

May 2004

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Do you comply? Regulations you should know

Night Watering: Five steps to better sleep

What happens after 5 pm?

Organic Facilitators

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COVER PICTURE

Oakville Executive Golf Course

14th Green - Photo by Grant Fraser
Professional Photographer

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

President's message

One of our mandates this year at OGSA is to ensure that all aspects of our business operation are in order. Our association has grown significantly over the last number of years and we want to be sure that as we grow, we are conducting our operations in a manner that is appropriate for an organization of our type and size. Despite our best past intentions, I have no doubt that once our evaluation is complete, it will be necessary to change some of our policies and procedures to better reflect our current corporate responsibilities. I am confident that upon completing this corporate audit, the OGSA will be well positioned to plan and adapt to whatever the future holds.

As we enter a new golfing season, I think the corporate audit the OGSA is currently undertaking can be something superintendents should perform in their own operation, particularly in the areas of IPM and Water Management. Water and pesticide use are without a doubt the hottest topics in our industry today. Superintendents should be sure that they are fully aware of all the rules and that they are achieving the highest level of compliance possible.

Pesticide bans are here. Currently, the bans have not had an overwhelming impact on golf courses throughout the province, but the possibility for more inclusive bans still exists. Superintendents need to know that the Voluntary IPM Program is being well received in some political circles. Participation in the program can only help our lobby. For those that haven't done so already, I encourage you to start the program this spring - Practice IPM and Get Certified!

Recently, the Ministry of the Environment released the White Paper on Watershed-based Source Protection Planning. There is a direct link on the OGSA website to this document or you can find it at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/programs/3585e01.pdf>. The White Paper was developed as a result of the Walkerton tragedy and its purpose is to develop legislation to protect water before it enters our drinking water systems. The new legislation will include a total revamping of the Permit to Take Water Program. The ministry has invited all stakeholders, including OGSA, to consult on the White Paper. Doug Breen is the OGSA director who will act as our voice with the Ministry of the Environment. Doug will do his best to keep us informed of new developments. In the meantime, I encourage all superintendents to be sure you do the following:

1. Check the expiration date on your current water permit and be sure to start your renewal early.
2. Be sure of all the limitations that may exist in your water permit and pump accordingly.
3. Keep accurate pumping records - record daily use if possible.
4. Always watch for possible sources of water contamination - fuel storage, pesticide storage and equipment wash areas. Prepare your club for possible future capital improvements.

Strive to comply! Have a great season!



by Rob Ackermann
Weston Golf &
Country Club



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Editor's message



by John Bladon

Well, spring has sprung and with it comes a new gear for the industry. I trust everyone

has either wintered well or is enjoying a fast recovery.

This very May issue of Green is Beautiful is packed with some tremendous submissions. While Gary Grigg from Grigg Brothers has provided us with an article on foliar nutrition and Tim Fredericks of Turf Care gives some irrigation food for thought, Mark Scenna asks, "Do you comply?". Pam Charbonneau, Turfgrass Specialist brings us an update on pesticide products for 2004.

From the superintendents perspective, Dean Baker has submitted an interesting piece entitled *After 5pm*, something that ought to be shared with our golfing customers. Also, May's *Member Profile* is our former OGSA President Jim Flett, of Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club, and you'll never guess who's in Jim's ultimate foursome...

As each of you tour about your golf courses this season, bear in mind we are always looking for the *Article of the Year* and *Photo of the Year*. So keep those cameras on hand and find something you'd like to write about. We want to hear from you!

Finally, best of fortunes to you all throughout the upcoming growing season.



PRECIPITATION IN ONTARIO REGION

Measured at Pearson International Airport

Provided by Ministry of the Environment

We will no longer be printing the Monthly Actual/Average precipitation figures, as Environment Canada is now providing this information on line.

You can access this information and more by going to the following websites.

For Normal Figures

www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climate_normals/

For Actual Figures

www.climate.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/climate_data/monthlydata_e.html?timeframe=3&Prov=ON&StationID=5097&Year=2004&Month=3&Day=24

Add these two websites to your "Favourites". You can use them to obtain more climatic information than just precipitation.



Welcome!

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

Nir Arbesman	Class A
King of Clubs Golf Club	
Brian Beemer	Class A
King's Riding Golf Club	
Gregory Bond	Class C
Uplands Golf & Ski Club	
Chris Brown	Class C
Greyhawk Golf Club	
Craig Buttar	Class F
Dalewood Golf & Curling Club	
Jeff Cunningham	Class F
Granite Golf	
David Feddersen	Class F
Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club	
Mark Fenton	Class B
Piper's Glen Golf Club	
Mitch Freestone	Class S
Baywood Golf & Country Club	
Adrian Hodson-Walker	Class C
Kleinburg Golf Club	
Greg Knuth	Class F
Ladies Golf Club of Toronto	
Reginald Langen	Class S
Richmond Hill Golf Club	
Darren Little	Class C
Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club	
Brian Morrison	Class A
Mill Run Golf & Country Club	
Adam Trenton	Class F
Greystone Golf Club	
Blue Verge	Class B
Paris Grand Golf Club & Inns	
Flightline Golf Inc.	Class E
Spencer Adams	
Lebanon Fertilizers & Seed	
Randy Rogers	Class E
Plant Science Inc.	Class E
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Victor Freiberg
Trevor Hunter

Ken Graham
A. Kent McDonald
David Schmelefske

New Turf Pest Control Products for 2004

by Pam Charbonneau, OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

There are four new pest control products registered for use by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and available to turf managers for the 2004 season. This includes two fungicides, one insecticide and a herbicide. They are summarized in the Table below. **For product rates and instructions on use, please consult the product labels.**

Product Type	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Chemical Family	Pest Controlled	Use Recommendations
Fungicide	Cadence 70% WDG	boscolid	Anilid	Dollar spot	Should be applied prior to or in the early stages of disease development. For maximum efficacy, apply in 5 to 15 litres of water per 100 square meters. Apply on a 14-day preventative schedule. However, actual length of disease control will vary depending on environmental conditions, disease pressure and turfgrass management practices. Do not apply by air. Apply after mowing or allow to dry before mowing or irrigation Do not exceed 2 consecutive applications before alternating to another mode of action for at least one application. Do not apply more than 6 applications per season.
Fungicide	Compass 50 WG	trifloxystrobin	Strobilurin	Leaf spot Brown patch	Apply when conditions are favourable for disease development. Apply every 21 days at low disease pressure and every 14 days under high disease pressure. Do not apply more than 2 sequential applications for all diseases. Alternate with a fungicide having a different mode of action where available. Do not apply more than 2.4 kg of COMPASS 50WG per hectare per year.
Insecticide	Success 480 SC	spinosad	Naturalyte	Sod webworm	Apply during late afternoon or early evening to maximize control. Do not exceed 4 applications per year. Delay watering or mowing of the treated area for 12-24 hours after treatment. Do not re-apply in less than 7 days. Highly toxic to bees. Do not spray when bees are foraging.
Herbicide	TurfMaize	corn gluten	Not applicable	Germinating dandelion and smooth crabgrass	Apply to established Kentucky bluegrass turf in early spring before smooth crabgrass and dandelion seed germination. Apply to established Kentucky bluegrass turf in late summer or early fall after heat stress has passed.



Health & safety

Storage of Flammables

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

As the season begins and you begin to stock up on your materials for the coming summer it is important that you ensure that you are meeting or exceeding the requirements for storage of flammable materials.

Regulation 851 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, sections 22, 23, 121 and 122 provide some of the requirements for the storage of flammable liquids.

To store flammable liquids safely you must consider the following:

- the class of flammable liquid;
- the quantity to be stored;
- your storage location.

To identify the class of flammable liquid you must first know its flashpoint and boiling point. This information is available on the Material Safety Data Sheet.

Class 1 A has a flash point below 22.8°C and a boiling point below 37.8°C

Class 1 B has a flash point below 22.8°C and a boiling point at or above 37.8°C

Class 1 C has a flash point at or above 22.8°C and a boiling point below 37.8°C

Once the class of flammable liquid has been determined it is important to determine the quantity to be stored. Small amounts, up to 235 litres, of flammable liquids may be stored in the workplace in:

- sealed containers of a capacity not more than 23 litres each; or
- metal cabinets of double walled construction that are equipped with a 3-point door latch and a liquid-tight door sill raised at least 50mm above the floor.

For quantities of more than 235 litres, you have the following storage options:

- outdoors, away from any means of egress;
- in a separate room in the workplace;
- in a building not used for any other purpose

If you are storing flammable liquids outdoors, amongst other things you must ensure that:

- containers are located away from the access points to buildings
- the distance between locations of large quantities is at least 1.5 metres;
- the area is designed to control liquid spillage;

If you are storing Class 1B or 1C liquids, in sealed containers, in a room, make sure that the room:

- Is separated from the rest of the building by partitions which have:
 - a fire resistance rating of at least one hour;
 - self-closing doors, hinged to swing outwardly on their vertical axes.
- Is equipped with:
 - a drain connected to a dry sump or holding tank; and
 - liquid-tight seals between interior walls and floor, and a liquid-tight ramped sill at any door opening which is not in an exterior wall.
- Has natural ventilation to the outdoors by upper and lower exterior wall gravity louvers. For this reason, the room should be located along an exterior wall or portion of an exterior wall of the building.

If you are storing any class of liquids in open containers or Class 1A liquids (in either open or closed containers), make sure that the room meets all the above requirements, and that:

- there are no potential sources of ignition in the room;
- it is equipped with explosion venting to the outdoors;
- it has a spark resistant floor.

However, it is best to ensure containers are properly sealed prior to storage.

This is a quick overview of the storage requirements. Please take the time to ensure that your storage area meets the requirements of all applicable legislation.

Have a safe and active summer!

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Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

Do you ever wonder what wildlife could be on your golf course? What wildlife was on your golf course? There is a website that has such information in an easy to use, search-engine format. The first of the three sites that are recommended is

the branch of Environment Canada that deals with animals and such is the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). The home page of the Canadian Wildlife Service for Canada is www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/index_e.cfm. The CWS scope of responsibility not only spans birds and fish, but all forms of wildlife.

It is only logical that the CWS has a hand in dealing with endangered species as well. The CWS has been working hard to legislate the Species At Risk Act (SARA for short) and replaces the older COSEWIC (The Committee on the Status of

Endangered Wildlife in Canada) designations. This legislation is designed to "...prevent Canadian indigenous species, subspecies, and distinct populations from becoming extirpated or extinct...". Legalese and other legislative jargon can be found at the SARA home page: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca.

The site I really want to focus on is the actual search engine created through the SARA registry. The URL is www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca/search/default_e.cfm. The SARA search engine prompts one to identify what taxonomic group is in question. Groups range from reptiles and amphibians to mammals and lepidopterans (butterflies). The user can search for endangered mollusks and mosses. The search can be refined to sort by risk category: extinct, endangered, extirpated (species is indigenous, but no longer living in Canada), threatened and species of special concern. The search also can be further refined by province. This site is extremely useful for creating an environmental plan for a golf course.

After the results have been provided, the user can click on each species listed and

access a fact sheet for more information related to it. Each fact sheet contains vital data on such topics as description (usually with picture), habitat area, life cycle, and what protective measures are in place to protect it. I found this information invaluable when creating the Environmental Plan at Markland Wood. Knowing how to enhance habitat for wildlife is key in working towards Environmental Stewardship.

In addition to the information provided by the website, there are personal contacts that one can make. Every contact person and their area of study is listed in the CWS website. The CWS staff was more than happy to explain the purpose of the new SARA registry and what it hopes to achieve in terms of timelines. Biologists from each department promptly returned phone calls and were willing to share their expertise in layman's terms. This resource should be used by anyone considering embarking on the path towards Environmental Stewardship for their own golf course. Armed with knowledge, we can do our part to help those species that cannot help themselves.



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Mechanic's corner

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

Spring is finally here and green is the colour we all love. All of us are daily facing new challenges; however never forget the routine items of importance. All of us are bogged down with paper work. We are still required to track, monitor and record operator and equipment safety items. You may never know when you have to produce them. It is similar to buying insurance, you hate buying it, hope never to use it, glad you have it in place if you need it! Remember, we are all responsible for safety.

Final plans are in place for G.E.T.A.O. annual golf tournament at Silver Lakes Golf Club in Queensville. The host equipment manager is Terry Comfort and the superintendent is Dave Nichols. The date will be September 9, 2004 with a modified shot-gun start at 10 a.m. The field will be limited to the first 100 golfers and with the shot-gun start we will be finished earlier with less wait time. The tournament is open to everyone in the golf industry. Last year the trophy went all the way to Kingston with Lyndon Wing's team. Where will it end up this year? No team has their name on the trophy twice. *Mark your calendar today and get yourself and or your team registered so you won't be disappointed.*

Tip of the issue: Locate a small part bin and label it *Lost & Found*. You must notify all staff to place in box any part they find on the course. Occasionally the part (nut, bolt, etc.) may not be recognized right away, but it may come in handy during a repair later on. If the item is not needed by the time you do your winter repairs, discard it. Chances are you never needed it.

If you need info about the association, membership or to register for the tournament, I can be contacted by fax (905) 989-2326, email: l.a.murray@sympatico.ca or call Eddie at (905) 889-7620 ext 503.

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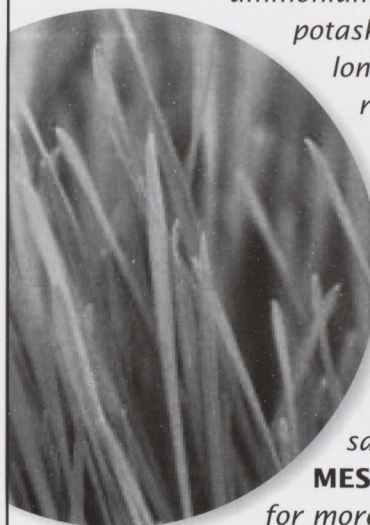
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Accreditation avenue

by Ken Pavely

IPM Update

Exams:

Ridgetown has verified that a good response from the golf industry has kept them busy scheduling exams. At the Golf Course Management Conference in January, superintendents and assistant superintendents were more than eager to begin the process resulting in more wanting to write than space had been made for. If you are still interested in writing the test, contact Ridgetown at 866-385-4762 to find when the nearest writing session is for you.

Desk Reviews:

The desk review process is complete and the auditors are ready to accept desk review packages. Some minor tune-up will be occurring on a couple of the forms; however, early participants have found it an interesting exercise. It also encapsulates your activity in 2003, and the results may surprise you (positively). You can download the forms from the Ridgetown website at any time.

CECs:

There were numerous opportunities to gain CEC's and more will come along during the year. Inclusion of conferences such as the GCSAA will be reviewed next winter, and integrated wherever possible. CEC forms are available on the Ridgetown College website.

On-site Audits:

In the final stages of completion, the on-site audits will verify what has been submitted in the desk review. On-site audits will be limited this season until sufficient funds from the other program components are available to pay for the auditors.

Pressure is building everywhere on the environmental front and this year is looking like the most active we have seen to date. It is highly advisable to stay in touch with local municipal representatives as well as commencing the IPM Accreditation process. In many circles that I travel, golf continues to enjoy a higher priority and level of importance than other landscape areas, and it is critical to not lose ground on the issue.

Important Numbers

IPM Accreditation Program

- General Inquiries
- Application Information

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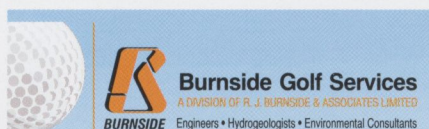
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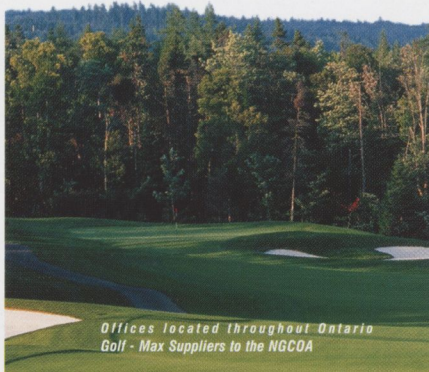
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Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club

For those of you who attended the recent Conference in Halifax, this is not news, but by all reports, the conference is regarded as a great success! The educational lineup was outstanding, the venue was terrific, and the local support was evident. It had been about 12 years since our last visit to Halifax, and the consensus now is that we should not wait that long to return to such a great venue.

I would like to thank the various event sponsors and especially conference chairman, Ray Pineau and his Committee for contributing to the success of this event. Congratulations also to Jim Nix, upon his election to the position of President of the CGSA! Thanks also to immediate past President Jim McGarvey and to Bill Fach, outgoing past President for all of their years of dedicated service to the CGSA. Congratulations also goes to Blake Palmer upon his receipt of the "John B. Steele" award, and Paul White upon winning the "Score Superintendent of the Year" award! Paul will receive more recognition at the Score awards dinner at a time/venue to be announced.

Make a special mental note that JANUARY 7-11, 2005 are the confirmed dates of the next National Conference in Toronto. We all look forward to this joint event, and some great local hospitality! Plans are well underway for this Ontario conference in 2005, with respect to determining a social program and banquet entertainment, and formalizing an educational program and keynote speaker. The OGSA has appointed Sean DeSilva as co-chair of the conference. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding the 2005 event, please contact either Sean or me. The Syngenta Company is to be commended for taking an active and substantial long-term sponsorship position with CGSA and our educational initiatives. We intend to offer an outstanding conference in Canada's largest city. The visible support of both you and your club and junior club staff will be crucial to the success

of this event. In the wake of the success of the 2004 show at the Sheraton, the staff and Boards of both Associations are reviewing further business relationships and refinements for a potential Provincial show in 2006 at a date/location to be determined.

At our pre-conference Board meetings, approval was given to the development and implementation of a comprehensive review of our educational offerings. At the next 2005 AGM in Toronto, we may present a proposed alignment of education with membership classifications. This initiative is a continuation of our efforts to integrate the "National Occupational Standards" with our education offerings and membership classes. If approved in principle, the Board may be developing this alignment for presentation and adoption at the next AGM in 2006 in Vancouver. Of course, prior to all that, we will be seeking extensive membership input with focus groups across Canada, to seek refinements and buy-in. The first step in this process was positive member input in November with regional focus groups. Our targeted marketing campaign is elevating the position of our profession. The Board also approved the joint funding of an educational video on the pesticide issue, produced by the Alberta Golf Industry Association. The details of distribution will be released soon. The audience of this video is presumably non-golfers, municipal councillors and public golfers who all require more familiarity with our industry and its well-respected use of regulated products, and our belief in the continued right to use these necessary, highly tested products.

The registration brochure for the September 20th Fall Field Day at Riverside GC, Saskatoon, is now available. We are planning to offer a free half-day seminar prior to the Fall Field Day on the morning of Sunday, September 19, 2004. This seminar will be open even to those who do not plan to attend the Field Day. The Provincial Association will also be hosting a welcome reception on the Saturday evening, with details to follow. Plan to register soon, as this event will fill up quickly and you may be left out.

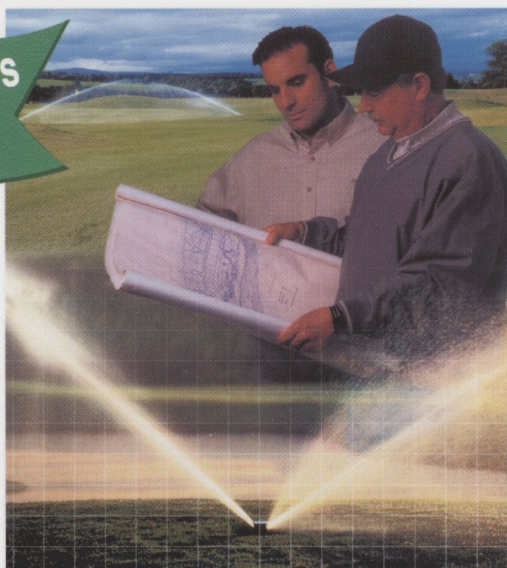
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Golf course conditions... What Happens After 5 pm?

by Dean Baker, Superintendent
North Halton Golf & Country Club

Through the course of any day or any season, questions about your golf course always arise. A popular topic of conversation is the transformation that the golf course takes throughout the day. Early in the morning, usually around 6 AM, the course is addressed from stem to stern. Everything is cut, fresh pins are in place, bunkers are raked, garbage is removed, and the course is ready for a new day. Many would dare to ask, how long does this new day last? What about the golf course for those who love playing late in the day? Ironically enough, the questions late in the day are always similar, why are the greens slow, why are the bunkers not raked, why have you not picked up the garbage? The answers to these questions are what superintendents need to know, and what golfers need to understand.



Playing in the afternoon is a wonderful way to relax and unwind from a busy day...but you have to remember, the course has had a busy day as well.

The daily change of conditions...Mother Nature

The one thing we have to explain to our golfers as superintendents, is that we are dealing with a very active living plant. This plant has the capability of incredible growth every day. We all see in our morning clippings, how much the grass can grow on a daily basis (especially spring and fall). Asking our putting greens to sustain their height of cut and their speed through a 12-hour day is a tall order. Plus a golf course after a long day certainly does not look as fresh as it did after that first cut. New technologies, such as growth regulators and rolling greens, are helping to maintain speeds throughout the day, but this does not help combat the other culprit we deal with as the day goes on...**traffic**. I always have the same analogy for people comparing the golf course to their home lawn, "Your lawn may look good now, but what would it look like if 200 people played on it each day?"

Some courses have resorted to cutting crucial areas (i.e. putting greens) twice a day or having a split shift of staff, morning & afternoon. This is good if you have the time, manpower, and money. On a busy golf course, this can be time consuming and distracting to golf. Cutting putting greens twice a day can also add to stress on the turf plant. Having staff remain well after an 8 hour day (usually about 3 pm) to keep things tidy, comes down to an individual club's decision. For most courses, golfers do understand the wear and tear a golf course sees through a long summer day. Educating the golfers is our greatest tool.



Healthy turfgrass and continuous play will change the way a course plays from morning to afternoon.

The daily change of conditions...our Fellow Golfers

At any course, one of the biggest issues we face, and the most sensitive, is golf etiquette. As all golfers know, the course needs to be maintained...by all who play. This means replacing divots, fixing ball marks, raking bunkers, (etc., etc.). We all know the drill. Complaints late in the day about divots, ball marks, unraked bunkers, usually equate back to their fellow golfer and the forgetting of golf course etiquette. Public courses may deal with this issue more than private clubs particularly due to novice golfers and their lack of golf knowledge. This problem is more frustrating for private clubs because all members should respect and know how to take care of their own golf course. It is not always the novice golfer that may forget golf course etiquette. Again, education and constant reminders are useful tools to help keep enforcing the message. **Take care of your golf course, not only for yourself, but also for the golfers behind you.**



100 divot bottles on the first tee is an excellent way to get the point across...Please repair your Divots!

Watching Golf on TV...The most asked question

Question...you tell me the conditions on the golf course after 5 PM could be a little less than perfect (12 hours old), so how do the best players playing in the last group, make it through these conditions? The answer is... Everything you see on TV is a fairy

Golf course conditions... What Happens After 5 pm? continued...

tale, but golf etiquette plays the most important role.

Tour stop golf courses have been waiting for their big opportunity to be on TV for a long time. Hosting such a tournament can be great for a club, but also comes with enormous planning and preparation. Some of this preparation starts years in advance. The condition of the golf course for that week is crucial! Most clubs will go out of their way to get ready. Reducing or suspending play all together before the tournament is common throughout tour courses. This is to ensure perfect conditions...no wear areas, no divots, no ball marks. For the course itself, the week of the tournament is easy. With the exception of maybe a busy Pro-Am day, the course will only see approximately 144 players, which is then reduced to half that number on the weekend. This is not like an average day at any busy golf course that could see well over 200 players a day, (not to mention handicaps).

The key factor we can all see with tour players on TV is their caliber of golf. This is a huge asset to the superintendent and the course conditions. At this level, it is easy to understand the importance of golf course etiquette...it is part of their job! The Caddy, is as important in this key role of course etiquette by constantly cleaning up after their player, i.e. replacing divots, raking bunkers. **Again, this important part of the game exists not only for themselves, but respectfully for their opponent as well.**

The golf industry continues to make advancement in all areas of playing golf. For superintendents, improved technologies and education are helping us grow better turfgrass. Golf courses are

growing healthier turf than ever before, which enables the course to withstand longer days of wear and tear. For the golfers, public and private, it comes down to one thing...golf course etiquette. For as many times as we have to remind ourselves, it will always be there in front of us...educating is a continuous process.

So Please...

Fix Your Ball marks

Replace or Repair your Divots

Rake the Bunker

And most of all:

Respect and Enjoy...The Game of Golf



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10th annual golf course hockey challenge

by John Taylor

The 10th annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge took to the ice again this past January 27th and 28th in Fort Erie, Ontario. Twelve teams, representing a vast array of turf industry employees from Canada and the U.S., laced on the blades to compete for the coveted "Reel Cup."

One of the winters worst snowstorms could not deter the competitors as almost all players arrived safely, despite the hazardous driving conditions. It's a good thing this wasn't an educational seminar as the weather would have deterred a lot of people... but this is hockey!

Another tournament organizer, Scott Dodson of the Park Country Club in Buffalo, NY spoke about the success of the tournament over the past 10 years. "We started out with 4 teams that first year, with a concept that we drew up on a cocktail napkin after a round of golf. The first year was a one day tournament during a terrible ice storm, but everyone showed and had a great time, so we kind of figured we were on to something."

Since that first year, corporate sponsorship through the industry has been incredible. Club Car has sponsored a Tuesday night party every year for the players and Turfcare Products and Toro have covered the cost of the ice time. Throw into the mix various other industry people who sponsor players' travel, uniforms, entry fees, refreshments after games, draw prizes at the party, and you have the makings of a very enjoyable event for all involved.

When the fog had settled after two grueling days of

action, Team Northern Ontario had reclaimed their fourth consecutive Reel Cup with a hard fought 11 to 7 win over Team Michigan. Team Toronto 2 claimed third spot with an 8 to 7 overtime victory over Team Toronto 1. Team New York edged out Team Kitchener 2 to claim the fifth spot with a score of 3 to 2. Team London ended in seventh spot with a 5 to 3 win over team Kitchener 1. Team Niagara claimed ninth spot with a 3 to 2 win over Team Turfnet, and our two newest entries fought it out at the end with Team Ottawa edging out Team Quebec for eleventh place 7 to 5.

Thanks to all the players for attending as well as the referees, timekeepers, coaches and spectators who made it out despite the nasty travel conditions.



Georgian Bay Storm

OGSA spring curling classic 2004

by Randy Booker

The OGSA curling day had a change in venue this year as it was hosted by Randy Booker and the Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club in conjunction with the clubs' 75th anniversary celebrations. Many new curlers were introduced to the game for the first time as 6 teams battled for supremacy. The winning Stauffer rink came away with an unblemished 2 - 0 record on its way to the 2004 title - well done!



Stauffer Team - L-R Dan McNaught, Rob Witherspoon, Randy Booker, Colin White, Jeff Stauffer

A great time was had by all as the veterans showed the newcomers just how social this game is - good food and plenty of drink. A heartfelt thanks go out to Vanden Bussche Irrigation and Equipment, Plant Products, Masters Turf Supply, OGSA and the Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club for their contributions and support of the 2004 OGSA Curling Classic.



L-R Jason Becket, Jarrod Barakett

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Member profile

Interview with Jim Flett

Superintendent, Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

by John Bladon, Editor

Green is Beautiful

*I*n the midst of the March Break quiet, OGSA member Jim Flett and I took the opportunity to talk and reflect over his 20 plus years involved in golf, turfgrass management and horticulture. Jim has now been the Golf Course Superintendent at Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club for 13 years.

"I have often wondered where I might be if I hadn't picked up a golf club all those years ago."

So how has the career of this former OGSA President progressed?

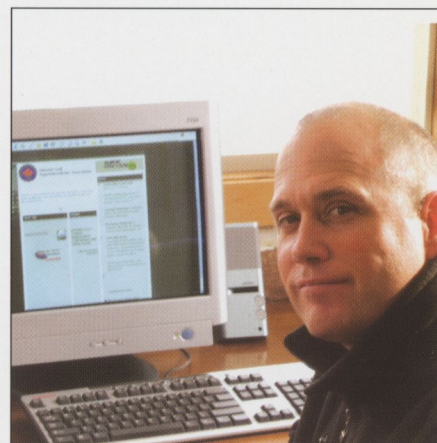
Jim's beginnings were actually in the Richmond Hill Parks and Recreation Department. After summers working there, and with a burgeoning interest in horticulture, he made the decision to enroll in the Diploma program at the University of Guelph. Arguably, this is where the fates intervened. While at Guelph with a number of now OGSA members, Dean Baker, Angelo Capannelli, Jerry Richard and Ian Bowen to name a few, Jim's thoughts began to creep towards a career in golf turfgrass management. He had played golf as a youngster and was keen to make the switch from a horticultural focus. His first summer on the golf course was at the Thornhill Country

Club under the watchful eye of David Gourlay, Sr.

"I biked back and forth from the golf course that whole summer. I don't know that I'll ever be in that good a shape again!!!"

His second year at Guelph completed and armed with his diploma as a graduate of 85A, Jim found employment as a member of the maintenance team at the Board of Trade Country Club. After some forethought, he then enrolled at Texas A & M believing that a degree would be an asset to him in the future. While Jim spent winters studying in Texas, he returned to Canada each summer and completed his apprenticeship at the Board of Trade Country Club, under the tutelage of Gordon Witteveen. In 1989 and following his graduation from Texas, he moved to Collingwood to take the position of Golf Course Superintendent at Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club. Jim remained at Blue Mountain for the next three years.

"Gord was a huge influence in the development of my career. It was with his blessing that I managed to land the job at Blue Mountain. Officially, I hadn't even been an assistant superintendent at that point."



Jim Flett Superintendent at Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

Spring came in 1992 and with it, new challenges. Jim took the position he holds to this day at Muskoka Lakes. This Stanley Thompson gem, on the shores of Lake Rosseau, has flourished under Jim's vision. Extensive renovations, upgrades to an antiquated irrigation system and improvements in conditioning have kept Muskoka Lakes in the upper echelons of golf in Muskoka.

Jim smiles when he talks of his affiliation with the OGSA and suggests that his membership and involvement with the Board of Directors is something he will always be proud of. He also lists involving his team in the decision making processes and doing a large portion of the renovations at Muskoka Lakes in house as two ways of keeping both he and his staff motivated.

Jim currently lives in Midland with spouse, Christine and son, Rawlin. It appears a fondness for golf and turf runs in the family too...Christine now has two shops in Midland aptly named "Rub of the Green." Fitting I think.

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major? **The Masters**
- Best piece of turf equipment ever? **Ty-Crop**
- Ultimate foursome...you and what three? **Sundin, Roberts and Mogilny!!!**
- Favourite Golf Architect? **Stanley Thompson**
- Lowest round and where? **79, Blue Mountain**
- This year's Stanley Cup pick? **LEAFERS!!!**
- Favourite Meal? **Thai Noodles**
- Favourite course outside of Canada? **Deere Run (home of the JD Classic)**
- What's in the CD player right now? **Buck 65**
- Rate your home lawn on a scale of 1-10 **At least a 6.5!**
- What do you envision yourself doing if you weren't working in the turf industry?
Sailing somewhere...

Golf course highlight

Oakville Executive Golf Course

4414 Fourth Line, Oakville ON L6M 4E8

Website: www.oakvilleexecutivegolf.ca

Golf Course Superintendent: Stephen Jones

Email: info@oakvilleexecutivegolf.ca



14th Green - Photo by Grant Fraser Professional Photographer

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Halton Region

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

Typical number of rounds
50,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date
Early April to December

How long have you been a superintendent?
9 years

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

How many staff?
0 year round and 7 seasonal staff

How many mechanics and assistants?
1 Assistant: Jason Fairfield

How many gardening staff?
None full time

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18 hole executive and 9 hole regulation

What is the yardage from back tees and forward tees?

18 hole: 4,300 yards from the back tees and
3,750 yards from the front tees

9 hole: 2,900 yards from the back tees and
2,450 yards from the front tees

How many bunkers?
77

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?
10 times (9 hole) and 14 times (18 hole)

Who was the original architect?
Rene Muylaert

What was the year of original construction?
1988

By whom and when was the course remodeled?
Rene Muylaert in 2000

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
3,800 square feet

What type of irrigation system?

Mixture of manual, Toro hydraulic and electric control. At the end of this season, there will be a conversion to a Toro LTC fully automated system with Site Pro.

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

160,000 square feet of greens
110,000 square feet of tees
35 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

Pennncross/Providence (greens)
Bluegrass (fairways)

How many USGA greens and how many loam greens?

No USGA greens
Greens are 80/20 sand/peat

What is the predominant soil type?
Heavy clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?

3 – Toro 3250-D greens mowers
1 – Toro 1000 walkbehind mower
2 – Toro 3100-D reel type trim mowers
1 – Toro 5400-D fairway mower
1 – Toro 223-D fairway mower
1 – Toro 223 Groundsmaster
2 – Proflex 120 rough mowers
2 – Massey 245 tractors
1 – Massey 135 tractor
1 – Gehl 4835 skidsteer loader
1 – Toro 3200 Workman with
200 gallon spray tank and
Toro 1800 topdresser
1 – John Deere Gator 4x2
2 – Ez-Go MPT utility vehicles
1 – Honda 4-trac
1 – Toro sandpro
1 – Rapidcore 1600 Aerator
1 – Toro aerothatch/overseeder
1 – 4" pto driven water pump
1 – Supertilt dump trailer
1 – 3500 Ditch Witch trencher
1 – Stihl 038 chainsaw
4 – Stihl string-line trimmers
1 – Stihl hedge trimmer
1 – Redmax Reciprocal edger
1 – Ryan sod cutter
1 – 9hp Wonder blower
1 – Karcher 550e powerwasher
1 – Lely pto fert. spreader
1 – Greens groomer brush
2 – Anderson Rotary fert. Spreaders

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?

2001 -Opened nine new holes, renovated six existing holes.

Aggressive removal of 2½" thatch from existing greens, tees and fairways.

New maintenance facility.

Upgrade irrigation reserves.

Renovate course bunkers.

2003- Nine hole irrigation renovation.

New tee construction.

Install drainage in three greens.

New fertilizer/chemical and materials storage facility.

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Remove old house on 18th hole and landscape.

Finish irrigation renovation in fall.

Enlarge water storage capacity.

Install drainage for 8 more greens.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Limited water supply requires careful management.

Physical breakdown of existing sand in greens requires new drainage and incorporation of new sand.

Continued renovation of thatch accumulation.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Blending the new holes into the older holes while addressing major cultural deficiencies. Uniformity of greens being the major end product.

Cultural programs, controlled fertility, good air circulation and acceptance of some pests have resulted in elimination of pesticide usage outside of greens environments. However, it is of great importance to have available the necessary tools if pests surpass our tolerance levels. Very limited herbicide use is still necessary on a spot spray program.



Do you comply? Regulations you should know

by Mark A. Scenna, Environmental Investigations Ltd.
mscenna@sympatico.ca

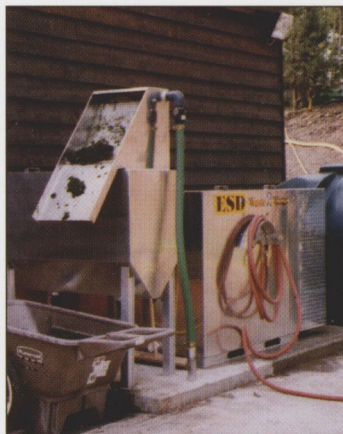
Where applicable I will cite regulations and I will try to demonstrate how to comply with the top ten environmental issues facing golf course maintenance in Ontario.

#1 - By far the most highly regulated issue facing golf courses is the **Equipment Wash Pad area & effluent run-off requirements**. In Ontario we have many environmental regulations which prohibit the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment. For instance, the Environmental Protection Act [June 2001 -Section 18(2)(b)(i)] specifically states that a provincial MOE officer has the right to issue a control order/ stop order if he or she is in the opinion that a source of contaminant is being discharged into the environment and this contaminant has a concentration which constitutes an immediate danger to human health or property. Let me make this clear. Unless you have a preventative waste-stream process currently in place – you are allowing contaminants to be discharged into the environment and therefore are currently in violation of this requirement. To comply with this requirement you can either build your own or purchase a prefabricated preventative waste stream process. Building your own would involve purchasing 2 x concrete catch basins, 1 x trash pump, a filtering media of some sort for grass clipping removal and an oil/ water separator. Superintendents who have built their own have informed me to be aware of the following;



- grass clippings can become a nightmare if not properly filtered out by clogging your system;
- be prepared to allocate time/ personnel to constantly maintain this area;
- ensure to plan a realistic pad size to allocate space for enough equipment.

Prefabricated systems on the other hand are engineered exclusively for golf course maintenance waste streams, and therefore have less maintenance and headaches, not to mention a



better filtration system to remove contaminants. However, as one might imagine – they cost considerably more. Most golf courses currently do not comply with this requirement. If budget concerns are restricting your intentions, try to make the time to create an environmental plan which depicts your club's intentions. If you are inspected, you will gain more respect from regulators that you are aware of the requirements and have intentions to implement corrective measures. Turning a blind eye is no longer being tolerated. Management must demonstrate a degree of diligence toward environmental protection.

#2, #3 – Pesticide Storage. Due to the overlapping requirements this concern will be divided into two issues, namely (i) Structural and (ii) Administrative. Structural requirements are the actual constructive requirements of your facility including, Fire Suppression, Spill Containment, Insulation, Ventilation & Placement. Complying with all is essential. You can verify your building's compliance standing by checking the requirements outlined in section 4.4 of the CGSA's Environmental Management Resource Manual (i.e. the table at the end of the chapter). However, from my experience – Fire Suppression & Placement are issues regulatory authorities have a stronger say in. Ensure to contact your municipal Fire Prevention Office & Building/ Planning depts. prior to purchasing any new buildings or alternatively have them in to inspect your current scenario. Fire Suppression usually is required to be 1 hour, yet if your storage area resides within another building partition walls may be required to have a higher rating. Placement of a new storage area should always be verified with your municipal planning dept. and Conservation authority.

Administrative requirements include (but are not limited to) posting Emergency Telephone #'s, placing absorbent materials



within the entrance, storing protective application equipment separately, and proper labeling. Currently, the Ontario Ministry of Environment is inspecting some of the G.T.A. in search of unlabelled products. Any product containers that for some reason have the label ripped off are required to have the following written in

black non-eraseable marker (i) the trade name or common name, (ii) the concentration of active ingredient, and (iii) the PCP number.

#4 – Regulation 914 made under the Pesticides Act actually requires any vehicle to be used to transport or apply a pesticide in connection with an extermination to have **an identification marker affixed to the rear of the vehicle** in such a manner as to be visible & legible at all times. This means all sprayers must have a “Pesticide Storage” sticker on the rear of the vehicle. The ministry’s explanation for this requirement stems from public notification. They feel if a golfing foursome walks by the sprayer and it remains idling for a short duration of time – the sprayer technically becomes a storage facility. This seems a little far fetched however I would advise you place some stickers on since there have been some recent MOE inspection asking for this.

#5 – Pesticide use posting requirements. We are all too familiar with “sign-posting” requirements concerning pesticide applications, however a recent cluster of inspections by the MOE has brought out some new requirements. Regardless of your current notification posting practices, the Ministry of Environment is now requiring signs to be immediately posted around the “treatment area” before a pesticide application is performed. What does this mean? Apparently you’re required to post signs, around each fairway if you’re spraying fairways, each green if you’re spraying greens, etc. Their rationale is golfers are considered public and having a sign at the 1st tee and pro-shop are not sufficient for notification and the signs posted along your fences are facing outward, notifying your neighbours, not golfers who are in the closest proximity to the application. This requirement too is currently being enforced. Alternative notification approval may be requested to: The Director Under the Pesticides Act, Ministry of the Environment Pesticides Section, Standards Development Branch, 40 St. Clair Ave., West, 7th Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1M2.

#6 IPM Accreditation Program. The IPM Accreditation Program addresses the following public concerns; the excessive use of pesticides, promoting professional development, and reducing risks from pesticide use to our environment.

Its easy to participate

- Step# 1. Write the IPM Accreditation Examination.
Contact by telephone at 1-866-385-IPMA / 519-674-1538 or online at www.ontarioipm.com
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- Step #2. Continue to earn Continuing Education Credits (CECs) by attending relevant educational seminars;
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- Step #3. Submit annual desk reviews to Ridgeway College for 3rd party auditor verification.
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- Step #4. Once every 3 years your facility is required to have an “on-site audit” by a third party auditor.
- =
- Fully Accredited facility.

#7 - Pesticide Container Disposal Requirements. Section 27 (3) of Regulation 914 under the Pesticides Act states “the person responsible shall ensure that a container that has been rinsed is taken for recycling to a pesticide container depot.” This is not only good conduct, this is the law! For further information, contact CropLife at 21 Four Seasons Place, Suite 627 Etobicoke, Ontario Canada M9B 6J8 Tel: (416) 622-9771 www.croplife.ca

#8 - Spray Tank Mix/ Load/ Fill Requirements
The Ministry of Environment is also currently inspecting maintenance facilities for properly designated spray tank mix/ load/ fill areas. These designated areas are to have a spill containment sump and a back-flow prevention device. Most of all they are not to be located at the equipment wash area. A provincial MOE officer can issue a control order or a stop order (not allowing you to operate) to the superintendent if he/ she is in the opinion:



- That a source of contaminant is discharging into the environment; &
- This contaminant has a concentration which constitutes an immediate danger to human health or property.

Environmental Protection Act, Section 18 (2) (b) (i) June 2001



Do You Comply? Regulations you should know

continued... from page 19

#9 - Water Quality Requirements

The regulations concerning the prevention of hazardous substances entering the natural environment are numerous, including; the Environmental Protection Act & Regulation 347, the Pesticides Act & Reg. 914, the Ontario Water Resources Act, Regulation. 558- the General Waste Management Regulation, the MOEE Guideline for use at Contaminated sites, Municipal by-laws, etc. Hence the necessity for Water Quality Monitoring & Data Collection. This is essential to demonstrate the following;

- Establish a baseline of water quality,
- Provide a basis for measuring compliance with environmental regulations,
- Satisfies Audubon International's requirements for water quality enhancement.

#10 - Small quantity Gasoline & Miscellaneous product storage.

According to Section 4.2.4.2(4) of the Ontario Fire Code, all small quantity class I products (flammable materials e.g. gasoline) > 30 L are required to be stored in a ULC approved fire rated cabinet.



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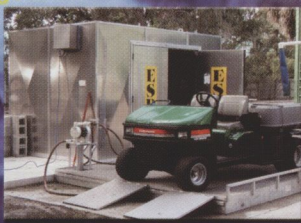
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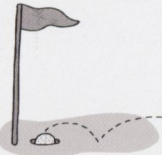
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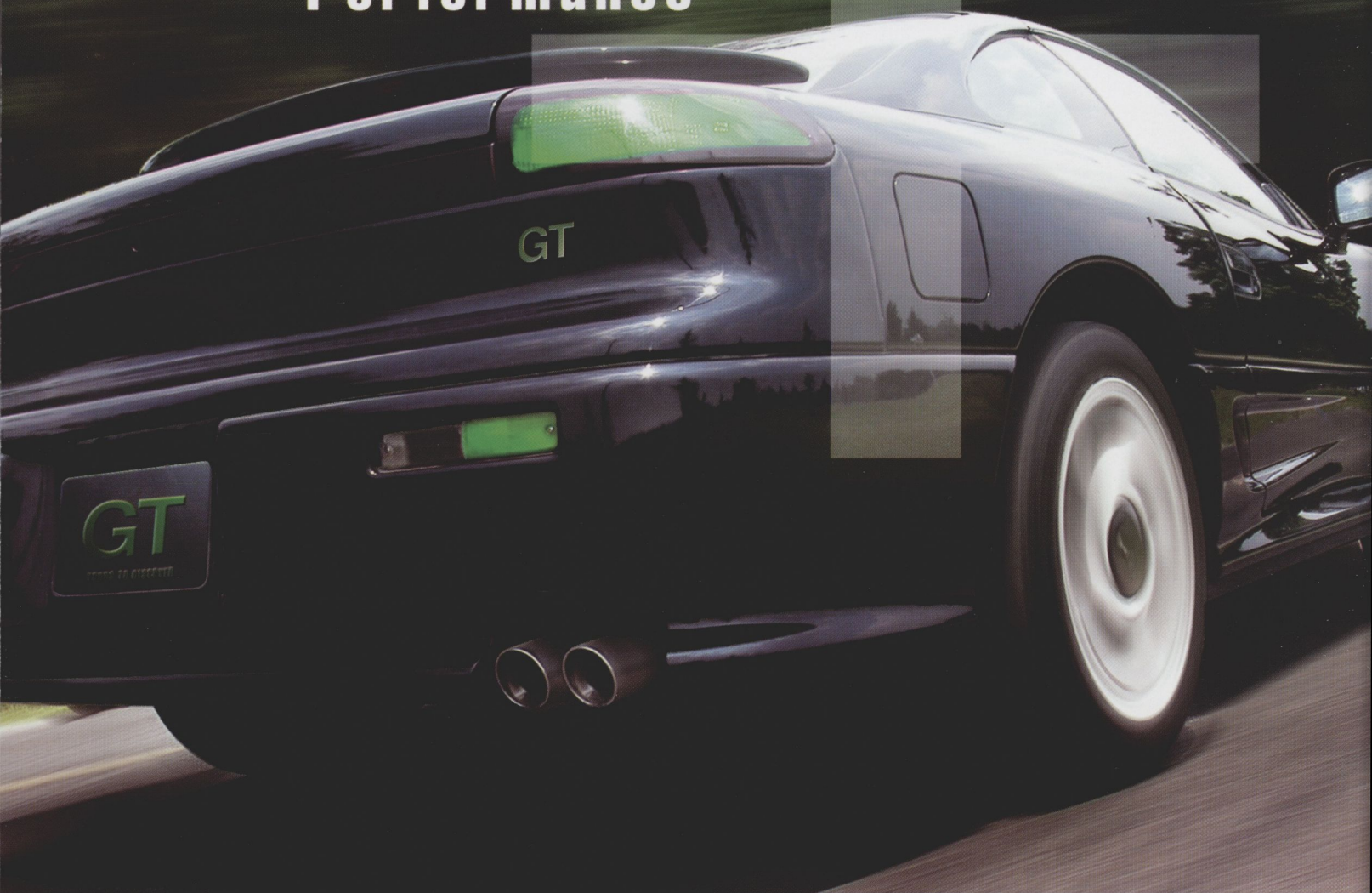
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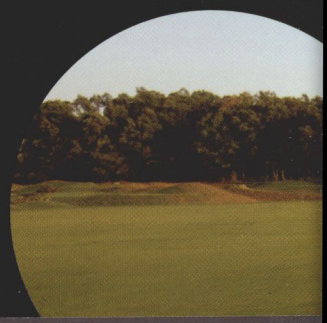
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Night Watering; Five steps to a better sleep

by Tim Fredericks

Technical Support Manager Golf Irrigation
Turf Care Products Canada

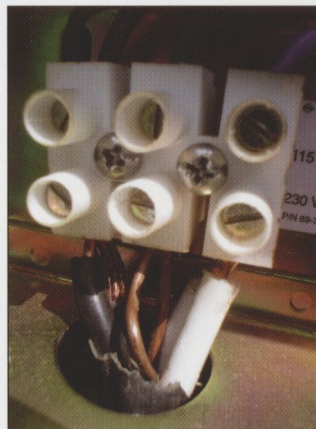
One of the first responsibilities I was given when I started working at a golf course was the job of a night waterman. Though short-lived, I still consider it a unique position, unparalleled after 17 years experience, primarily due to the fact that the reward of a night's work was very absolute. As it goes, either the turf was watered or it was not. Usually there was no specific reason why it did get water; however, the reasons for a night of non-watering or even partial watering were vast: pump shutdown, pipe break, or the scariest—I might have dozed off. As a retrospective salute to the latter very infrequent reason, I want to fast-forward to the realities of the 21st century—that the majority of the watering done on a golf course takes place at night while we are sleeping when and, by in large, the user is confident that in the morning the result is that the turf did get watered. This is the measure of a good night's sleep—watered grass in the morning!

Watered turf does not mean the job of irrigating is finished. Although the irrigation system does indeed start and finish and the total amount of water pumped appears to be "in the ballpark", the modern irrigator must be vigilant to the small details which continually work to sabotage precision watering practices. Modern computerized irrigation systems bring together many physical components along with some theoretical inputs. These comprise a system, which is now measured not by its reliability but rather by its precision application of water.

Efficiency is a loaded term. Because so many variables can contribute to its meaning, I want to examine just five easy steps an irrigator can take to improve the system performance and the overall precision of the daily water application. These five steps range from the simple but are necessary daily tasks in terms of maintaining the irrigation system's physical components. These include; nozzles and head levels to the more theoretical considerations such as the irrigation centrals' use of precipitation rates and its projected flow calculations. Each of these steps represents a crucial constituent when attempting to understand specifically what daily watering is occurring.

The first step golf course personnel can undertake, is to ensure that their irrigation field hardware is operating up to specification. Most of the maintenance involved is simple and very cost effective. For example, irrigation performance can be greatly affected by factors as simple as nozzle performance, sprinkler condition, and the turf height immediately surrounding the rotor. Staff should be encouraged to maintain a program whereby the simple steps are addressed on a daily basis. Nozzles should be routinely checked for obstructions, wear, and damaged components since any one of these single items can affect the precipitation rate and the volume being applied to the turf. Similarly, heads should be edged in order to ensure nothing is obstructing the water stream. Sprinklers are designed to have a uniform precipitation rate and anything affecting or impeding the stream of water will compromise head performance and mislead an irrigator.

Part of the first step and equally important is the attention paid to the electronic components controlling the irrigation system. Since the majority of modern computerized irrigation systems utilize electronics to distribute power throughout the course in order to activate the sprinklers, special attention should be paid to the integrity of this electrical system. Staff should be aware of wire connections and wire routing, be vigilant of rodent and pest damage, and knowledgeable of the operating specifications of the controllers. In many cases, sprinkler non-performance can be traced back to a fault in the electrical system or of the electrical components.



Sound Electrical Connections are essential



Nick in wire causing non-operation

Along with a consistent program for hardware maintenance, my second tip is that a co-ordinated effort be made to ensure that the information in the irrigation computer (irrigation central) is accurate and matches the hardware installed on the course. Most modern irrigation centrals take the inputted data and use it to compile irrigation schedules based on various combinations of factors: precipitation rates, hydraulic capacities, electrical capacity of components, etc. If the hardware does not match what is in the computer central then the calculations it performs will be based on incorrect data. Eventually, corrupt or inaccurate data can lead to dangerous situation such as when the flow expected by the computer exceeds the capacity of the pump resulting in poor sprinkler performance or even the complete shutdown of the system. While these situations can sometimes take years to get to a point of failure, the probability of it happening on the hottest day of the year always seems to be safe bet. More likely, the incorrect information will result in a system not accurately predicating the correct amount or correct distribution of water applied to the turf resulting in arbitrary wet and/or dry areas.

So what is the most effective way to eliminate these pitfalls? The easiest possible way to minimize the problem of erroneous data corrupting the irrigation system is to encourage key irrigation staff to take ownership of the irrigation system. While there are many ways to foster this amongst staff, I would suggest that staff develop and maintain a correct "As-Built" drawing. A correct "As-Built" should include sprinkler sequencing, sprinkler type, pipe sizes, wire splices, wire location, isolation valves, and any other features relevant to maintaining the system. By maintaining an accurate record of the irrigation system, staff will see that the map will not only lead to a better performing system—they will benefit from its accuracy when the time comes to make repairs and the pipe size and valve locations are generally accurate. Furthermore, as the course experiences staff



Beware of insect infestation

turnover, future employees will not be hindered by a lack of correct information when trying to figure out what is in the ground when problems occur.



Checking the sprinkler performance

Once key staff is actively involved in the maintenance of the system and its overall performance appears to be meeting your expectations, the fourth step to focusing water delivery is to have participating staff develop a consistent method for charting and inputting daily changes. I encourage that more than one staff member is confident in his knowledge of how the central works and how daily modifications to active watering are made. While every turf management team

operates differently, a multitude of proficient users does not jeopardize the day-to-day consistency of water being applied to the turf—it enhances the consistency. The key is consistent operation of the system and all various users understand the importance of that consistency. For example, a situation might arise when during the week the daily adjustments to the putting green program are made as a percentage adjustment; whereas, the weekend staff might make their adjustments to the runtimes of specific sprinklers. The problem arises whereby different operators need to spend unnecessary time trying to determine the previous day's user application. This results in wasted time and possibly missed modifications. Eventually the irrigation system becomes cumbersome and inaccurate due to conflicting methods the various staff members use to make micro-adjustments.

In general, the majority of golf irrigators have already adopted many of the ideas mentioned above; however, I suggest there is a natural progression that culminates in the fifth and final step—irrigators should always strive to get more utility from their system. By maintaining its operation and scrutinizing the data being inputted, operators are in reality seeking better utility from their system. As systems become more complicated, more involved, and concerns over water usage become more focused, users informed on the performance features of irrigation systems will come to realize that expecting precision is essential in daily watering. Gone are the days of being relieved that the irrigation system made it through the night. The expectation of the modern superintendent is that results of precision are met daily leading to a truly good nights sleep.



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Organic Facilitators

by Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, MG

Most companies that sell liquid nutrients and soil bio amendments utilize some type of carbon based liquid in the mixture. Basically they are used in two ways; either to add carbon to the rhizosphere, or to help nutrients get into the plant as a root feed or a foliar feed.

Health of the Rhizosphere

The rhizosphere is defined as the soil which is under the influence of the roots. The roots absorb water and nutrients in that area. This area of the soil is rich in microorganisms which increase nutrient availability, immobilize nitrogen in the root zone and reduce nitrate leaching. This biological fraction in the rhizosphere conserves nutrients and is responsible for organic material breakdown and nutrient cycling. The soil microorganisms are responsible for formulation of soil structure, improved aeration and improved drainage.

During photosynthesis; sunlight, carbon dioxide and water through the action of the chloroplasts and chlorophyll yields carbohydrates, oxygen, and water. These carbohydrates are both utilized by the plant to sustain growth and life functions as well as be stored in the roots for reserve.

The roots are not photosynthetic and are 100% dependent on the photosynthetic energy captured in the leaves and shoots. The amount of energy captured depends on such things as the duration of light, the extent of stress, and the amount of leaf surface. Modern day superintendents, in order to satisfy the wants of their golfers for green speed, simply cut their greens so low and so often that there is very little leaf surface.

In an ordinary situation, a plant will store 1/2 of all the carbohydrates produced in the root and utilize 1/2 for sustaining life functions. Around 1/2 of that carbohydrate reserve in the root is then excreted back into the rhizosphere as a microbial substrate called exudates. These exudates are a combination of protein, carbohydrates and sugars. These exudates sustain the life of the complex micro-community and the microbes in turn make nutrients available to the plant. Great teamwork!

A modern putting green mowed at 1/8 inch or less, regardless if it is warm or cool season grass, simply cannot produce enough photosynthesis to make enough carbohydrates to go around. The turf is trying to survive and does a poor job of storing reserves and an even poorer job of producing exudates.

Since the roots are largely responsible for the organic matter in the soil via exudates, then managing for maximum root growth becomes very important. Anything we can do to improve either the physical properties of the soil or the chemical conditions of the soil are important agronomic practices.

There are many companies that have the philosophy that because your turf cannot produce enough exudates to build

the needed micro-community, they will produce and sell you products that will assist in the health of the soil. And while there is very little scientific evidence that these products work, the philosophy behind their development is backed by science.

These products may contain various types of carbohydrates, protein, glucose, sea weed extracts, organic acids, amino acids, organic humates such as humic acid, and simple organic extracts composed of manure or lenordite. These may be alone or mixed in combination. With everyone making claims and little research going on, pick products made by those companies which have good science behind them, make quality products and are willing to stand behind them. You have to be the judge of whether or not they are helping.

Organic Facilitators for Nutrients

Many humic and organic materials have the capacity to bind substantial amounts of metals and other cations. They can therefore exert considerable control over the supply and availability of nutrient elements to plants and water.

When the metal ion or cation combines with an electron donor, the resulting substance is said to be a complex or coordination compound. If the donor atoms are attached not only to the metal ion but also to each other forming a ring, it creates a chelate.

There are good complexes and bad complexes and there are good chelates and bad chelates. Some of the organic agents used in these products are: humic acids from many sources, fulvic acids, ligno sulfates, amino acids, sugars and carbohydrates, hydrolyzed protein mixes and derivatives from the wood pulp industry. Many of these have low stability constants and when mixed with anions, such as phosphates, may result in precipitation. Once again, select your products wisely. When added to the nutrients, organics are biodegradable and available to the plant and the soil micro-community as an energy source.

Since the 1950's synthetic chelating agents have been used as aids in plant nutrition. Among the more popular ones are EDTA, HEDTA, and EGTA, and others. They are cost effective and can be effective if used properly, but they are generally not biodegradable or very slowly biodegradable.

Synthetic chelates are used extensively in many turf products. Many researchers have reported that they may remain as a residue in the plant tissue or in the soil tying up other nutrients and providing no additional energy source.

Both the synthetic chelating agents and some natural organic agents are intended to be root uptake. In the soil, the synthetic agents can be effective. The intent of having a chelating agent is to prevent the negative charge on the soil colloid from attracting the nutrient and thus tie it up and make it unavailable to the plant. Complexing agents do not do as good a job of holding these bonds as do chelating

agents, but again there are many variables. The organic agents can become both a microbial food as well as a nutrient carrier.

Several of these chelating agents are also used to make nutrients available to the plant through direct absorption into the leaves and shoots. Once in the plant, they act as any other nutrient would.

Absorption is only one aspect of a foliar fertilizer. In addition, the absorbed nutrient generally must be translocated throughout the plant. While absorption is a key process in selecting a foliar applied nutrient, the extent of redistribution or mobility of each nutrient in the plant is an important consideration also.

Buyer Beware

There is little regulation over the complexing and chelate industry.

- The presence of an organic or synthetic chelating agent in the formulation legally makes the product a chelate.
- It doesn't matter whether there is enough chelating agent in the mixture to chelate all the metals in the formulation or not to be considered a chelate. Many products contain

only a few percent. Ask how much active ingredient is in the container.

- Any agent that can be shown to cause chelation is considered a chelate, without regard to whether it is stable or not.
- Unstable chelates that precipitate when mixed with anions, such as phosphorus, are poorly absorbed by plants and are not translocated well within the plant.
- The concentration of these complexing and chelating agents in the various formulations need not be on the label.

I personally believe that the best chelating agents are those that are natural components found in the metabolism of the plant and my personal observation is that they need to compose a high concentration within the formulation.

Gary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture and Entomology from Utah State University and a Master of Science degree in Agronomy from Michigan State University. After a 34 year career as a golf course superintendent, he retired to become co-founder of Grigg Brothers Fertilizers.

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In memoriam...

Daniel M. Uzelac

Died March 14, 2004 — Long time Member of OGSA
submitted by Randy Hooper, CGCS

When I think of Dan Uzelac I think of Dan, Dorothy, and family, the whole team at Dominion Golf Club. They all made it work.

Dan and Dorothy were always there to support the associations on both sides of the border; donations of time, money, and hospitality were given frequently.

I think of the "old-timers" that made up the supporting cast of characters; my dad Bud, Nick Panasiuk, Ray Manion, Jack Pratt, Wayne Otto and so on.

There are many stories about the "grass-asses" and their misbehaving but just as many about their eagerness to learn more about this profession and gain acceptance among their peers. They didn't need offices or awards to confirm their success; the condition of their golf courses, the friends they collected along the way, and love of life and family made the sun rise and set each day.

Bud and Danny mentored each other from the beginning; they argued about sand topdressing and so many other things but always seemed to quickly resolve the issue of the day over a draft beer at Dominion.

For me, it's more than all this.

In my heart I'll always remember how Dan and Dorothy comforted me when my mother died and Dan did what best buddies do to keep my dad on his feet when he lost my mom.

Dan liked to point out the tan on the back of his hands.

We've lost that "southern Serbian" hospitality and friendship that Dan was famous for.

But Dorothy, Margaret, and Mary Jane gave him a putter, a cigar and a beer to start a new club in a better location.

Good-bye Good-bye my family, My life has passed.

I loved you all to the very last. Weep not for me, but courage take.

Love each other, for my sake. For those you love don't go away.

They walk beside you every day.

John A. Konarowski

Died March 22, 2004 - Long time Member of OGSA
Course Superintendent of Kedron Dells Golf Course
submitted by R.M. Brown

John Konarowski died March 22nd, after a courageous struggle with cancer. He was in his 74th year.

John started his career in golf course maintenance as Superintendent of Grandview Golf Course, Oshawa in 1969, which ceased operations at the end of the 1972 season. Coincident with the closing of Grandview, the ownership purchased property in north Oshawa and work commenced, in late 1972, with the development of Kedron Dells Golf Course. John became an integral part of the development team and became Superintendent when it came on stream in mid summer 1974 and he remained in that capacity until his death.

John will be remembered as hard working, diligent and dedicated. He was staunch steward of the environment whose many avocations included painting, photography, antiques and local history. His passing leaves a void in the local golf community and he will be sorely missed.

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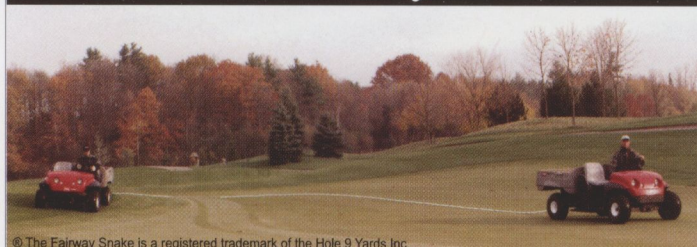
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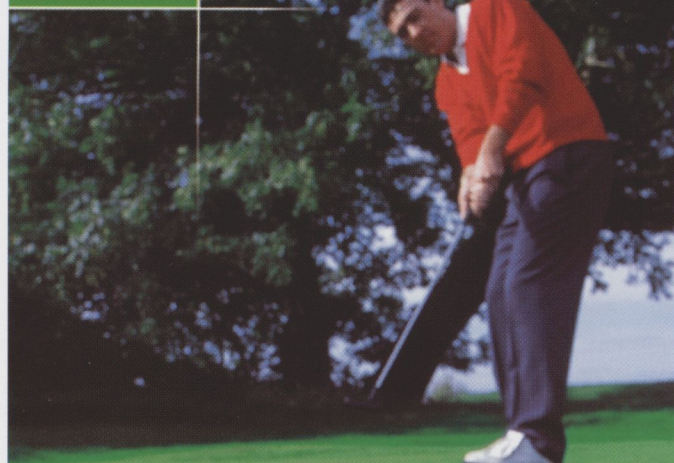
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OGSA Roster - Hot of the Press

You will receive your new, condensed 2004/2005 Roster with this issue of Green is Beautiful. Please note that personal contact information has been deleted from the contents, with the exception of retired members, in an effort to comply with the Privacy Act.

Save the Trees

Have OGSA news, registration forms and the employment referral service delivered to you quickly. Just let the office know that you want to receive your news by email instead of hard copy mail. Half of our members are already signed up and receiving same day delivery of important information.

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Thank you for taking the time to send us a copy of your current pesticide license. Please remember, though to forward us a copy of your new pesticide license when your current one expires. A photo copy sent through the mail or scanned and emailed is best, as faxed copies are most times not legible.

Nu-Gro Corporation Turfgrass Scholarship

The RCGA Foundation (previously the Canadian Golf Foundation) and Nu-Gro Corporation announced that Nu-Gro has become the sponsor of the Foundation's turfgrass scholarships for the next five years.

Over the next five years, one \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to a Canadian student in the undergraduate program and one \$5,000 scholarship to a

Canadian student in a graduate program.

For full details contact Jim Fraser, Executive Director, RCGA Foundation Ph: (905) 849-9700 ext. 286 Email: cgf@rcga.org Web Site: www.cgf.ca

KEGS Library Program



L-R Dave Cours and Kevin Falls

Kevin Falls, on behalf of Syngenta, presents a \$500 cheque to Dave Cours of Kent Essex Greenkeepers' Society (KEGS) for the KEGS library program. KEGS has created a traveling resource library for its members with the co-operation of Gary Schultz of MGS Horticultural. Syngenta is dedicated to the education of superintendents and was happy to support the KEGS initiative. This money will be used to add to the resource library. Thanks to Marie Thorne, at Syngenta, for pledging this donation to KEGS!

Nu-Gro Hires IPM Coordinator

The Nu-Gro Corporation, based in Brantford, Ontario is pleased to announce that John R. Bladon has joined the company in the position of TurfTec Online-IPM Coordinator. In this role John will be providing support to the professional turfgrass industry across Canada in conjunction with the company's online nutrient management planner. John brings to this position an excellent industry background and extensive knowledge of Integrated Pest Management practices. You can preview Nu-Gro's online nutrient management planner at www.turfteconline.com.

For more information, you can reach John at theturftecguy@rogers.com or (519) 574-2013.

TPI Innovator of the Year Award



L-R Ed Zuckerman, TPI President and Gerry Brouwer

Gerry Brouwer, President of Kesmac, Inc. and Brouwer Sod Farms Ltd, Keswick, Ontario, received the "first-ever" TPI Innovator of the Year award during Trufgrass Producers International 36th Midwinter Conference in

Santa Barbara, CA.

The Innovator of the Year award was established to recognize a TPI member who has provided unique and significant achievement that has advanced turfgrass sod production through research, engineering, training, marketing, public relations or environmental improvements.

More information is located at www.TurfGrassSod.org

MBTW Golf Design

MBTW delivers breathtaking design at Heron Landing Golf Course, a spectacular new 18-hole, par-72 championship layout expertly designed by Holmes for the Couchiching First Nation, will completely open for play in June overlooking Rainy Lake near Fort Frances, ON. Clubhouse construction is underway.

For full details of this project and others go to www.mbtwgolfdesign.com

OGSA CALENDAR OF GOLF EVENTS - 2004

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Monday, May 17, 2004	Can/Am Challenge 11:00 am shotgun	Port Huron Golf Course Port Huron, Michigan
Tuesday, May 25, 2004	Pro/Super Challenge 8:30 a.m. shot gun	Glenway Country Club Newmarket, Ontario
Monday, June 21, 2004	Spring Field Day 8:00 a.m. shot gun	Cutten Club Guelph, Ontario
Monday, July 19, 2004	President's Day Time TBA	Westmount Golf & Country Club Kitchener, Ontario
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2004	Assistants Tournament 1:15 p.m. shot gun	Nottawasaga Resort Alliston, Ontario
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2004	Alex McClumpha Time TBA	Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club Port Carling, Ontario

Note: The McClumpha originally scheduled for Monday, Oct. 4th has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 5th. Please change your calendars.

For full details of these and other events go to our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca "Calendar of Events" Details will be posted as they become available. Registration forms will be made available at least 4 weeks prior to the event. Members receiving OGSA news by email will be notified by email and advised where the registration forms can be viewed and printed. All other members will receive registration forms by mail.

Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

What a thrill to be able to walk on the land again after such a snowy winter. Other than with snow shoes, it was impossible to visit the outer reaches of my garden. After the

first trip around the property in mid-March it appears that the garden wintered well. There is little sign of the pest related problems that typically require my immediate attention, such as snow mould, vole damage, skunk and raccoon injury, rodent damage and wind burn. The fruit trees may even flower this year and were somehow spared rabbit injury despite the juicy lower branches being reachable from the snow banks. Maybe Mother Nature is finally giving me a break and maybe she'll kill off all those Asian long-horned beetles while she is at it.

Motivated by the grade one student in our household, we tapped a couple of our sugar maple trees this March. Why the heck didn't we do this before and why doesn't everybody do it? Comments from friends regarding this simple procedure have been puzzling: a concern that the sap of city trees would be contaminated, a concern that foreign things would be put in the bucket, a fear that the bucket would be stolen, a worry that you need a

forest of trees connected with plastic tubing, and - to me, the biggest disappointment - an admission that they wouldn't know a sugar maple if they ran into one. The general consensus seemed to be that pioneers we are not and nothing should be trusted unless it is chosen and bottled by the "President". The reality for us was that in less than a week we had enough sap to make half a litre of syrup! One drawback was an enthusiastic 6 year old's absolute need to check the buckets every morning at 6 a.m., but otherwise it was a positive thing.

It always amazes me how much life there is in the garden, when at first glance there appears to be none. Boring grey branches suddenly come to life with the swelling of buds and otherwise ordinary colours stand out like neon signs. How is it possible for weeds, biennials in particular, to have advanced so far under the snow? I guess they are as eager as us to get on with the business of life. Before the leaves come out I find myself noticing things which I don't notice during the growing season. The structure and bones of the garden are revealed when the view isn't obstructed with plants. Solutions to some design problems become more obvious. Also, adding a dash of cabin fever to a winter of research and new ideas flow like maple sap. I quickly found myself drafting an enormous list of things to do. If you are wise, you will try to follow the advice you

gave yourself on your first trip around the garden.

This year my list consists of several hedge-related projects. We need about 90 feet of cedar hedging to screen what used to be screened by a neighbour's barn until it was demolished last fall. Neighbours on both sides of us seem to be extending the use of their back yards so borders, fencing and hedges seem to be the order of the day. As the saying goes, good fences (hedges) make good neighbours.

I also have over 40 feet of mature boxwood hedging to move. The hedge was planted 12 years ago as a border for a formal, kidney-shaped rose garden. The hedge has become an impenetrable block and encircles a bed which is unable to support life...there is no air! In its new spot the 18-inch high hedge will bring to life an area which has been troubling me for years. The bed could be loosely called a blousey English perennial garden, but in reality it is a collection of local weeds with the odd surviving perennial peaking through. There was never any structure or bones to the bed so I never bothered to fuss with it when gardening time was available. Clearly, I will now need to improve the soil, add more plants and dress it up.

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

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

It has been suggested that the single most important commodity in the future of this planet will not be gold or diamonds. It will not be rare art, ceramic figurines, furniture, or anything else trotted out by the dentally challenged, British octogenarians on the antiques roadshow. It won't be my Joe Thiesmann as an Argo rookie card, or my complete set of McDonald's mini hockey jerseys. I wish it was going to be the Happy Meal toys under my couch and in the bathtub, because thanks to my kids, I've invested fairly heavily in those.

No, the priceless commodity of the future is expected to be humble Di-Hydrogen Oxide. Futurists have painted a pretty bleak picture of roving desert gangs fighting over the stuff, and entire national structures falling apart for the lack of it. Sort of a Road Warrior scenario, only we'll be fighting over water instead of gasoline. On the positive side, I really liked the muscle cars in that movie, and the wardrobe was straight out of an Iron Maiden video; but on the negative side, millions of people would die. Now, before you start looking to Mel Gibson to save us all, these futurists are the same people who promised me that jet pack, back in 1972. Remember flying cars, colonies on the moon, and Beta videotape format? Where are *those* pipe dreams? I hope that they don't have this one right either, but there is no question that water *has* become a traded commodity.

Last spring, my wife took me to a horse show in Kentucky. I quickly realized that horses trotting in a circle 10 hours away, look pretty much the same as horses trotting in a circle at home. So I went looking for a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. Now, one would suppose that KFC's in Kentucky would be as plentiful as Tim Horton's in Hamilton, but no! It seems that all the locals think they can do it better than the Colonel, and KFC is about as popular as canned spaghetti in Sicily or a Tijuana Taco Bell. I wasn't standing for that kind of blasphemy, so I got in the truck and drove straight to the Colonel Harland Sanders Museum in Louisville. And therein lies the point of my story; the bottled water in the restaurant was from Aberfoyle, ten minutes from home. I started looking, and half the bottled water in Kentucky is from Aberfoyle. Even Walmart, which we've all been led to believe is the retail "Great Satan" for selling exclusively American goods in Canada, was selling Canadian water in the Ozarks. While golf courses all over Ontario are vilified for "wasting" water on irrigation, we're exporting the stuff to hillbillies in another country. Even stranger, is the fact that people in the nearby city of Guelph also buy that same brand in great quantities, when their municipal water is *exactly*

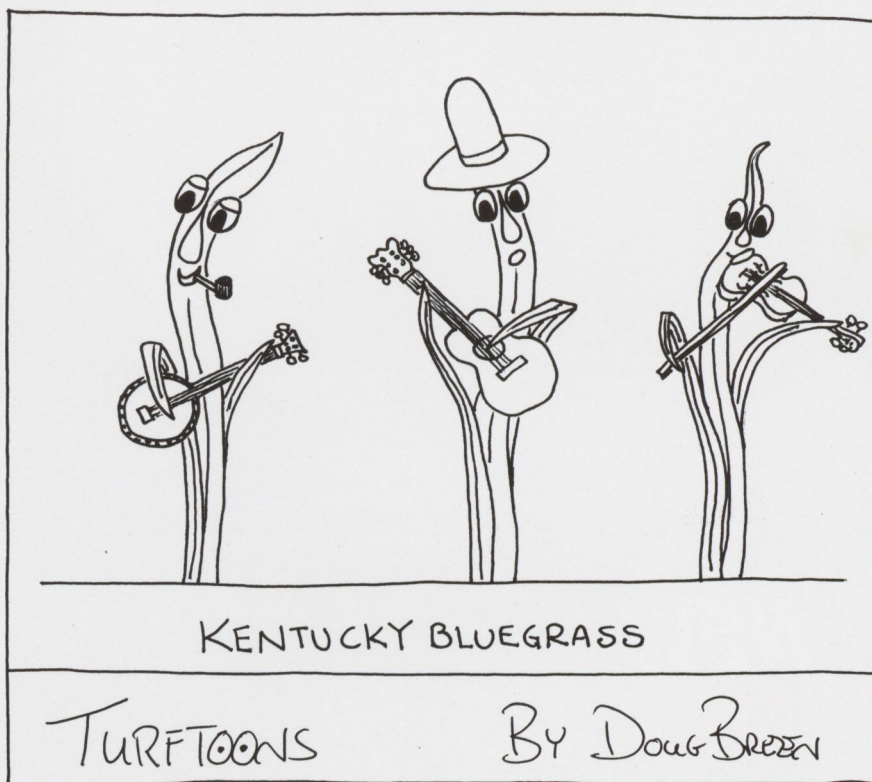
identical...well, except that it's purified.

All golf courses have been affected by recent changes to the standards for public drinking water. I was told recently that even the water in our toilets has to be potable. The thinking is, that if someone who's playing golf is broke and thirsty enough, they just might take to drinking from the bowl. I suggested that even if the water *was* potable when it came out of the pipe, a few minutes in the water closet would likely make it less than ideal from a health perspective, especially the one in the shop. I can't imagine that there's a foursome out there on the course who wouldn't look down on a fellow with his head in the John, lapping like my old english sheepdog; but your provincial government is making sure that he can do it if he likes, without concern for his physical well being.

Now I'll be the first to admit, that the old style water coolers we all used to put on the course were not nearly so far from toilet water as they ought to have been, and I'm pretty glad to see them replaced by bottled water on the beer cart. That way, if a typhoid epidemic breaks out, the liability falls on the company in Mexico where we buy it, and not on me. The commonly accepted rule of thumb on bottled water seems to be; the further away the source is from one's own neighbourhood, the better. It just seems so much more healthy (and exotic), to be drinking water from a glacier in Nepal. But if you read the



fine print on the label carefully, you *may* find that it comes from a malaria infested swamp in a place called Everest, Mississippi, not from the mountain of the same name. Obviously it's a good thing that we're taking water protection a lot more seriously than we used to. It wasn't that long ago that you could dump just about anything in a waterway and get away with it, as long as it didn't glow, catch fire, or kill all the fish for a mile downstream. You could even get away with that, as long as the carcasses didn't float until they were around the bend from the source. There is a limited amount of fresh, clean water in the world, and we certainly need to protect it. I am proud of what our industry has done to be at the forefront of environmental issues, but we must remain diligent so that we don't end up where those futurists are predicting. I'm still holding out hope that they're right about the jet pack, and wrong about the post apocalyptic water hording wars. Of course, I'm also holding out hope that the forty-seven Finding Nemo action figures I tripped over in the shower this morning will be worth about a thousand dollars each some day; because they *are* my kids' college fund.



Looking back

30 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

In 1974, the O.G.S.A. was celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The board of directors were **Bob Heron** (president), **Paul Dermott** (vice-president), **Al Beeney** (secretary), **Whitey Jones**, **Bob Hall**, **John Stoughton**, **Cameron Cairncross**, **Carl Bennet**, **Helmut Kopp**, **Pelino Scenna**, **Jim Wyllie** (past president), and **Ross Haines** (newsletter editor).

There was a monthly meeting in February at Uplands Golf Club in Thornhill hosted by **Helmut Kopp**. It was a combined skiing, business and lecture meeting. Other meetings were held at North Halton Golf & Country Club, Bayview Country Club, Galt Country Club, P.G.A. National Golf Course and Oshawa Golf Club. The G.C.S.A.A. Conference and Show was held in Anaheim, California and the R.C.G.A. Turfgrass Conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

New members joining the O.G.S.A. that year were: **Ken Wright**, Northwood Golf & Country Club; **Wendell Dymont**, Big Cedar Golf & Country Club; **Dave Dick**, Sleepy Hollow Country Club and **Gerry Laferriere**, Garion Golf Club, Sudbury. Annual dues were increased from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

The fourth Annual Turfgrass Symposium of the O.G.S.A. was held on January 3rd at the Lambton Golf & Country Club with **Jim Wyllie** as host, with 75 people attending. **Keith Nesbit** was the Session Chairman for the day.

Superintendents met at the Centennial Arena, in Etobicoke between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m., for hockey. **Blake McMaster** (Gormley Green), **Bruce Lewis** (Georgetown), **Whitey Jones** (Aurora), **Helmut Kopp** (Uplands), **Carl Bennet** (Oakville), **Paul Dermott** (Islington), **Bob Heron** (Markland Woods) and **Ron Graham**, who broke his ankle on his first shift, all participated.

Minimum wage was \$1.65/hr for a student under 18 and working under 28 hours; \$1.90/hr for a learner, during his first month and \$2.00/hr. for general employees.

Sam DiPinto, of the Lido Golf Centre, accepted the superintendent position at the Beverly Golf Club. **David Taylor Barnes** passed away in March and **Norm MacDonald**, a past Superintendent at York Downs Golf & Country Club, also passed away. **Stew Mills** helped make ice at the Canadian Curling Championships in London. **Helmut Kopp** won a gold medal at the Hotdog Championships at Blue Mountain and **Steve Miller** moved to Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club, as superintendent. **Jack Harris** retired from the Hamilton Golf & Country Club to build his own golf course and **Stew Mills** moved from London Highlands to Hamilton Golf & Country Club.

On August 9th, the Pro-Superintendent Golf Tournament was held at Brampton Golf Club, with **Ross Haines** as host. The O.G.S.A. 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament was held at Lambton Golf & Country Club, with **Jim Wyllie** as host. The Christmas dance was held at Richmond Hill Golf & Country Club, on December 14th.

Satan and the Superintendent

Poem reprinted from April 1974 Green is Beautiful
Originally taken from "The Superintendents Handicap"
Finger Lakes G.C.S.A.A.

Old Satan sat with face so grim
And muttered "what'll I do with him?
He's sure to find this place a bore
With the life on earth he's had before!"

And then while shaking his horny head
He opened his ledger and this he read:
"John Doe – Superintendent of Greens
A man behind the golfing scenes –
Had sixty years of toil and strife
Pleasing golfer, manager, pro and wife!

His job included keeping the grass
Planting new turf, repairing machines.
Fighting diseases, insects, a defeat
Battling rain, humidity and heat.

Fixing water pipes that break through the ground
Changing all markers and mowing all weeds down.

He worked all the day – studied all night,
Trained all new men in the ways that were right.

Knew the diseases; Till his face would turn blue.
Not only a scholar and teacher was he,
But an ambassador of good will – and publicity.

Records he kept; watched budget allocation
On him depended the course reputation.
And tho heading a project whose value was high,
Credit and praise went to some other guy.

Gripping and moaning he got every day
But seldom a raise in the old take home pay!
Now here he lies, his days they are through,
"Tell me," said Satan, "What hell can I put him to?"

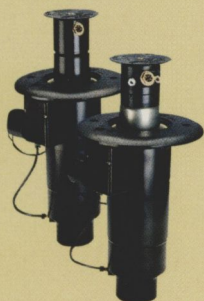
After sitting and thinking for quite a while
His face broke out in a great big smile;
The best known hardship he could deem
Was to send him where all was calm and green.



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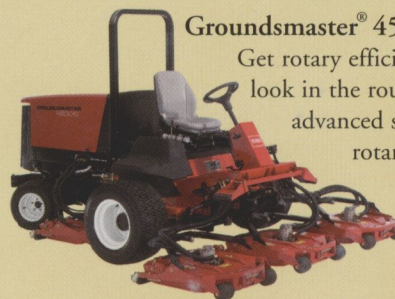
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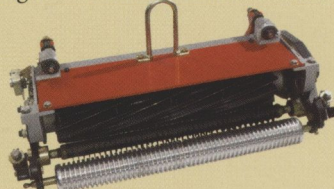


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