

INSIDE:
2005 OGSA/CGSA
JOINT CONFERENCE
HORTICULTURAL PROGRAM

October 2004

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



NOV 08 2004

Keeping our heads above water

Pesticides regulations for golf courses

104th United States Open Championship

Assistants and McClumpha Tournaments

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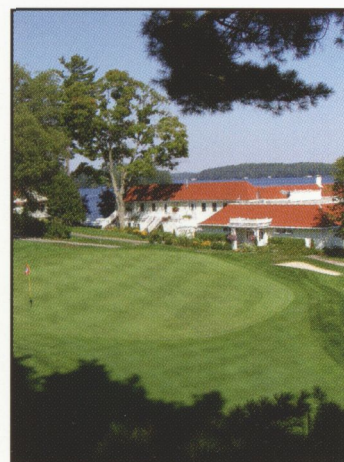
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

photo by Rob Eagleson

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

President's message

Planning is a key ingredient in the success of any golf operation. By now I'm sure your goals for your golf course in 2005 are already in place. Through my many experiences on the OGSA Board, I have learned that planning is also paramount to the success of our association. On a regular basis, our association plans for golf tournaments, publications, and conferences. This work takes strong commitment and a great deal of time. We are an active, growing association. There is always something to plan for and it is easy to get lost in this activity. In the spring, we completed a corporate audit which resulted in some immediate operational changes. Now it is time for OGSA to step back and look at the big picture. Where is our association heading? What are our short-term and long-term goals? What are our financial objectives and where do we best direct this resource?

A comprehensive strategic plan is in order and the Board will be undertaking this task over the winter. The future of our association is bright, and as a Board, we want to make certain that the lights are shining in all the right places. We look forward to sharing our results.

I hope to see you at the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Tradeshow January 6th to 11th. Congratulations go to Bob Burrows, his organizing committee, and our organizing partners at the CGSA, as the entire program looks outstanding.

Enjoy some quality time away from the course, you've worked hard and deserve it!



by Rob Ackermann
Weston Golf & Country Club



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Guelph Turfgrass Institute
328 Victoria Road South
Guelph, ON N1H 6H8

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Fax: 519-766-1704
Email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca
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Green is Beautiful 2004

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Editor's message



by John Bladon
Nu-Gro Corporation

Each season presents its challenges. The influences of temperature, rain, humidity traffic, etcetera all play a role in how the season takes shape. Enclosed in this October issue of *Green is Beautiful*, Jennifer Pendrith of Kawartha Golf & Country Club demonstrates how a season can quickly turn when Mother Nature rears her ugly side.

Green is Beautiful is jammed with some other must-reads this month as well. If you missed the Spring Field Day at the Cutten Club, Cathy Wright Curlew of the MOE has provided a written version of her presentation "Pesticide Regulations for Golf Courses". Also, Pam Charbonneau asks us "Should Calcium Be Used on Ontario Soils?" and Greig Barker shares his U.S. Open experience. Finally, Andrew Keffer of Clublink is this issue's Member Profile.

The editorial committee will be meeting in November to discuss next year and evaluate both the Article of the Year and Photo of the Year to be presented at January's conference. If you have any suggestions for us please forward them along. Lastly, think of what you may be able to provide us in the way of news or photos for next season.

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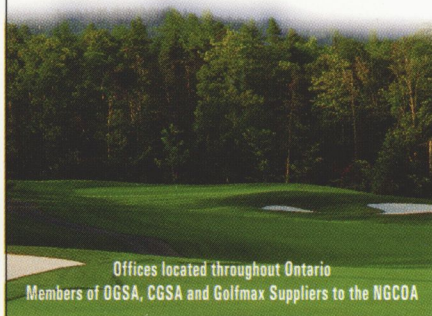
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From roots to shoots

Should Calcium Be Used on Ontario Soils?



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass
Specialist

Many fertilizer suppliers to the industry are recommending the addition of calcium to turf. This practice has been adopted by some golf course superintendents in the province. This begs the question – should calcium be used on Ontario soils? I am going to try to answer that question by looking at the role of calcium in the turfgrass plant,

the role of calcium in the soil and report on some research findings on adding calcium to turf.

Role of Calcium in the Turfgrass Plant

There are 17 elements that are essential for plant nutrition in relatively large amounts. These are classified as plant macronutrients and are found in the plant dry matter in concentrations of at least 1000 ppm. They are: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulfur. Calcium ranks third after nitrogen and potassium in abundance in the turfgrass plant. Calcium plays an important role in cell wall formation, cell division and cell growth. Calcium deficiencies may occur in low pH, sandy soils. The turf leaves turn reddish brown. These symptoms have only been able to be demonstrated by using hydroponic solutions in a laboratory situation. Deficiency symptoms are very rare in the field. Sufficiency ranges for tissue nutrient content for calcium in turfgrasses is 0.5-1.3%. Sufficiency ranges for the major nutrients can be found in Table 1.

Role of Calcium in Soil

Calcium is a positively charged element that occurs in the soil. The soil particles are negatively charged. These negative and positive charged elements work like magnets and are attracted to each other. The negatively charged ions in the soil hold on to the cations so that they can be exchanged with cations in the root system and be taken up by the plant. The ability of the soil to attract these cations is called the cation exchange capacity (CEC) and it is measured in milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil. The CEC has an impact on how fertilization is conducted. A low CEC soil may need repeated applications of moderate levels of fertilizer. A soil high in CEC can have larger amounts of fertilizer applied less frequently.

The second role of calcium is its role in soil pH. The pH

is a measure of the hydrogen cations in the soil solution and on the cation exchange sites in the soil. Soil pH ranges from 3-11 with 7 being neutral. Soils with a pH below 7 are categorized as acidic and above 7 are alkaline. The pH of the soil has an effect on the availability of plant nutrients. Some nutrients are more available at high pH's and some are more available at a low pH. The optimum range of soil pH for most turfgrasses is between 5.5 and 7.

If a soil pH is low, calcium in the form of lime, can be added to the soil to raise the soil pH. This should not be done unless a soil test has been performed and has indicated the need for lime. The standard form of lime is calcium carbonate (CaCO_3). If too much lime is added to a soil, the pH of the soil may be increased to a range that is too high for proper plant growth. Lime can burn turfgrass plants. This is especially true when lime is applied during hot weather. It is also very difficult to get lime into the rootzone of mature turf. The best time to add lime to adjust pH is at the time of turf establishment.

Role of Lime in Controlling Moss

Another reason that is cited for the addition of calcium in the form of lime to soils is to control moss. The addition of lime to soils to control moss is only effective if the soil pH is low. In most cases in Ontario moss is a result of soil compaction, poor drainage, overwatering or too much rain, shade, low mowing height and poor fertility and not because of low pH soils.

Ontario Soils

When the glaciers receded from Ontario ten thousand years ago, the materials left behind were deposited directly by the glaciers, deposited by melt waters running from the retreating glaciers or deposited in the bottom of glacial lakes. These became the parent material of soils in southern Ontario. Most of these materials are limestone based and are neutral to basic in pH and are termed calcareous soils. Because of this it is rare to find soils in this part of Ontario that are low in pH and that would benefit from additional calcium in the form of lime.

There are areas in Ontario where the soil pH is not alkaline. These include pockets of soil in the Canadian Shield, but the majority of the soils in southwestern and south central Ontario are calcareous.

From roots to shoots ... continued

Fertilizer Company Claims

Based on this role of calcium in the plant and in soils, fertilizer suppliers make the claim that it makes plants stronger and more resistant to wear, neutralizes soil acidity, improves activity of favourable soil bacteria, promotes root development, improves soil structure, improves the efficiency and availability of fertilizer, reduces phosphate fixation and increases water penetration and water holding capacity. Some of these statements are true, but in very specific situations or circumstances and they should not be used as generalizations for the benefits of calcium.

Calcium Fertilization Research

Researchers at the University of Iowa, Nick Christians and Rodney St. John, conducted trials on calcareous based sand greens. Their research was to determine the benefits or detriments of applying supplemental calcium to turfgrass established on calcareous sand. They wanted to know whether additional calcium increases the amount of calcium absorbed by the grass plant, whether it increases clipping yield and quality and if it affects the availability of other nutrients to the plant.

A greenhouse study looked at adding additional calcium to Kentucky bluegrass and creeping bentgrass grown in calcareous sand. The additional calcium treatments consisted of calcium sulphate, calcium carbonate, calcium nitrate and a chelated calcium. The calcium, regardless of the source was incorporated into the growing medium at a rate of 4.7 lbs of calcium per 1000 sq. ft..

A two year field study on creeping bentgrass established on a calcareous sand putting green also received 4.7 lbs. of calcium per 1000 sq. ft. applied as five separate monthly

applications.

In both the greenhouse and the field studies the additional calcium did not increase the growth, colour or leaf calcium content of the grasses established on the calcareous sands. In the greenhouse study the additional calcium reduced the leaf magnesium content by 15% and

by 11% in the field trial. In the field studies, the calcium carbonate and calcium nitrate treatments reduced the soil extractable potash levels and the calcium sulphate, calcium nitrate and calcium chelate reduced the amount of soil extractable magnesium. Over time with continuous additions of calcium both magnesium and potash could become deficient in the soil, leading to deficiencies in the turfgrass plant. The greenhouse study did show that creeping bentgrass had nearly twice the amount of calcium in the leaf tissue as did Kentucky bluegrass and none of the treatments increased the tissue calcium levels in either species.

So the claims that additional calcium increases resistance to wear can only be true if the added calcium is taken up by the turfgrass plant. This research demonstrates that it is not taken up by the plant. As far as the addition of calcium increasing the availability and efficiency of fertilizers, the calcium actually made the magnesium and potash less available.

The take home message from this research is that supplemental applications of calcium did not increase clipping yield, leaf calcium content or turf quality and that the addition of calcium could limit the availability of magnesium and potash to the plant when applied to calcareous sand.

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Table 1. Sufficiency ranges for tissue nutrient content of turfgrasses

Element	Content
Nitrogen	2.8-3.5%
Phosphorous	0.3-0.6%
Potassium	1.0-2.5%
Calcium	0.5-1.3%
Magnesium	0.2-0.6%
Sulfur	0.2-0.5%

The Guelph Turfgrass Research Field Day

submitted by Doug Breen

On Tuesday August 17th, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute was proud to once again host the annual field day at the turf research plots at their facility, just a stone's throw across Victoria Road from the campus of the University of Guelph. The weather for the day was perfect, and there was good representation from the various facets of the turfgrass industry, along with a number of academics, researchers and staff.

Rob Witherspoon called the proceedings to order and introduced the assembled group to Dr. Eric Lyons. Any who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Lyons, I encourage you to do so. As a man who will have a lot to say about the future direction of turf research at the University of Guelph, we all ought to take a few moments to get to know him. It is very important that he get feedback from the industry to ensure that research is timely, relevant, and applicable.

It was appropriate that after introducing our newest researcher, there was a plaque unveiled to pay tribute to one of the Ontario Agricultural College's most important historic researchers, teachers, and mentors. Professor Ralph Goodwin-Wilson's name will permanently grace a marker beside a commemorative tree at the entrance to the GTI main building. At the unveiling, and throughout the day, many people spoke of Ralph Goodwin-Wilson's commitment to the development of the science of turfgrass production, and the OAC's role in that. It was suggested by more than a few, that without his efforts,

there would not be a turf research facility at Guelph today. "From tiny acorns, mighty oaks may grow".

Next on the agenda was the tour of the research plots. Most notable, was the complete lack of disease on the pathology green. The nearly ideal conditions have saved our courses a fair bit of money this year, but it certainly didn't help to build data for the fungicide trials. There were many interesting studies being carried out on the property, and the facility is truly amazing if you haven't seen it. There is a soil green, a USGA green, and a California green. There are trials carried out on "rough" grasses under both irrigated and non- irrigated regimes. Seed trials, fertilizer trials, chemical trials, organic trials... there is far more going on than I could ever describe here.

After the tours there was a very tasty lunch and pleasant conversation around the table. There is a lot to see at the GTI, and I encourage all of you to come out to the 2005 field day and see it for yourself. It's not that often that you get the chance to "get down in the dirt" with the researchers at a world class facility like the one we have right here in our own back yard. Who knows, the next big breakthrough in turf science could be happening out there right now, and it could be because a PhD and a Superintendent had a burger together and talked about the problem on his course. I look forward to seeing you all there next year.



Dr Eric Lyons



Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation

course photos by Dorothy Hills

On August 23rd, the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's annual golf tournament was held at the beautiful Burlington Golf and Country Club, a Stanley Thompson gem, established in 1922. The course was in immaculate condition thanks to the efforts of Superintendent, Pelino Scenna and his staff. This majestic, tree lined property offered a wonderful venue for this tournament, which marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OTRF. In recognition of the low gross and low net, silver plates were renamed after OTRF founders Paul Dermott and Alan Beeney.

Thanks go out to Platinum Sponsor, Bayer Environmental Science and all of the other sponsoring companies and participating individuals who made the day a great success. The golf tournament is the major annual fund raising event for the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. Chris Dew and his committee did a great job of organizing the tournament with the assistance of OTRF Office Manager, Cindi Charters.



John Gall and Paul Dermott photo by Erica Gunn



Hole # 16



Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows
Rosedale Golf Club

The Fall Field Day tournament at Riverside CC, on September 20th, was an absolutely outstanding event. Thanks to the co-sponsors, especially the Toro Company, for their support. Their partnership helps make events such as this possible. The pre-tournament seminar on Sunday was also well received. A special recognition to the host superintendent, Doug Campbell and his staff for providing access to this great facility in such great

condition. Thanks also goes to the Saskatchewan Turfgrass Association for co-hosting the Saturday Skins game at Dakota Dunes GC. To continue with the success of this fall tournament, the Board is receiving and considering two detailed submissions for this ever-popular September event. A date and venue will be announced shortly.

You will now be receiving the brochure for the joint CGSA/OGSA conference, January 6-11, 2005 in Toronto. This joint venture could conceivably be one of the biggest turfgrass conferences ever held in Canada. We look forward to this show, and we are extremely pleased and proud of the partnership involvement with the OGSA! If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding the 2005 event, please contact either Sean DeSilva or myself.

It is my hope that the contents of the conference brochure

will adequately outline the impressive educational and social aspects of this conference. I would like to again thank the advisory committee members, who together with me formed the basis of input in developing the broad range of programs, in conjunction with our very capable CGSA headquarters staff and our Executive Director, Ken Cousineau. Thanks to Committee members; Sean DeSilva (co-chair), Rob Ackermann, Paul Scenna, Jeff Stauffer, Bill Fach, Corrie Almack, and Marie Thorne.

The CGSA will be hosting various regional seminars in Ontario in the near future. Please watch your mail, e-mail and www.golfsupers.com for more information regarding seminars this fall and winter in Ontario. There will be some great educational opportunities during this time in the province. Plan now to attend a seminar in your region. With input from the membership this summer, during the seven regional focus groups, the Board will consider the recommendations of the education committee with respect to continuing education requirements or other avenues available.

You will also be receiving the salary survey and IPM/BMP survey. Please take a moment to complete these valuable surveys on-line, and be eligible for a draw to win a CGSA prize. Congratulations to Mr. Doug Meyer from Beaconsfield GC for winning this year's "Superintendent of the Year" award and to Mr. Don Campbell for winning the John B. Steel award.



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Health & safety

Fire Safety

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

As I sit here in the early fall in the bright warm sunshine it is tough to think about the way things might be if something goes wrong. Yet we should. We should plan ahead to ensure that we are doing everything reasonable to ensure that our workplace is safe. This means taking the time to audit your workplace to identify potential risk areas to ensure that the shop and other buildings are safe from a potential fire. Have you taken the time to look around your shop and evaluate the area for a potential fire? Is this a priority for your club?

When I discuss fire safety it is not only the grounds keeping area that is a potential concern. You must look at all areas of the club including the clubhouse, storage areas and the kitchen. Consider what the impact of a fire would be on your club. Consider the potential losses. The effects of a fire can be devastating.

We never want to think about having to deal with a fire situation. To avoid this devastation it is imperative that you review the identified areas that may be the potential cause of a fire and deal with potential fire situations to eliminate the possibility of fire.

- Some of the things that you should consider when looking for potential sources of fire would be storage of gasoline, diesel and other flammable liquids (solvents, paints and lubricants).
- Disposal containers and garbage storage areas are a prime source for potential fires.
- Check out your electrical rooms to ensure that there are no flammables stored near electrical panels. Flammables in an electrical room could include cardboard boxes as well as flammable liquids or gases.

- Also check out your electrical wiring. Sub standard electrical wiring or electrical systems are a major cause of fires. Remember that overloaded circuits have a tendency to overheat and break down the insulation on the wires. When this happens a surge in the draw is sometimes all it takes to cause the arcing that will cause an electrical fire.
- Ensure that all electrically operated equipment meets the CSA and /or UL standards for electrical equipment.

As I have stated before when discussing emergency procedures (winter 2001) it is important to have a well-defined workable fire emergency plan that is well designed and tested and works in your facility. If you think ahead and are proactive about fire safety this will go a long way towards eliminating a fire event at your club.

Here is a link to the Ontario Fire Marshall - <http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca>

This is only a very brief overview of some fire issues. Take the time now to inspect your workplace and eliminate sources of fire before you are in crisis. If you need help contact someone and get help. This fall and winter inspect carefully. Plan ahead. Be prepared. Be safe. Think about fire before it happens and have a safe and happy fall and winter!

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Cyber super



by Mark Prieur,
Assistant Supt.
Markland Wood CC

I had the pleasure of being invited to a meeting with representatives from Croplife some time ago. Croplife is the trade association representing the manufacturers, developers and distributors of pesticides. The meeting involved what golf courses are doing with their used pesticide containers. To their amazement, a large portion of golf courses DO NOT have a pesticide (or used fertilizer) container recycling system

setup. To my amazement, the agriculture industry has a huge recycling system currently in place that accommodates all used containers. Did you know that a large portion of pesticide containers are recycled and used for fence post manufacturing? I thought that golf was always a step ahead of agriculture in terms of environmental stewardship (as the meeting went on, I was made aware that we were ahead in some respects). At the end of the meeting I asked if Croplife had more information online for viewing...

The site, www.croplife.ca is really two sites in one. Croplife being the first of the two, the second site is the

<http://urbanpestmanagement.ca>. The Urban Pest Management Council of Canada deals with urban pest management. According to the UPMC, the site still has some updates to be done due to its static nature. It is still a pretty solid site without the upcoming additions. I think that everybody involved in the golf industry should not only read but also distribute all literature the site has to offer. In addition to pro-pesticide literature, it has the complete Pesticides Act for quick reference.

The Croplife website has more of an interactive feel, with links to other associations and a calendar of events. It also has limited literature on the West Nile Virus. The great part about Croplife is the positive and professional image it projects with respect to the judicial use of pesticides. It has an archive of media releases and even a photo gallery to use in presentations (most of them are agriculture photos).

In addition to the pro-pesticide use message Croplife sends, there is also information on Biotechnology and food safety. After reading both sections, one should feel well versed in dealing with any person who is anti-pesticide. As with the UPMC site, everyone who grows grass for a dollar should be well read in all the subjects mentioned above. Look for a link on OGSA website for both Croplife and UPMC.

Mechanic's corner

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

On September 9, 2004 the Golf Equipment Association of Ontario held it's annual golf tournament at Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club. It proved to be a day of records. It was the first time that the tournament was delayed because of a hurricane, as Ivan paid us a visit! We also had record attendance, and the largest support for the prize table.

The day started off with heavy rain, but a 30 minute delay proved that even a hurricane couldn't spoil our day of golf and association. Jim Nicholls and his crew had the course in good shape, despite the rain. The Silver Lakes staff were very hospitable to the enjoyment of all attendees.

The winning team with an amazing score of 63 were: Tom Bowen, Jason D'Andrea and Gari Ingersta. This is the first time that a threesome won the main prize.

One record that still stands is, no winning team has ever been able to put their name on the trophy twice.

This year the Board of Directors hosted a very successful breakfast meeting prior to the tournament. It was the first time enough members were in attendance to vote on and discuss serious association matters. Plans are underway for next year and hopefully we won't have a hurricane attending!

Pesticides Regulations for Golf Courses

submitted by Cathy Wright Curlew • Pesticides Specialist
Central Region Ministry of the Environment

The Ontario Pesticides Act and Regulation 914 provide the province's regulatory framework for pesticide management to protect human health and the natural environment. The Ministry of the Environment, through the legislation, regulates the sale, use, transportation, storage and disposal of pesticides. The Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee (OPAC) recommends classification for pesticides that are federally registered into six different schedules for sale, storage and use in Ontario. The Ministry monitors compliance and enforces the regulation. Mainly through education and training, the ministry provides direction on the responsible use of pesticides and encourages and promotes reduced reliance on pesticides through integrated pest management (IPM) practices.

In the summer of 2004, the Ministry of the Environment's Central Region office visited golf courses in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). These visits were part of an effort to increase awareness of the provincial pesticides legislation and to promote voluntary compliance among industry stakeholders. The following areas of the provincial pesticides legislation were emphasized during the visits: licencing, storage and disposal of pesticides, mixing and handling of spray solutions containing pesticides, and public notification of pesticide use.

Licensing

In order to use certain pesticides on golf courses an appropriate exterminator licence is required. Different licences may be required depending upon the type of pesticide used and the pest that is being controlled. To control pests on turf and ornamental plants a Landscape Exterminator Licence is required. To control vegetation in ponds and aquatic environments an Aquatic Vegetation Exterminator Licence is required. For controlling mosquitoes and biting flies, a Mosquito / Biting Fly Exterminator Licence is required. The proper exterminator licence is obtained after the successful completion of a home-study course and written exam. A certified technician may work under the indirect supervision of a valid licence holder; in order to become a certified technician a Ministry approved basic pesticide safety course must have been successfully completed within the past two years.

Storage and Disposal

The Ministry of the Environment's pesticide regulations require pesticides to be stored in a manner that does not pose a health risk or risk of contaminating the natural environment. The following must be followed when storing pesticides:

- Pesticides must be stored in a manner so they are not likely to impair the health and safety of others
- Pesticides must not be stored in a manner that would allow contact with food or drink
- The storage area must be clean and orderly and in good repair
- Pesticides must not contaminate the natural environment or other pesticides stored in the area
- A chemical storage warning sign must be posted on all entrances to the pesticides storage area
- Emergency phone numbers must be posted near the pesticides storage area

For schedule 1, 2 and 5 pesticides:

- The storage area must be vented to the outside atmosphere
- No floor drain to a municipal sewer or storm system may be present in the storage area
- Adequate protective equipment must be available immediately outside of the storage area in the event of a spill
- The storage area must be locked to permit authorized entry only

For schedule 1 and 5 pesticides:

- The storage area must be used exclusively for the storage of pesticides to prevent contamination in the event of a spill

Pesticides must be stored in the original container from the manufacturer. If the container becomes damaged the secondary container must be similar in type and of the same composition as the manufacturers (e.g. plastic replaces plastic, glass replaces glass). A secondary storage container must have a label indicating the trade name, all active ingredients and concentrations and the Federal Pest Control Products Act (PCP) registration number.

Empty pesticide containers must be triple rinsed and delivered to a pesticide container collection site in accordance with Ontario Regulation 347 under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). Rinse water from empty containers must be emptied into the spray tank and used in the extermination or disposed of in accordance with O. Reg. 347 under the EPA. Obsolete or unregistered pesticides are waste and must be registered by the generator and shipped for appropriate disposal by a certified waste hauler in accordance with O. Reg. 347 under the EPA. The registration status of pesticides may be searched at Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) www.eddenet.pmra-arla.gc.ca/4.0/4.0.asp or at the OPAC website www.opac.gov.on.ca.

Mixing and Handling of Pesticides

Precautions must be taken to prevent contamination of the natural environment when mixing and handling pesticides. When filling from a well, lake, pond, river or other surface water source the water taking equipment must have an effective device to prevent back-flow. Spray equipment must not be cleaned or rinsed near a well, lake, pond, river or other surface water source in a manner that would allow for pesticide to enter the water source. Appropriate safety equipment must be used in accordance with the pesticide product label.

Public Notification

Golf courses are considered public areas under the provincial pesticides legislation therefore; public notification is required for all pesticide applications. The public notification requirements include:

- Conspicuously posting public area size (51 cm x 38 cm) Pesticide Use Signs 24 hours before the pesticide application at all ordinary points of access to the golf course

Pesticides Regulations for Golf Courses continued...

- Public area pesticide use signs must also be posted 24 hours in advance, every 100 meters along the perimeter of the treatment area
- Pesticide Use Signs must not be posted on trees, fences, sign boards or buildings
- Pesticide Use Signs must remain posted for a minimum of 48 hours and a maximum of 10 days

If the golf course is in a rural area or is surrounded by fencing or other barriers that restrict unauthorized access then, public area pesticide use signs may be posted around the perimeter of the treatment area immediately before the pesticide application provided that one of the following is performed**:

1. Posting public signs at all access points 24 hours in advance
2. Posting 24 hours in advance at all locations where visitors come into contact with staff
3. Distributing written notices to all visitors 24 hours in advance

***Keep in mind that the perimeter of the treatment area must still be posted every 100 meters immediately before the pesticide application.*

If greater than 20 signs would need to be posted or access to the application area is sufficiently limited to justify doing so, an alternative method of notification may be approved by the Director Under the Act. A request for alternative notification may be sent to:

The Director Under the Pesticides Act
Ministry of the Environment
40 St. Clair Ave W, 7th floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

The request must be supported by one of the conditions in O. Reg. 914 s.68 (1):

1. the notification requires posting greater than 20 signs
2. the golf course is in a rural area and is on a public thoroughfare
3. the golf course is in a rural area and is on land against which a public utility or other public work has a right of way
4. public access is sufficiently limited to justify doing so

If number 4 is your reason for requesting alternative notification then a description of the measures that limit public access as well as a description of how alternative notification could be provided is required. For example: posting 24 hours in advance at all access points, 1st and 10th tees, pro-shop and clubhouse.

For more information contact the Ministry of the Environment Regional Pesticide Specialist in your area. Or get a copy of the Pesticides Act and Regulation 914 by visiting the Ministry's homepage at www.ene.gov.on.ca or call the public information centre at 1-800-565-4923.

Accreditation avenue

by Jeff Stauffer
Director of Government Relations

As the winter season approaches, many people will be preparing their information to submit for IPM Accreditation desk reviews. While, the process is new to most, you may find it refreshing to reflect on the past year's records and begin to look forward to next year and where possible improvements may or may not be possible. Desk review forms are available on the website www.ontarioipm.com. You may have noticed during this year's conference and trade show in Toronto, a presentation will be made showing successful desk review forms from last year and thoughts will be shared towards making the process a rewarding one for all.

The OGSA supports the IPM Accreditation program as an important venture. Industry continues to approach the MOE to adopt and include it in their provincial legislation. We, in the golf industry must show, through participation in the program, our support, in order for the

provincial government to acknowledge and address the problems being created by the municipal councils across the province. The pesticide fight continues in many areas and will never truly go away, but with your help we can make a difference that hopefully, will allow us to continue our responsible use of pesticide products.

Also, the CGSA/OGSA conference brochure will be reviewed over the next while by the IPM Council of Canada to identify the certified education units available for each seminar, session and topic. This information will be made available once ready, as you prepare for your attendance to this exciting program.

Those who have not yet enrolled in the program but wish to may contact Ridgeway College through the website, also at www.ontarioipm.com.

Member profile

Interview with Andrew Keffer

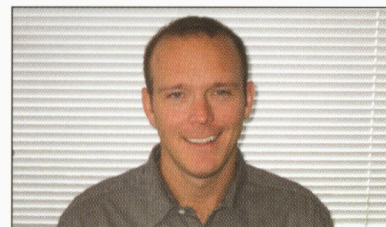
Executive Director of Turf Operations, Clublink Corporation

Over a quiet breakfast in the confines of the clubhouse at Clublink's recently unveiled project, Glencairn Golf Club, I sat with OGSA member Andrew Keffer and we talked about his evolution in the golf course industry. Andrew started as many of us have, mowing golf course turf through high school. As time progressed, he worked himself into the position of assistant superintendent at a private club. Ironically that very club, Emerald Hills Golf Club, near Stouffville, became one of Clublink's originals. As Clublink grew so did internal opportunities and Andrew was offered his first superintendent's job at Greystone Golf Club, in Milton, following his graduation from the University of Guelph. It was through these years with Clublink that Andrew credits Jim Molenhuis for having the largest influence on his career. After some time buffing and polishing Greystone, taking it towards its unrealized potential, Andrew moved to a property just south east of Milton. Clublink was now growing at a torrid pace and part of that growth included new development as well as acquisition. Andrew's charge at that time was to be a 45 hole construction and grow in now known as Rattlesnake Point Golf Club. He now works out of Clublink's offices in King City overseeing turf operations for the corporation. Although the company has streamlined a number of maintenance components at each

individual course, Andrew tells me each superintendent is indeed managing the individual golf course.

"Once the superintendents have their individual budgets approved, it is up to them to administer it. It isn't like we hover over every course, they manage on a local level and we provide a support system and the opportunity to share ideas and technical information. I think we have a great pool of people who are professional and work very, very hard."

Andrew reflects fondly on the time at Rattlesnake. We look back upon a photo taken of the maintenance team, and the number of now Clublink superintendents in the mix is astounding. Neil Boyd at Eagle Ridge, Chris Safruk at Diamondback and Dan Tonkin at Greenhills are all former "Rattlesnakes." There are others too; Craig McCutcheon now with Turf Care's agronomy division is a Rattlesnake/Keffer disciple, Paul Gurr of Grand Niagara, Blair Rennie of Whitevale and Jason Honeyball of OslerBrook all have also felt the influence of working with Clublink and Andrew. I paused and remembered back to Hugh Kirkpatrick telling me how proud he was to have a number of his former assistants out working in the industry. I started counting all those Andrew has influenced, but I quickly ran out of hands.



Andrew Keffer

We talked about the recent spring of 2004 and some of the changes amongst the ranks. He feels that working for Clublink may be a little misunderstood within the industry.

He tells me it was an exciting time and he explained how great he believed the changes were for the company and, more importantly, the individuals in the midst of all the change.

"It's great to see guys like Blair, Jay and Craig move on to new challenges outside of Clublink and within the industry. I would like to think it's a testament to the experiences they gathered while with us. I have always felt we offer a genuine opportunity to grow within the industry."

As for future challenges, the company has slowed new development somewhat and will be focused on continuously improving the "Clublink Experience" for their golfing customers at existing facilities. In spite of 12,000 members and more than 800,000 rounds of golf, Andrew feels there is always room for improvement. He insists there is more competition than ever and that courses like Eagle's Nest and Copper Creek are fine examples of a bar that seems to be continuously rising.

Finally, I asked Andrew what might be next for him. He smiled the smile of a contented man. So, we left it just like that.

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite Major? **British Open**
- Ultimate Foursome...you and what three? **Jack Nicholson, Tiger Woods and Stanley Thompson**
- Favourite course outside of Canada? **Royal Dornoch**
- Favourite piece of turf equipment? **Toro triplex greens mower**
- Low round and where? **74, Rattlesnake Point GC, Sidewinder course**
- Favourite Food? **Steak and potatoes**
- What's in the CD player right now? **Nothing, only news and weather on the radio**
- Rate the home lawn on a scale of 1-10? **I think it's a 9.5...it's Greystone after all!**
(Andrew lives on the property)
- "Next" Stanley Cup pick? **Die hard Leaf fan but the gut says Ottawa**
- What would you be doing if you were not in the turf industry? **Stockbroker**



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Keeping Our Heads Above Water

by Jennifer Pendrith, Superintendent
Kawartha Golf & Country Club

Those who know me well will likely tell you that I can get a bit stressed out at the best of times. With this in mind, you can imagine my mental state when the events of July 15th, 2004 unfolded.

That morning started out like any other day in Peterborough this season...it was raining... AGAIN! I prepared myself for another day of pumping bunkers and repairing washouts, which, much to the dismay of our entire staff, had become a part of our regular routine this year.

I set out to work, totally unprepared for what lay ahead. My usual 5-minute drive to work turned into an hour-long navigation around the city, trying to find a way past the water. I'd never seen anything like it in my life. Roads had been transformed into white water rapids, sewers were erupting like geysers and cars were up to their windows in water. My thoughts then turned to the golf course, as I tried to imagine what kind of situation I was about to encounter. I knew it wasn't going to be pretty, which in hindsight was a huge understatement. I decided to plow through the water and take my chances.

I met my assistant, Gavin at the shop. We looked at each other dumbfounded, not knowing whether to laugh or cry

(or catch the next plane leaving for Mexico). Our rain gauge read 6 inches. It only holds 6 inches. It was literally overflowing by the time we got to it, so we dumped it out and set it up for another round. We collected another inch-and-a-half that morning, totalling more than 7 1/2 inches in less than 8 hours.

We headed out on the course to assess the situation. The rain was still falling steadily, so it was hard to determine the true extent of the damage at that point. Aside from the usual storm problems (bunker washouts, flooded fairways, debris strewn over the course), our 12th and 13th bunkers had completely collapsed. Bunker sand blanketed areas of our greens and fairways were covered in gravel. The course was a complete disaster.

This mess, however, paled in comparison to the areas bordering our creek, which is located downstream from a residential development. The water was rushing so fast that it would have taken with it anyone and anything in its path. Our entrance roadway, which provides the only access-point to the clubhouse, resembled a scaled-down version of Niagara Falls and was now a crumbled pile of rubble. Half of the road and the material underneath had been washed downstream. One of our main irrigation



12 Bunker Before



12 Bunker After - reconstructed by Assistant Superintendent Gavin Carnegie



11th Green

lines now lay crooked and bent in its remains. Thankfully, our 12th tee that, had been completely overrun by knee-high rushing water, was still intact, but the asphalt path, banks and trees along the creek beside it were completely destroyed. What used to be a cement bridge now stood like an island amongst piles of silt, rock, pieces of road, chunks of shoreline and large cedar trees.

Our 11th green, which was the storm's last victim before exiting our course, took it the hardest. The force of the water, combined with the rock and debris it carried along with it, created a hole 3 feet deep and the size of a small pick-up truck. The silt, gravel and rocks that didn't end up in the hole were now spread over half of the green. To make matters worse, we discovered that the city sewer line running through our course had backed up and was spurting out gallons of sewage beside the creek next to the 11th green.

Feeling completely overwhelmed at this point and not knowing even where to begin, Gavin and I developed a plan to get the course open again as soon as possible. With so much damage to contend with, it was important for us to stay focused on the areas that needed immediate attention. First and foremost we needed to open the roadway and regain access to the clubhouse, pro shop and parking lot. With so much damage spread over the entire city, construction crews were working round-the-clock. But we reacted quickly enough to hire a local company and get them on-site that very same day. Amazingly, they had our road back in full use by 6 o'clock the next evening.

In the meantime, we had a golf course to put back together. We planned our attack by focusing on areas piece-by-piece. Removing the piles of silt and gravel from the turf was our first priority. With a staff of only 13 people, we wondered if it was even possible.

What happened next blew my mind. Calls started pouring in from other golf courses in the area offering us anything they could to help us out. Members were gathering to offer their time and effort to help pick up the pieces. We had over 40 volunteer members that took so much pride in their course that they were willing to get right into the middle of it all, scraping up gravel and



Gavin Carnegie

shovelling sand. It's hard to put into words how grateful I was for all the help we received.

The whirlwind began. We had a crew of 60 people to organize, we had to meet the city engineer to assess the waterway damage, meet with the conservation authorities to implement an immediate course of action, talk with the city environmentalists to address the sewer situation, discuss the damage with our insurance adjuster, come up with a plan to inform the members, direct the construction company and attend emergency meetings. Trust me, there's no course you can take or book you can read that can prepare you for this kind of situation.

We made more progress that day than I had ever imagined possible. We had 5 or 6 crews at various sites on the course, and by that evening all the major tasks were completed. None of it would have been possible without the help we received from the community and the hard work of our members. By the end of the weekend, we'd accomplished our goals. The 11th green was still closed, since the entire waterway was in need of the expertise of engineers and hydrologists... but that's a story in itself.

We opened the course within a few days, proud of what we had accomplished in such a short time. And then 2 days later, more rain. With the course already saturated, the extra inch of rain had nowhere to go. There was nothing we could do but close the course again. This cycle continued, over and over, during the course of the following two weeks, totalling close to 13 inches of water. We were closed for a total of 9 days. To this day we're still dealing with the effects the flood.

It's hard to imagine that anything positive could come from such a disaster, but our story has a happy ending. The devastation that the course suffered during the flood brought a lot of pending issues to the forefront. We're now in the midst of developing a strategic plan for the golf course, which includes rebuilding our waterway, implementing our drainage improvement plan, upgrading our irrigation system and restoring our bunkers. Although it's hard to imagine right now, I know I'll look back on the disaster and be grateful for the experience and the opportunities it provided.

Golf course highlight

Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

1330 Ferndale Road, Port Carling ON P0B 1J0
Golf Course Superintendent: James Flett



13th hole photo by Rob Eagleson

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Muskoka

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Private with 1,568 members

Typical number of rounds
17,000 to 19,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date
Beginning of May to end of October

How long have you been a superintendent?
16 years

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

List other accomplishments
OGSA board member from 1995 – 2004
Board President in 2002

How many staff?
5 year round and 12 seasonal staff

Who are your assistants and mechanics?
1st Assistant: Robert Eagleson
2nd Assistant: Jay Sisko
Mechanic: Ron Allen

How many gardening staff?
1 full time: Kerry Sheahan & 1 part time:

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
6,000 yards from the back tees and
5,000 yards from the front tees

How many bunkers?
63 (61,000 sq.ft.)

How many times does water come into play?
3 ponds come into play 4 times

Who was the original architect?
Stanley Thompson (his first solo effort)

What was the year of original construction?
1919

By whom and when was the course remodeled?
Thom McBroom 1988 Master plan

What major tournaments have been held?
Ontario seniors 2002 and 2004

What type of irrigation system?
Single row electric Toro heads,
Rain Bird satellites/central

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
110,000 sq ft of greens
80,000 sq ft of tees
21 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Poa/Bent

How many USGA and loam greens?
5 USGA, 1 California, 12 loam greens

What is the predominant soil type?
Clay (south side of road), Sand (lakeside)

What equipment do you have in inventory?
4 - Toro Flex 21 Walk-behind green mowers
4 - Toro 1600 Walk-behind tee mowers
8 - Toro Transpro trailers
1 - Toro 3100 triplex
1 - Toro 3150 triplex
1 - set Thatchaway dethatching units
2 - Toro 5400 Fairway mowers
1 - set Toro fairway verticut reels
2 - Toro 3500-D rotary Sidewinders
1 - Prog. PF120 rotary rough gang mowers
4 - Carryall II utility vehicles
1 - Toro Sandpro 3020
1 - Toro Sandpro 5020 with blade & blower
3 - Toro 2100 Workmans
2 - Toro 3300 Workmans
2 - John Deere turf gators
1 - John Deere 6x4 gator
1 - Yamaha golf cart
1 - EZGO electric cart
1 - Toro 5500 sprayer with Raven controller and Databoy GPS logger
2 - Kubota L4310 tractors (1 with cab)
1 - Kubota L3300 loader tractor with Grademaker
2 - Super Tilt dump trailers
1 - Goosen vacuum
1 - Buffalo PTO blower
1 - Case 1840 skidsteer with backhoe
1 - Tycrop MH400
1 - Tycrop Propass 180
1 - Jacobsen slitseeder
1 - TurfCo sod cutter
1 - Multicore MC-15 fairway aerator
1 - Multicore greens aerator
1 - Aerway slit-disc aerator
1 - Ryan drum fairway aerator
1 - John Deere 800 greens aerator
1 - Lely tow-behind spreader

1 - Ditchwitch trencher
1 - 3 point hitch cultivator
1 - PTO snowblower
1 - Western snowplough
1 - Proseed 5560
1 - Express Dual Reel Grinder
1 - Express Dual Bedknife grinder
1 - Express Dual Master Rotary Blade Grinder
1 - Lazor Plane laser level
1 - Wire finder

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
2004 - New fairway bunkers in 8 & 11, new fertilizer/chemical loading and Coverall cold storage building upper yard
2003 - Pond by 3T, 7G, mounds along right side of 1F
2002-#5 Forward tee, pro shop landscaping

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?
2005-New pump station
2006-New irrigation system
2007-Upgraded maintenance facility

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Course is wet and low-lying close to lake level (need the pumps for positive drainage in certain areas)
Control of moss on greens
Too busy in July and August (can't aerate greens until September)

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?
Completed the majority of course projects in-house without an architect

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

Frequent greens overseeding with Jacobsen slit-seeder
Monthly Primo Maxx applications to greens
Monthly Primer applications on greens
Applied over 6 lbs of K on greens this season
Fairway topdressing
Vertidrain late fall and leave holes open for drainage

59th Annual Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

submitted by Dorothy Hills

The October 5th weather was picture perfect for the 144 eager OGSA members and guests, who gathered on the shores of Lake Rosseau to wrap up the OGSA golf season at the Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club. Our host superintendent, Jim Flett and his crew presented us with an immaculate course, woven through a canvas of spectacular fall colour and affording us a view of the lake at some of the stops along the way. Some of us experienced more stops than others, but regardless of how you scored, we all came away winners on this particular day.

Following our rounds, score cards were left at the proshop for a speedy tabulation, while we retreated for a delicious prime rib buffet dinner in the beautifully renovated Boat House.

Thanks to the hospitality and organization of the Muskoka Lakes staff, the entire day was really enjoyable. We would like to especially thank Bill Wight, General Manager, Raffaele Occhiuzzi, Club House Manager, Jennifer Stephen, Food and Beverage Manager, and Diane and Ross Conklin, Pro Shop.

Rob Ackermann, welcomed everyone and introduced our special guests: Eric Lyons, University of Guelph's turfgrass research scientist; Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute; Ken Cousineau, Executive Director of the CGSA; and Glenn Goodwin, the president and founder of the GTAGA, who is a huge supporter and proponent of the OGSA.

Jeff Alexander, our MC for the night

gave a brief history on Alex McClumpha, then called on Jim Flett to congratulate him and present him with the Host Superintendent plaque. Jim acknowledged the time and efforts put forth by his crew, and particularly Rob Eagleson and Jay Sisko, his assistants.

As usual, our associate members came through with an abundance of donated prizes, among them were All Turf, who donated a 3L bottle of Crown Royal, John Deere who donated a Toy Tractor and Vanden Bussche Irrigation, who donated 4 tickets to see the Buffalo Bills play the Pittsburgh Steelers, for our raffle. Plant Products donated a digital camera to the superintendent who got closest to the pin.

Winners of the Tournament

Flight A - Superintendents & Assistants

Low Gross Score

Bill Gilkes 73

Neil Tandan 78

Tom Brain 78

Flight B - Associates and Guests

Low Gross Score

Kevin Holmes 74

Jason D'Andrea 79

Gary Tate 80

Low Net Score

Lesley Thomas 67

Jon Pollington 68

Greg Aljoe 69

Closest to the Hole

Jay Weiss

Longest Drive

Lesley Thomas

Low Net Score

Chris Baynham 67

Paul Brown 70

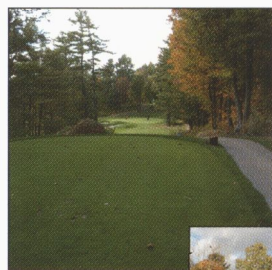
Werner Rost 71

Closest to the Hole

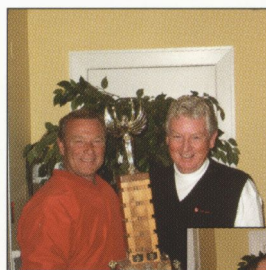
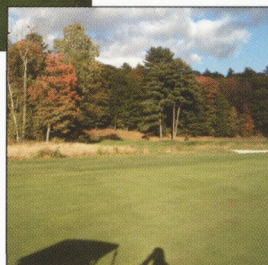
Neill Smith

Longest Drive

Reilly O'Dwyer



photos by
Mark Prieur



Ray Richards
from Mad River
accepts George
Darou Trophy
from Ron Craig
of Turf Care

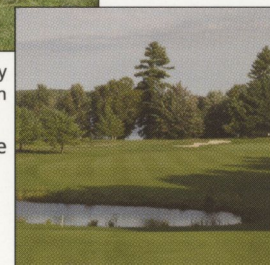
Jeff Alexander
presents plaque
to Jim Flett



Hogan goes to
work with Rob
Eagleson
everyday to
play and chase
the geese

photos by
Rob Eagleson

16th Hole



This year's winner of the George Darou Trophy is Ray Richards from Mad River Golf Club. This trophy is awarded to the Superintendent, over 50 years of age with the best low gross score. The recipient must not have won it within the last 5 years.

Hope to see you all out again next season.

3rd Annual Assistants Tournament

submitted by Neil Tandan, Assistant Superintendent
Weston Golf & Country Club

The annual O.G.S.A. Assistants Tournament was held on September 14th at The Nottawasaga Resort in Alliston. Mother Nature cooperated this year to provide ideal golf conditions... sunny and hot, which indeed reminded many of the "summer that never was".

The event has been elevated to another level by the generous contributions of the Nu-Gro Corporation, which has entered into a three-year agreement with the O.G.S.A. to act as "Platinum Sponsor" for the Assistants Tournament. Along with a cash

donation, Nu-Gro provided ball-caps for all players, as well as a prize for 'Most Accurate Drive'. We wish to make special thanks to the Nu-Gro Corporation for all their help with the tournament.

Thanks also must go to our sponsor, Engage Agro, and all the other industry distributors who provided prize donations and helped create a spectacular prize table for all to admire during dinner. Host Superintendent, Peter White, and his staff must be recognized for their efforts towards having a successful golf tournament. From preparing

"The Ridge" course to ensuring a big-screen television was made available for diners to watch the World Hockey Championship Final Game (Canada vs. Finland). Peter attended to details large and small. We'd like to also recognize Ron and Glen Harris, in the Pro Shop, at Nottawasaga for looking after the event scoring, proximity/long drive signs, and skins game. Finally, kudos to the catering department for a wonderful meal... nothing says summer like a barbequed steak and even the vegetarians in the crowd didn't go hungry!

Congratulations to the following winners at the 2004 Assistants Tournament:

- 1st Low Gross: Bill Gilkes (Scarboro Golf & Country Club)
2nd Low Gross: Dave Paterson (Magna Golf Club)
3rd Low Gross: John Bell (Bigwin Island Golf Club)
- 1st Low Net: Chris Harvey (St. George's Golf & Country Club)
2nd Low Net: Graeme Hughes (Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club)
3rd Low Net: Matt Dodson (Richmond Hill Golf Club)



There is no doubt that this tournament is gaining momentum with significant improvements from year to year. The Tournament Committee is already excited about next year's event. Be sure to check the O.G.S.A. website www.golfsupers.on.ca and *Green Is Beautiful* for updates regarding the date and venue for the 2005 Assistants Tournament. See you there!



L-R Bill Gilkes, Scarboro G&CC & John Bladon, Nu-Gro



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1ST Annual 2ND Turf Classic

*submitted by James White, Superintendent
Carruther's Creek Golf Club*

Dawn broke at the Carruther's Creek Golf Centre on August 8th, 2004 and there was a new game in town. SOCCER! That's right, soccer was the game of the day on this fine Sunday afternoon in Ajax, Ontario for the inaugural 2nd turf tournament.

I feel it is important at this point to explain the name, seeing as I have had no end of grief and/or confusion regarding its origin. Well, it is actually quite simple, and not a typo! 2nd Turf is our pet name for a soccer field because in our industry, soccer turf is second only to golf turf.

This soccer tournament was conceived one afternoon in the late spring by Jeanette Bayley Nargang who is both the president of Salem Soccer (located at Carruther's Creek) and the same Nargang of golf construction fame NLG Construction, formerly Nar-Ley Golf. From the golf course perspective, I bought into the idea immediately, having spent several weekends of my career involved in the annual softball tournament. Jeanette and I felt that there wasn't an opportunity in the east end of the GTA, for golf courses to come together, have some fun, and network a little. We also had the perfect facility!

The Carruther's Creek Golf Centre is a dynamic new facility in south Ajax. Built on a property which was originally a garden centre, Carruther's has continued to expand annually to reach its current state. Golf simulator's started the show followed by construction of a nine-hole executive par 3. 2002/2003 saw a huge

expansion which included a 9 hole championship course, driving range, and 18 hole bentgrass putting park. Did I mention we have soccer? Soccer rounded out the construction at Carruther's with the building of an outdoor field and the conversion of a massive barn to an indoor soccer facility. The jewel in this crown is definitely the new LakeBreeze course. This 9 hole 3400 yard facility was designed by Kevin Holmes and expertly crafted by Jay Nargang of NLG.

For the first annual event this season it was decided that the number of teams would be restricted to a maximum of 5. This would allow us to host all the games in one day on our single outdoor field with the option to move indoors should the weather turn. In very short order the 5 entries came in and the tournament was on. The golf courses involved included; Carruther's Creek and Deer Creek from Ajax, The Donalda Club from Toronto, Oliver's Nest from Lindsay, and Kawartha from Peterborough. With the cancellation of the Kawartha team (hang in there guys, we look forward to seeing you next year) due to weather problems in Peterborough, we were down to our minimum of 4 teams. Starting at 1:00 p.m., each team would play 2 qualifying games and points would be awarded accordingly. The top two teams would be in the final, competing for their place on the Plant Products trophy.

The first game saw the brotherly rivalry

continue as Donalda and Carruther's played to a 1-1 draw. Three more games followed, all close fought battles but in the end it was Donalda and Oliver's Nest to play for the ultimate bragging rights, each with one win and one tie. Donalda got off to a quick start and carried leads in the first and second half but a late goal sealed the deal for Oliver's Nest who prevailed 3-2. Scott "the sniper" White took high scorer with an incredible 2 goals in the final.

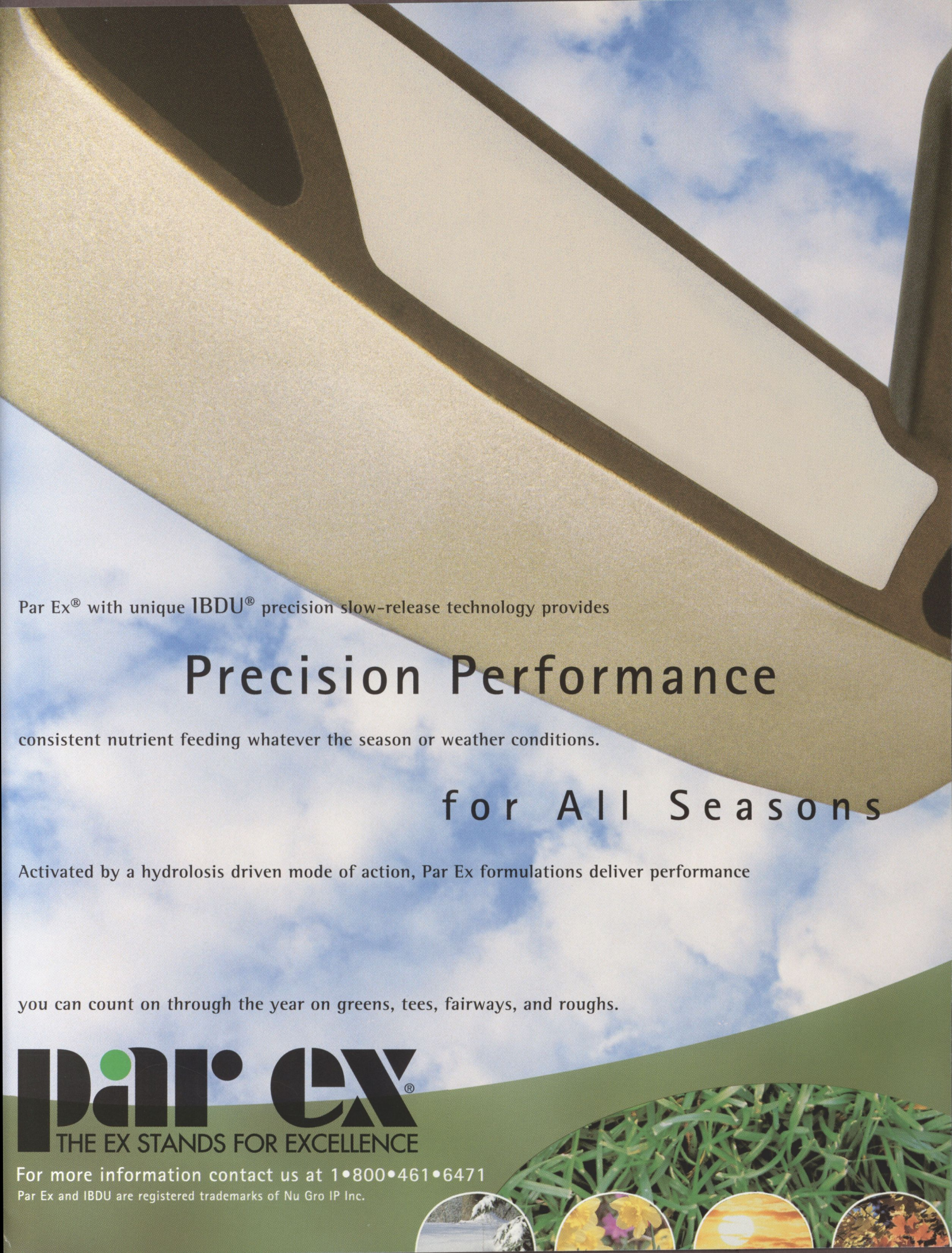
The first ever golf course staff soccer tournament is now in the books and we consider it to be a great success. Feedback from teams in attendance has been positive leading us to start thinking about next year. But, blazing a new trail is not always easy and we must mention those who helped along the way including Jeanette and Jay Nargang from NLG, Allan Chiu for refereeing, the Carruther's maintenance crew, and sponsors Utica Golf and Turf, Frew Petroleum, Marigold Ford, and Plant Products.

Plans are already in the works for next season and we are looking forward to continuing this east-end tradition. Congratulations go out to the 2004 Champions from Oliver's Nest Golf Club of Lindsay, Ontario. Watch out, I hear some teams have already started practicing in order to wrestle that trophy away when you defend the title in 2005! The Plant Products trophy can be viewed at the home of the current champions up to November when it will return to await the next round.



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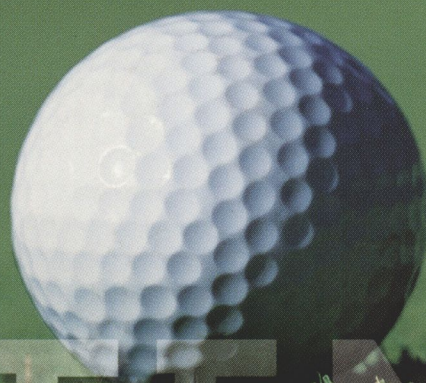


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The 104th United States Open Championship

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

Gaining major tournament experience is a chance to enhance a turf manager's knowledge. It also creates an opportunity to make new and exciting contacts and relationships among the golf industry. The amount of work that is put into preparing for a national championship is astonishing, to say the least. There is an incredible amount of organization, time management and last but not least, agronomic knowledge.



I was fortunate enough to volunteer at the 104th United States Open Championship at Shinnecock Hills this past June. I will start with the beginning of my venture, as it was a fairly long one. Approximately a year and a half before the tournament started I sent a letter to Superintendent Mark Michaud, requesting a position on the volunteer staff for the tournament. In January of 2004, I received a confirmation letter stating that a spot had been saved in my name. Correspondence followed for the next six months pertaining to everything from uniform sizes, accommodation needs to time of arrival. Once I was all set up on the staff at Shinnecock, it was all up to me to get to Long Island. I made arrangements to be at the course on the Sunday prior to the tournament (the USGA requires all volunteers to be at the site for the entire week of the tournament).

Once I arrived I was greeted by a buzz of activity around the entire property. Since there were eighty of us volunteering for the tournament it was easy to meet people and get acquainted. The entire volunteer staff was given room and board at Southampton College, conveniently located right across the street from the Grounds Facility. Once we were settled, it was back to the course for dinner. It took about ten minutes for the staff at the course to utilize the early arrival of volunteers. I was still in my first hour on Long Island and I was already out on the historic Shinnecock Hills working for the United States' biggest golf event.

At about 9 pm we had an information meeting for all of us newcomers. Uniforms were given out (7 golf shirts, each day was a different colour, a wind shirt and two hats). It was announced that our start time for the week was going to be 4:30 am (breakfast was

served at 4:15 am). I started my week of work on the 20 + person divot crew. This was a great way to see the entire golf course for the first time. It also created a great opportunity to talk and meet with people. During the practice rounds a number of different jobs were still performed throughout the day. Since the bunkers at Shinnecock contain very "natural" sand, pebbles being blasted on to the greens became an issue. Throughout the week there was at least two people stationed at each green. We were armed with blowers and if a player needed his line cleared we "got the nod" and up we went. The majority of my week consisted of checking greens (Putting Greens, 13, 17, 15, and 18) on a constant basis for wilt and syringing them if necessary. Once the heat subsided for the evening my task switched over to rolling a section of greens, then helping out with any jobs that were still to be completed.

The job of syringing at the U.S. Open was exciting. With the way in which the week progressed, this job would become infamous and incredibly memorable. During the final round of the tournament I was part of the "syringe team" on the now famous 7th Green at Shinnecock. As a result of strong winds and an already very firm and severely sloped green, the green was declared unfair. The USGA decided to syringe between groups. As we sat beside the green with our hose, our three-person team received "comments" from a very "upset" and "motivated" New York crowd. The spectators, as well as a lot of the general golf population felt that this was an unfair practice. All I will say is that during the U.S. Open when the USGA tells you to water.... you water. That is exactly what we did. Our directions were that one of us was to keep an eye on the USGA Agronomist (Tim Moraghan) at all times and when he nodded, we were up and syringing. The actual time of syringing was about 30 seconds; it seemed like 30 minutes at times. Despite the crowd's reaction, we continued from 10:30 am until 4 pm.



Participating in such an event can be very inspirational. Not only all of the agronomic activity that can be completed with a 130 person staff, but the camaraderie among a group of people aiming for the same goal.

One of the most fun aspects of this experience was the chance to meet an insurmountable number of people from all over the world. I was lucky enough to work with superintendents and assistants from Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Korea, Hawaii, The Channel Islands, South Africa and all over the continental United States. The time that I was able to spend with these people confirmed my opinion that the people that make up our industry are some of the greatest people in the world. How many groups of people do you know that would give up 2 out of their 5 hours of sleep to get together to share a beverage (or two) and talk about grass? Not too many.



In all of our jobs, organization is very important. For an event of this magnitude organization becomes vital. Shinnecock Hills superintendent Mark Michaud and his assistants (Brian Goleski, Frank Hancock and Chase Cameron) did an outstanding job. The logistics of having such a large number of volunteers that need housing, to be fed and directed are astounding. As the saying goes "there was no stone unturned" when it came to us. Uniforms were handed out, questions were answered and direction was given. Even advice on a promising after work atmosphere at a few local pubs was provided.

In my opinion, there are only a couple of things that a person needs to enjoy an experience like this one. First, you need the interest and motivation to go out on a limb and contact the superintendent that is hosting the tournament. As I mentioned earlier, the people in our business are tremendous. Given the opportunity, any sane upcoming turf manager would jump at the chance. Secondly, you need an understanding boss. To request time off and attend the U.S. Open during the busiest time of our year is a tall order. I am lucky enough to work for a superintendent who understands the opportunities and benefits that this experience has provided me with.

This is an experience that I will never forget. I would encourage any of our members to participate in such an event. You will definitely come away with more than just an experience.



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OGSA Election

Election will take place at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, January 11th, during the OGSA/CGSA Conference. Nomination forms have been mailed out to all eligible voting members. Eligible voting members consist of Class AA Active, Class A and Class B members.

If you have not received a nomination form, please advise the OGSA office and one will be sent to you.

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by Daisy Moore

2005 Joint Conference Preview

The CGSA has asked me to coordinate an educational program for golf course gardeners during the CGSA/OGSA conference. The horticulture program will take place on Tuesday January 11, 2005, the final day of the conference. The cost for the day will be \$115- which includes lunch and a pass to the trade show. The horticulture program will be a great opportunity for gardeners to meet their peers, share ideas and learn from horticultural experts. There will be something for every type of gardener and every type of golf club at the horticultural program during the conference. Mark January 11, 2005 on your calendar and be sure to send the gardener from your club, someone who is interested in learning more or participate yourself. Everyone is sure to be inspired by the excellent line up of speakers.

Here is a preview of some of the topics:

"Twiners, Stickers, Clingers & Hookers" will be presented by Chris Graham. Chris worked for many years as the chief horticulturist at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. He is now a nurseryman in Sutton, Ontario and runs the company Britali Gardens. He is very knowledgeable about plants from around the world and those that stand the test of time in our climate. Chris will show us how to use vines and climbers to improve the appearance of fences, walls and barriers.

Ornamental grasses are all the rage in garden design. Janet Anderson from JEA Perennials in Strathroy, Ontario will present, *"Perennials and Ornamental Grasses in Public Spaces"*. Gardeners will learn about the choices available in ornamental grasses, about new and noteworthy perennials and how to combine plants for maximum effect. Janet is renowned for selecting and propagating top quality plants.

For those gardeners who like to help the clubhouse chef, there will be a speaker on herbs. Koidu Sulev from Richter's Herbs will talk about *"using herbs in the ornamental garden"*. Tri-colour sage, hyssop, germander and chives can all add a unique beauty to gardens. Koidu will offer up several examples of useful and decorative herbs. She will discuss selection, care and how to harvest herbs.

Sue Clarke from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture will present *"Selection and Care of Shrubs on the Golf Course"*. Deciduous shrubs will go a long way to brighten up corners of the golf course, identify the 150 marker and add sculpture and beauty to garden beds. Dwarf evergreens add an element of formality and provide winter interest and early spring colour. Sue will bring her extensive experience as an instructor and horticultural manager to help you select and maintain beautiful shrubs.

"Native Plant Gardening" will be presented by Charles Kinsley of Ontario Native Plant. Charles is a renowned expert in the cultivation and propagation of native plants. He is also involved with ecological restoration projects throughout the province where he is called upon to develop stable plant communities in various habitats. Native plants are highly decorative when included in the cultivated garden. As an added bonus, they are good for the local wildlife and tend to look after themselves. Out-of-play areas don't have to be a mess of burdock, thistles and weeds. Charles will discuss how native plants can be included in all areas of the golf course.

Daisy Moore will present *"Gardening on the Golf Course"*. Daisy is a horticultural consultant and garden designer. She has worked with many golf clubs and golf course gardeners to help improve the appearance of the gardens. She will discuss the mechanics of getting the job done and how best to perform the job of a golf course gardener. This includes setting priorities, being resourceful and learning to be ruthless in order to make things beautiful. Gardening on the golf course has many unique challenges. On the other hand, the golf course offers a remarkable opportunity to showcase plants, build beautiful gardens and enhance the outdoor experience.

As a final portion of the program, there will be a panel of golf course gardeners who will share tips and lead a discussion on some of the main challenges that they face.

If you would like to nominate your gardener to participate in the final panel, please send me an e-mail at daisy@daisymoore.com. For more information about the conference contact the CGSA office at www.golfsupers.com

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

Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North

Form and Function

I have a new pet peeve to add to the ever growing list of my pet peeves. If any of you have been keeping track, this is pet peeve number 427. (What a great engine the 427 was, eh? And not a bad highway either - gets me to Woodbine Racetrack.) What was I talking about? Oh yes, pet peeve number 427... people building stuff that's impossible to maintain. This is my open letter to engineers, architects, and all the other people who seclude themselves in ivory towers, a la Victor Frankenstein, and never have to deal with the abominations that they sometimes create.

Let me give you an example. Is it reasonable that I should have to remove the engine mounts and jack up the mower to exactly 3.28" higher on one side than the other, then insert the special \$1500 tool into the slot that is always full of dirt, oil, and grass clippings, turn it three times to the left followed by a half turn to the right (other way round if built in an odd model year), then knock three times on the steering wheel with a newt's tail, sacrifice a goat, and say a magic incantation to change a fan belt?

To change the alternator in my wife's car, you have to loosen two engine mounts and jack up the motor by the oil pan. That's no big deal, because alternators *never* wear out. I used to have a utility vehicle that we had to jack the front end about a foot off of the ground to remove the spark plugs, which were well placed on the bottom of the cylinders where they never fouled, because as we all know, carbon particles defy gravity.

At least the engineer who designed the body part that makes it impossible to remove the dipstick from the engine, can hide behind the shroud of anonymity. We have absolutely no idea who this person is, how it could have happened, or why the designers wouldn't have bounced these ideas off of a mechanic before the final design was approved.

With architects, on the other hand, they have their name splashed all over the things that they create. It must be a little intimidating. I'm not sure that I'd want someone following me around with a stack of 4X8 foot signs, labeling every project I've ever been involved with. There are lots of days that I don't even want to claim my children, let alone my dog. I know that there are more than a few retaining walls, flower bed designs, duct tape/strapping/weld jobs and the like, where I'm glad there isn't a sign that says, "Another fine project by Doug Breen and Associates". Sure, that "Associates" word spreads the blame around a bit, but ultimately it's your name up front.

And this is why I find it amazing to see some of the non-maintainable designs that I see golf course architects creating. If my name was on the score card, the entrance sign, and all of the courses advertising literature, I think I'd avoid building a 10,000 square foot green with only two reasonable pin placements. Form must follow function.



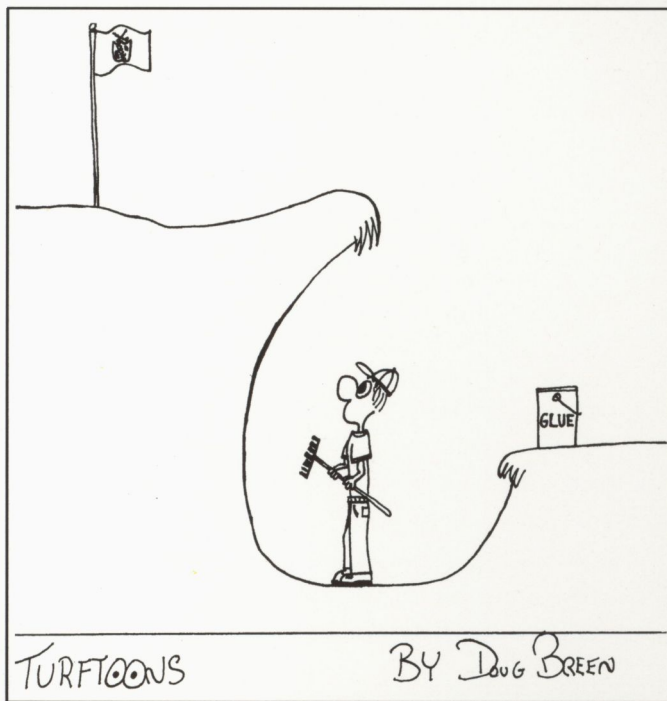
Ultimately, the green is a putting surface, and no matter how dramatic it looks, if 90% of the green can't have a pin on it... do the math... from a superintendent's perspective, you just built a *one* thousand square foot green.

Let's talk about bunkers. It rained a bit last summer. Many modern bunkers have two story high sand flashes perched precariously on 89.99999 degree angles. Do I need to go on? The ball will not stay up there, the sand will not stay up there, a stinking mountain goat can't stay up there. Sure, it looks cool from the road as long as the course has a bunker crew of galley slaves to look after them, but it's no different than deciding that the lines on a car would be more dramatic if you didn't need those pesky doors.

I'll leave you with this thought.

Question: How many staff does it take to change a light bulb designed by a golf course architect?

Answer: About a dozen guys, seven days a week for routine maintenance, but whenever it rains, every bulb on the property will burn out. (And wait until you see the price tag on the pretty white light bulbs that he specs!)



In Memorium

Dr. Houston B. Couch

Internationally Renowned Turfgrass Pathologist

July 1, 1924 to September 12, 2004

Dr. Houston B. Couch - one of the worlds first full time, academically appointed turfgrass pathologists, who developed an international reputation over his illustrious career, passed away Sunday night, September 12, at 11:30 p.m. at Montgomery Regional Hospital in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was born on July 1, 1924, and earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville in 1950, and his doctorate from the University of California at Davis in 1954. He finished his career as Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA.

Dr. Couch's first appointment was as an Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University in 1954. He went to Virginia Tech in 1965 to serve as Head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology. Under his nine year tutelage twelve faculty members were hired, a Plant Protection non-thesis program was offered, the Glade Road Research Center was constructed with much needed greenhouse and laboratory facilities, and Price Hall underwent extensive renovation. He had a significant effect on the direction and productivity of department programs.

In 1974 he resumed academic duties in research and instruction, conducting research on chemical control of turfgrass diseases, the effect of environmental factors on turfgrass disease development, and the nature and control of senectopathic diseases of turfgrass. He taught an undergraduate course in Turfgrass Pathology and tutored several graduate students. He authored two academic texts; "Diseases of Turfgrass" in 1962, and "The Turfgrass Disease Handbook" in 2000. In addition, he published many scientific papers, chapters in books, technical trade journal articles, extension publications, conference proceedings and research abstracts. He was an exceedingly popular speaker who, over the course of his career, had accepted close to 500 national and international requests to present his research and discuss its application to practical turfgrass disease management.

His career was full of awards acknowledging his significant contributions to the understanding of turfgrass disease management. Most recently, Dr. Couch was awarded the 2002 National Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for "Outstanding contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession." In 2003 he was awarded the United States Golf Association Green Section Award for "Distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass."

Dr. Couch lived a very productive life and enjoyed the support of his wife of 58 years; Billie Spencer Couch, four sons, one daughter, and several grandchildren. He had many friends in the turfgrass community and touched many of our lives. He will be sorely missed.

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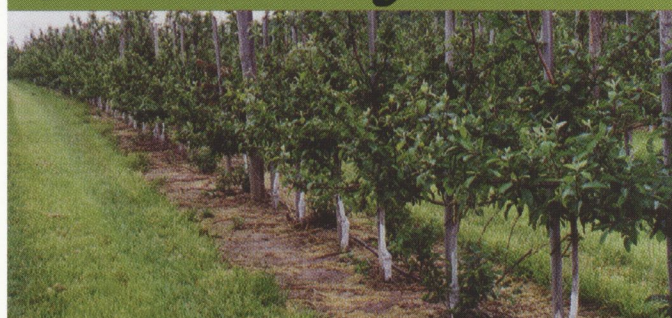
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Looking back

15 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1989 were **Neil Acton** (president), Deer Creek; **Gord Nimmo** (vice), Sarnia; **Thom Charters** (past), Weston; **Rhod Trainor** (editor), St. Thomas; **Greg O'Heron**, Peterborough; **Ted Ellis**, Greenwood; **Bruce Burger**, Galt; **John Taylor**, Twenty Valley; **Scott Dodson**, Summit; **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst; **Mark Hagen**, Wyldewood and **David Gourlay**, Beacon Hall. **Cindi Charters** was the office secretary.

Neil Acton left Brooklea and took the position at Deer Creek, while **Marlon Gieseler**, Neil's assistant, took over Brooklea. **Richard Ziegel** left Burlington Springs and went to Deerfield. **Ted Ellis** left Greenwood and went to Blue Springs, **Mark Hagen** moved from Wyldewood to West Haven. **Mike Creed** took Mark's position at Wyldewood. **Gary Hastings** moved to Rockway and Doon Valley from Merryhill. **Jerry Richard**, assistant at Toronto G.C., started at Craigowan. **John Anderson** moved to Hockley Valley and **Don Crymble** replaced John at IBM. **Bruce Dodson** left Emerald Hills to become superintendent at Hawkrigde and **Jack Austin**, formerly of Turf Care Irrigation, went out on his own, forming Canadian Irrigation Consultants. **Mark Schneider** went to Beachgrove, **Ryan Beauchamp**, assistant at St. Thomas, went to Westminster Trails, **John Cherry** left Cherry Downs for the National while **Ken Wright** left the National and went to Devil's Pulpit. **David Gourlay Jr.** left Beacon Hall and started at a new course in Ottawa called Eagle Creek. **Bob Heron** took over from Dave at Beacon Hall.

New members: **Vince Dermott**, Markland Woods (B), **George Allison**, Western Trent (B), **David Brooke**, Scotch Settlement (B), **Nancy Pierce**, Toronto Golf (F), **Jack Little**, Dalewood (F), **Ian Bowen**, Lakeview (B), **Mary Beth Kelly**, Ladies (F), **Doug Walsh**, Westmount (F), **Rob Sharp**, Glen Abbey (F), **Bill Dickinson**, Champion Turf Equipment (E), **Stephen Jones**, Deer Creek (B), **James Hopkins**, Fawn Brook (B), **Raymond Yule**, Glen Cedars (B), **Jay Kulak**, Port Colborne (B), **Peter Dickey**, Glenway (B), **Robert MacGrandles**, Ridge Pine Park (B), **Jack Austin**, Canadian Irrigation Consultants (E), **Everett Nieuwkoop**, Ontario Seed Co. (E), **Dan O'Conner**, Saugeen

(F), **Steven Holmes**, Donalda (F), **Greg Anderson**, Victoria Park (F), **Alex McLeod**, Monterra (F), **Terry Fries**, Merry Hill (F), **Paul Scenna Jr.**, Mississauga (F), **David Tascone**, Wyldewood (F), **Jordon Lucas**, Galt (F), **Ron Legato**, Scenic Woods (A) and **Perry Beausoleil** (F) Carleton.

Annette Anderson was the Turf Extension Specialist from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the OMAF Turf Hotline was established which was a very good success. Golf course architect **C. E. (Robbie) Robinson** passed away on December 29 at the age of 82. **Mr. Robinson** was the uncle of **Robbie Robinson** of Hidden Lakes Golf Club.

The Michigan/Borders Cities Golf Meeting was held on April 3rd at Essex Golf and Country Club hosted by **Stew Mills** with **Dr. Joe Vargas** as the guest speaker. The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association had meetings at St. Catherines, **John Piccolo**, Brookfield, **Henry Schmitz**, Port Colborne, **Jay Kulak**, Glendale, **George Garner**, and Bridgewater, **Steve Sherwood** and **Wilf Wallace**. The Taylor Barnes tournament was held at Bridgewater Country Club, which was won by **Ted Bishop** of Rolling Meadows.

The Georgian Bay area was seeing an influx of new courses. **Ron Heesen**, at Monterra, was preparing for a July 1st opening. **Tom McBroom** was working on the Hockley Valley Golf Club with Superintendent **John Anderson**. **Bob Cupp** was building the Deerhurst Highlands Golf Club adding to **Ed Farnsworth's** established 18. **Rene** and **Charlie Muylaert** were building a second 18 holes for **John Hughes** at Horseshoe Valley and a new 18 hole course in Orillia, called Hawkrigde, where **Bruce Dodson** was superintendent. Tournaments were held at the following courses: Bonaire, **Randy Fielder**; Lake St. George, **Greg Louth**; Cranberry Village, **Charlie Terry**; Barrie, **Ed Doda** and Muskoka Lakes, **David Smith**. All golf days began at 12 noon and the cost was \$20.00 per person.

The Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club hosted by **Rhod Trainor**. The low team was **Herb Holzsheiser** and **Thom Charters** from the Weston Golf Club.



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