complete, caddies may earn as much as \$3.60 for a round and with a tip, it could

Prof. Jack Eggens and the **OGSA** organized the first Annual Field Day at the turf plots at the University of Guelph. **Paul Scenna** hosted the golf tournament afterwards and **Clay Switzer** was the after dinner speaker.

The **OGSA** conducted their second annual tournament for superintendents and greenchairmen on July 25. It was won by **Bob Heron**, superintendent, and **Stu Thompson**, green chairman of Markland Woods. These same gentlemen also served as hosts of the event. Low net were **Helmut Kopp**, superintendent and his chairman, **Reg Acomb** from Uplands. More than 100 people attended the meeting and they were addressed by golf architect **Geoff Cornish**.

Bob Heron was the winner of the Alex McClumpha golf tournament held at Thornhill Golf & C.C. The first tournament in 1944 was also held at the club and the late **Mr. McClumpha** was the superintendent at this club until his retirement. This tournament was attended by 140 superintendents and guests, despite the rain and **David Gourlay** was host.

David Moote accepted the superintendent's position at the Essex C.C. in Windsor. Prior to this he was golf superintendent at the Rosedale C.C. for 17 years. **Harry Van der Berg**, formerly superintendent of Maple City C.C., Chatham, took over as superintendent at Dundas Valley Golf Club.

Monthly meetings were held at Uplands G.C., **Helmut Kopp**, Whitevale G.C., **Albert Reeve**, Richmond Hill G.C., **George Darou** and Bayview C.C., **Ed Ortlieb**.

The National Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by the **RCGA** in cooperation with the **CGSA**, took place on March 9, 10 and 11 in the Seaway Towers in Toronto.

cost a member about \$4.00.

But what about weekends when a round of golf may take as much as six hours to complete on our busy courses? Are golfers prepared to pay their caddies in excess of \$5.00 for a round of golf? It seems they have two alternatives, either to rent electric carts or to speed up play!

The O.G.A. and the P.G.A. are presently consulting with legal counsel to discover to what extent they have to comply with the Act. It seems that these two bodies should have done their lobbying when the new Act was first introduced in the summer of 1968. It certainly will be interesting to see what is going to happen! If caddies are to be paid 90¢ per hour, it may well be advantageous for some to start toting bags instead of caring for grass . . .



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