

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Presidents' Day

Springfield ຜະເວດ Recognized for Environmental Excellence Dr. Joe Vargas visits St. Thomas Golf & Country Club International Turi Research Conference in Wales

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Signature Hole #4 photo supplied by Scarboro G&CC

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

President's message

ne of the most rewarding attributes of being a member of our association is the networking opportunities that are available to us. This season, more difficult than most in Ontario, is an excellent opportunity to talk to colleagues and associates about strategies and innovations. "None of us are as smart as all of us" is a philosophy that can be easily practiced and encouraged through the OGSA.



by Paul Scenna Donalda Club

I have the privilege to announce Mr. Glenn Goodwin as an Honorary Member. I have previously mentioned Glenn as a great contributor to the game and our association. Glenn has founded amateur tournaments such as the Toronto Star, Kings and Oueens and more recently the Greens and Dreams program. Congratulations Glenn; we are honoured to have you. Be sure to read the article written about Glenn on page 4.

Once again, we are accepting nominations for our "William Sansom" Distinguished Service Award. I encourage you to get your nominations in as soon as possible. The deadline date is October 1, 2005. We have some very deserving individuals in our profession, and our association would like to recognize them at our upcoming Conference and Trade Show in January.

"William Sansom"

Distinguished Service Award

The OGSA shall present an award of Distinguished Service, in the name of our first president William Sansom, to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration and may be regional or national in nature. This contribution must be held in the highest regard and reflect credit upon our profession.

Nomination forms are now available on our Web site, in the "Members Only" section under "Scholarships". If you would like to nominate someone and cannot download the form, call the office and they will mail one out to you.

Deadline is October 1, 2005

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Green is Beautiful 2005

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Greens and Dreams

by Brent Long

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The most important man in Toronto amateur golf, Glenn Goodwin has been giving back to the game for almost 20 years, and there's more to come...

For as long as Glenn Goodwin can remember, life has always been about greens and dreams. As a youngster living in the tiny hamlet of Union, near St. Thomas, Goodwin found solace hitting balls in a grassy field across the street from the local United Church. His father had recently died of a heart attack and his mother, Lois, had moved Glenn and his sister Donna to Union from St. Thomas as the

family sought to pick up the pieces.

Once in a while, Goodwin still drives by his field of dreams and takes a journey back in time to a place that shaped his future. "It was my Augusta National," says the Etobicoke resident, who is highly regarded today as "Mr. Amateur Golf" in the GTA, since founding both the Greater Toronto Area Golf Association in 1998 and the Toronto Star Amateur men's and women's championships. Goodwin is also launching Kings & Queens, a new senior amateur event September 12–14 at Weston G&CC that will be highlighted by the attendance of the World Golf Hall of Famers it's named after: Arnold Palmer and Canadian icon Marlene Stewart Streit. Further, the 50-year-old is about to unveil a national junior tournament, the Kern Cup, in 2006, and has created the Greens & Dreams Charitable Foundation, which will support children's hospitals and junior golfers across Canada.

While he's created entertainment and opportunity for the masses, golf was nothing short of his salvation in Goodwin's formative years. "Golf saved my life as a youngster," he says. "When my father died, we were living in a rough neighborhood in St. Thomas. Kids can be pretty mean, and I was beaten up on a daily basis by bullies who knew I had no one to defend me. After moving, my mother worked two jobs-she was never home-in order to make ends

Goodwin would retreat to the field to find comfort. It was there that he met Steve Ferguson. They became fast friends, Ferguson playing the part of Ben Hogan to Goodwin's Gary Player. In that grassy sanctuary they would contest their own private Masters tournaments, sometimes logging 50 or more holes in a day.

Sensing her son's growing passion for the game, Lois drove nine-year-old Glenn to nearby St. Thomas G&CC one morning and asked head professional Tom Pullen if her son could have a job caddying. Club rules stipulated that caddies had to be 10, but Pullen bent them sufficiently to allow Goodwin to hang out at the course.

"I spent every sunlit hour hunting for golf balls in corn fields, gullies, and, of course, Kettle Creek on the 14th hole," Goodwin reminisces. "Back in the '60s, the creek was wider and a bit deeper than it is today. The great thing about it was that at least half the golfers would hit their balls into that creek, and I would rush over before the current took it downstream, find them with my toes, then throw them back to the golfers. They, in turn, would leave a nickel or a dime on the bridge for me."



Glenn Goodwin at right pictured with one of the kings of Canadian golf, Dick Grimm and the reigning queen, Marlene Stewart Streit

"Growing up, I never went to a mall," he recalls. "I would leave my home—one kilometre away from the golf club very early every day while it was still dark. I would often skip school when there was a tournament in order to get to the golf club first, sitting on the steps at the side of the clubhouse where the caddies hung out, waiting for a bag. I lived for all the things that the golf course gave mesolitude, protection and a setting to die for. This is why access for today's youth is so important to me. It wasn't about playing the game—luckily something I was able to do in later years—it was more about what I learned from being exposed to that environment.

It was little wonder that Goodwin gravitated in that direction, given that the environment at home had become a source of tension. My mother remarried a monster - a very abusive man," he recalls. "There was a great deal of turmoil in our lives."

Goodwin, though, found guidance and respect at the course. "The golfers were like father figures to me," he says. They were successful businessmen and were eager to give advice if you worked hard to be the best caddie you could be. And you learned the beauty of etiquette, which, for the most part in life these days, you never get to witness. I was so lucky to have been born in the right era, when golf courses did not have electric carts. Wherever there is a club with a caddie program, I know that every day someone's greens and dreams are coming true. They may not realize it early on like I did, but they will."

The closer Goodwin got to the game, the more inspired he became. He received his first club, a five-iron, from a neighbour after her husband died, then picked up his second club, a seven-iron, from a bargain barrel of used equipment at St. Thomas for two dollars. The following summer, he waited for hours near the first tee for his first glimpse of a "big name golfer" as the club hosted its Early Bird invitational. Kitchener native Gary Cowan had just returned to Canada after finishing as the low amateur at the 1964 Masters. Goodwin watched in awe as Cowan approached the tee. "He teed it up, and that was the first time I ever heard [that type of sound at contact]. It was a thud. He crushed it, and the ball wobbled as it took flight. It went so high in the air that I swear that nobody saw it land," says Goodwin, who would meet—and play golf with his hero 35 years later at St. George's G&CC. On that rainy day in 1999, Goodwin unstrapped Cowan's clubs from the golf cart on the third hole (a short downhill par-3), slung them over his shoulder and carried out a childhood dream, lugging Cowan's bag for one hole. "As we walked together, I told him the story about how my dad had just died, and the influence he (Gary) had had on my life when I watched him at St. Thomas," Goodwin says. A few holes later, Cowan gave Goodwin his very first golf lesson, and by the end of the round, Cowan agreed to be an advisor for the GTAGA and the Toronto Star Amateur.

"I always knew the golf gods would look after me and guide me," says Goodwin, although there's actually reason to believe they had already been doing so for some time. At age 15, he began working at Mother's Pizza—a minimum 90 hours a week at \$1.35 an hour. Four years later, he was travelling through Cambridge, training staff at other shops in the chain, when he met a wonderful young woman who took his breath away. Their first date was at a local golf club. Janice didn't golf. It didn't matter. They tried it for a couple of holes and decided to go to the pro shop and have a soda. They talked for hours and shared their dreams, and 31 years later the magic is still there. "My wife's best line is 'Glenn, you are a hard worker, you're very passionate. If you create something from your heart, as I know you will, people will vote with their feet.' She meant they'd come out to play in or support the events. I think about that line every day," says the 30-year Torstar Media Group senior sales executive.

In 1986, Goodwin organized the first Torwest Inter-Club Matches among four of Toronto's elite private clubs—his home course of Islington GC, St. George's G&CC, Weston G&CC and Lambton G&CC. This year, along with Credit Valley G&CC and The National Golf Club of Canada, Torwest celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The concept for developing the GTAGA and North America's premier city championship, the Toronto Star Amateur, evolved out of the success of those inter-club matches. In seven years, the association has grown to over 150 member clubs, while the male and female tourneys are highly regarded in amateur circles and supported by the Royal Canadian Golf Association and the Golf Association of Ontario.

"I'm having a lot of fun trying to do something that is good for the city, that's good for golf," Goodwin says. "Step by step, as time goes by, things keep on evolving. That's what's fascinating.'

He's had some inspiration along the way. When Goodwin announced the creation of the Toronto city championship, former Devil's Pulpit Director of Golf, Ben Kern called him to say he wished there'd been something like that when he was going to high school, and offered to help in any way he could. Recalling Kern's ability to interact with youngsters, Goodwin named his junior event, which he hopes will one day be international in stature, in Kern's honour. The inaugural tournament will be staged at Glen Abbey GC next year. There will be a pro-am in conjunction with the event to honour Canadian golf legend Dick Grimm. Even the Abbey's architect, Jack Nicklaus, has been invited. Nobody can ever accuse Goodwin of thinking small. Which brings us back to the impending arrival of Palmer, who will be on hand during the Kings & Queens event to also mark the 50th anniversary of his first PGA Tour win, the 1955 Canadian Open at Weston.

And then there's Streit. When Goodwin walked by her publicly-displayed locker at the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, Florida, after her induction ceremony late last year, he noticed that Streit had included a Toronto Star Amateur golf hat as part of the collection. "It blew me away," says Goodwin, who still gets glossy-eyed recounting the moment.

Proceeds from the Kings & Queens event will go to the Greens & Dreams fund.

"Years ago, when I was asked by a reporter what golf meant to me, I responded with those two words: greens and dreams. They came from my 'growing-up years'—9 to 14 the years that are so critical in shaping a youth's mind. Each word has so many meanings, and regardless of one's age, gender or ability, everyone who has been exposed to golf and who has become addicted to the sport, can relate to

"That charity is going to be the most important thing I ever do," Goodwin predicts. "Where it goes, I do not know."



Editor's message



by John Bladon Nu-Gro Corporation

Vell, as the season of 2005 progresses, we can now all begin to anticipate cooler nights on the horizon.

As the season's end draws nearer, think of what you may be able to contribute in the way of articles or photos from one of the most challenging season's most can remember. What have you been doing that is innovative culturally, agronomically

or otherwise? We would like to hear from you.

This edition of Green is Beautiful contains an

encapsulation of the career of Mr Keith Nisbet; clearly he will be missed by both his family and the turfgrass industry. We also have highlights from both the Spring Field Day, at Guelph Lakes and the Presidents' Day, at Scarboro. Pam Charbonneau and Marie Thorne enlighten us on their trip to Wales for the International Turfgrass Conference, and this issue's Member Profile is of long time contributor Barry Endicott. Finally, we have a submission on Ray Duke and his team at Springfield as they have been recognized for environmental excellence.

What's new

Passing the torch to a new crop of eager students

After 37 years of teaching and research, Norman McCollum of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) will be retiring in January, 2006 and passing the torch to a new crop of turfgrass specialists. Although Norman will no longer be involved in the day-to-day operations of the Institute, his passion for his profession will continue with the establishment of the Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diploma Entrance Scholarship Award.

Norman McCollum retires as Superintendent of Research for the GTI. He graduated in 1966 with an Associate Diploma in Agriculture from the Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph and then graduated from the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, magna cum laude. Norman began his career as a Turfgrass Research Technician with Dr. Jack L. Eggens in 1969 with the University of Guelph.

One of Norman's chief professional accomplishments was in helping to establish the Turf Manager's Short Course offered through University of Guelph's Open Learning Department. During his 35 years of teaching the course, over 2,000 individuals have benefited from Norman's expertise and guidance.

Norman has also been recognized for his support of students throughout the years by being named honorary class president for 10 diploma classes - OAC 79A, 80A, 81A, 83A, 85A, 87A, 93A, 95A, 97A and 2000A. Norman can also add scores of awards and recognition to his long list of accomplishments including those from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Municipal Engineers Association, the Ontario Golf Association and the International Superintendents' Turfgrass Society.

In celebration of Norman's lifetime achievements, donations to the Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diploma Entrance Scholarship are welcomed. All gifts received qualify for income tax credit. Please send your cheque

(payable to the OAC Alumni Foundation) or Visa or Master Card # and Exp. Date to: Alumni House, University of . Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1. Please include with your payment, a sheet indicating: The Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diplomas Entrance Scholarship; the amount of your commitment; your name; address; phone number; your signature and date. OR you can download a pdf form from the GTI web site.

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute will be holding an afternoon reception for Norman on Thursday, October 27th at the Victoria Park Golf Club East, in Guelph. For full details of this event please go to the G.T.I. web site: www.uoguelph.ca/GTI . Hope you'll come out to help Norm celebrate his retirement.

Having a problem with your turf?

Turf information is available to you....it's as easy as a click of a button. Pam Charbonneau provides a weekly agriphone message, free of charge. Anyone who goes to the link can click on the "subscribe button" and then they will automatically get an email message everytime Pam posts a new turf agriphone message. Follow this link to this week's agriphone message http://apps.omafra.gov.on.ca/ scripts/english/crops/agriphone/article.asp?ID=1150

If you have any questions for Pam, she can be contacted at:

Pamela Charbonneau OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist, The Guelph Turfgrass Institute 328 Victoria Rd. South Guelph, ON, N1H 3E1 (519) 824-4120 x 52597 (519) 766-1704 FAX Turf Agriphone (888)- 290-4441 email: pamela.charbonneau@omaf.gov.on.ca

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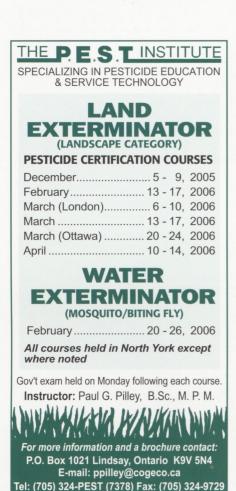
Brookside Laboratories Awards

Dave Smith of D.C.S. Agronomic Services was awarded 'Associate of the Year' by Brookside Laboratories Inc. at their Annual International Consultants Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This prestigious award is presented by Brookside Laboratories' Board of Directors to recognize the continuous professional efforts of a Brookside Consultant. Congratulations and well deserved Dave!

Corrie Almack of Almack Agronomic Services Inc. received the 'Bent Probe Award', which recognizes the efforts of a consultant and their shipping/packaging practices. With the large volume of soil tests completed in the lab, well organized and neat samples are appreciated and recognized by the lab practitioners. Congratulations Corrie!

Nu-Gro Appreciation Day

Nu-Gro Canada Incorporated held its 15th Annual Customer Appreciation Golf Tournament on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at Heron Point Golf Links in Ancaster, Ontario. The weather provided a beautiful day and the event was again, deemed a success by all participants. After enjoying a beautifully prepared course by Superintendent Mike Burton and his team, the field retreated to the cooler confines of the clubhouse for dinner and prize presentations. Each participant took home a personal swing analysis report that positioned each stage of their swing against the same stage of Tiger Woods' swing, so they could see exactly where they needed improvement.





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University of Guelph update

by Eric Lyons, Assistant Professor Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph

or those of you who missed the OGSA Spring Field Day, held at the Guelph Lakes Golf & Country Club in June, here is a summary of the education and research update presented by Dr. Eric Lyons at the event.

Diploma Education

The first class has graduated from the new Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management program but we still need your help to keep the program growing and relevant to the turf industry. Industry professionals can help by encouraging keen young staff to pursue a career in turf management and direct them to the University of Guelph program. We also need your assistance in providing good internship placements during the compulsory work term between the first and second year of the program. There are also lots of opportunities for industry people to become involved in the on-campus component of the program. If you are interested in being a guest speaker in the diploma program, contact Dr. Eric Lyons (elyons@uoguelph.ca) or Rob Witherspoon, Program Director (robwith@uoguelph.ca).

Research

There are lots of new projects on the go out at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and beyond this summer. These include the evaluation of new wetting agent trials, biostimulants, leatherjacket control and an alternative bioherbicide. The bioherbicide project is particularly interesting as it has the potential to be an effective broadleaf weed control in areas where conventional herbicides cannot be used.

Dr. Lyon's two graduate students have begun their field work. Evan Elford is studying the effect of perennial ryegrass overseeding on weed suppression in Kentucky bluegrass and has plots at the GTI as well as several municipal sports field sites. Darragh McGowan is studying moss and how it becomes a problem on golf greens. Turf managers are encouraged to complete the moss survey (www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/moss_survey_front.html) whether you have a moss problem or

not. It will help Darragh identify any common elements in practices that either encourage or discourage moss encroachment.

A new project is related to the sequestration (capture) of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide has increased in the atmosphere as a result of human activity and is a significant contributor to the greenhouse effect. It is called the greenhouse effect because the carbon dioxide and other gases hold the sun's heat close to the earth rather than allowing it to be radiated away from the earth. It is the primary cause of global warming.

Canada has signed the Kyoto Accord which restricts future production of greenhouse gases and is expected to create a market for carbon dioxide credits. In other words, if the activities of your business capture carbon dioxide, you can sell these credits to someone else who engages in an activity that creates carbon dioxide. The project Dr. Lyons is working on will investigate the ability of turf to fix carbon dioxide. The project also includes a study of carbon sequestration by hybrid poplars and willows under the direction of the agro-forestry research group. If grass is shown to be a net "fixer" of carbon dioxide, it could mean that golf courses and other turf areas may qualify for carbon credits, not to mention the positive environmental benefit of healthy turf that could be promoted.

There are many changes happening at the University of Guelph. Dr. Clarence Swanton who was instrumental in getting the new turf diploma program going as well as hiring Dr. Lyons and Dr. Katerina Jordan who will be joining us later this summer, has stepped down as Chair of the Department of Plant Agriculture after a ten year term. His interim replacement is Dr. Gary Ablett who is equally enthusiastic about turf. Eric also met recently with Dr. Alistair Summerlea, the President of the University of Guelph, and the senior administration is using the GTI as a model of how the university can work with industry and the provincial government to develop a relevant and effective research model.

Trial Gardens Open House at the G.T.I.

The Trial Gardens at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute were open to the public on the afternoon and evening of August 4th. Visitors were invited to brouse the grounds and ask gardening questions of the experts. Rodger Tschanz, Trial Garden Manager and his crew, Gareth Davis and Neil Webster toiled throuout the extreme heat of the summer to provide a marvelous profusion of plants and flowers for our viewing pleasure. If you have any questions, you can reach Rodger at the following:

Rodger Tschanz, Trial Garden Manager Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph Phone 519-824-4120 ext.52788

Email: <u>rtschanz@uoguelph.ca</u>



Photo by Deborah Badger

Welcome to Wales (Croeso I Gymru) and the 10th International Turfgrass Research Conference

by R. Marie Thorne

Senior Turfgrass Specialist, Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, Inc.

Marie spends much of her time consulting with golf course superintendents across Canada.

Put 300 turfgrass researchers under one roof at the North Wales Conference Center, and you have set the stage for the International Turfgrass Research Conference, the Olympics of the turfgrass industry, held every four years at a select site around the world. This year, Llandudno, known best as the Queen of the Welsh resorts, played hostess to this quadrennial event. It is a haven of peace and tranquillity, surrounded by the sea, mountains and lakes. The ambiance of Llandudno blended well with the academia of the Canada was very well represented with turfgrass world. representatives from the GTI, OMAFRA, University of Guelph, Olds College and the RCGA. Two thirds of the attendees were from the United States, the mothership of turf research. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, UK and the Scandinavian countries were also represented with a diverse selection of various research interests from around the world.



Pier at Llandudno, photo by Pam Charbonneau

Opening ceremonies included a warm welcome from the Mayor of Llandudno, a pictorial history of the town and the surrounding area by the former Mayor, and greetings from Bill Adams, President of the 10^{th} ITRC and professor at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. The plenary session was given by his eminence, Dr. James Beard, International Turfgrass Society historian, and one of the most well respected turf researchers on this planet. Dr. Beard spoke of Turfgrass Culture and Evolution at St. Andrews Golf Links. Listening to Dr. Beard was fascinating as he extolled the history and evolution of golf course maintenance at this world famous club. Expect to see a new book written by Dr. Beard on St. Andrews which is expected to be published next year. It will be a valuable addition to any golf superintendent's reference library.

The daily presentations were categorized into several different symposia theme's from managing turf without protection chemicals, to breeding and genetics, and turf in the urban environment. The



Llandundno, photo by Pam Charbonneau

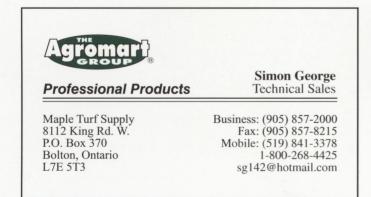
IPM, or holistic approach to turfgrass management which reserves the right for the superintendent to make appropriate choices, is a common theme around the world. There were several technical tours mid week, which brought delegates to various venues including, cricket pitches, turf race courses, the Sports Turf Research Institute, the UK and Europe's leading turfgrass research facility and tours of area golf courses.

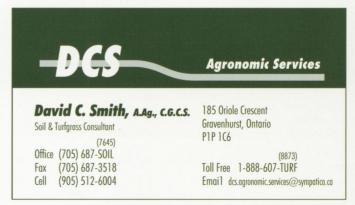
One of the stops on the golf course tour was Heswall Golf Course, a links and parkland style layout, founded in 1902. The tour was led by Guy Cannings, Head Green Keeper. I had the pleasure of walking the fairways with Guy to experience firsthand, the differences in maintenance practices relative to North American standards. It was very interesting to hear how he and his staff of 5, manage an 18 hole track, with non-irrigated poa/fescue fairways. The major disease issue over in the UK is fusarium in the spring and fall, second in line is fairy ring followed by anthracnose rearing its ugly head from time to time.

On Tuesday night at the conference, delegates were treated to a social event at Kinmel Manor in Abergele. This represented a wonderful opportunity to network with some of the most preeminent scientists in our business and to foster long term relationships.

Throughout the course of the week, poster sessions were conducted which also gave the attendees an opportunity to quiz the researchers on their work. In total, 139 posters were displayed with research focused on establishment and maintenance, weeds, diseases, soil biology/chemistry and plant nutrition, soil physics, physiology and information technology and education. It was truly a smorgasboard of turfgrass expertise and knowledge.

The next stop for the 11th International Turfgrass research conference will be in Chile in 2009. Plans are already in progress to ensure the success of this event. No doubt the audience will be treated once again, to a unique learning experience and truly a global educational event.





From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Marie Thorne, from Syngenta, has mentioned in her article in this edition of Green is Beautiful a large contingent of Canadians attended the 10th International Turfgrass Research Conference in Llandudno, Wales in mid-July. Marie gave an excellent overview of the conference itself and I would like to focus now on the scientific program. I am going to talk in generalities here because the full scientific program has been

published in a journal that is on its way by ship to me here in Ontario, as we speak.

In total, there were 221 scientific papers presented. These consisted of oral presentations and poster presentations. There were many symposia and the themes go beyond country borders. We learned that pesticide restrictions and bans are affecting turf managers in the Scandanavian countries and parts of Germany as well. "Managing Turf Without Protection Chemicals" and "Turf in the Urban Environment" were two main symposia. In the "Managing Turf Without Protection Chemicals" we were given an update by Frank Rossi, Cornell University about the Bethpage Golf Course project where they are managing six holes of an 18 hole golf course without pesticides. It was at this conference that I learned that this project, which was initially only funded for three years from the USGA, has funding now for an additional five years. As you may know, three of the greens at Bethpage succumbed to "death by dollar spot" and were sodded with velvet bentgrass. There appears to be challenges at the moment with managing the velvet bentgrass. Hopefully, information will be gleaned from this project on how to manage the new velvet bentgrasses. This is important because they are one of the only viable, low maintenance alternative grasses for putting surfaces. They are also investigating plant extracts from cruciferous plants like wild radish for their fungicidal properties. This is similar to some work being conducted by Tom Hsiang. He is using plants that produce glucosinolates such as rapeseed and oilseed radish to suppress disease. We need to stay tuned to both these projects. Another bit of positive news from the turf breeding community where disease is concerned is that Stacy Bonos from Rutgers University has identified some creeping bentgrass genotypes with superior dollar spot resistance, so that too looks promising for the future of golf course management with reduced pesticides. There was also a paper that corroborated some of the findings of Daniel Tremblay, who conducted research at GTI on the role of silicon in suppressing foliar diseases of turf. Dr. Datnoff, University of Florida has had similar findings for warm season foliar disease suppression.

As always with research, there seemed to be some important breakthroughs reported. Dan Potter, University of Kentucky, has accidentally come upon a virus that attacks cutworms. This is still in the research phase, but it shows great promise as a biological control of cutworm larvae. Some work by Chris Williamson, University of Wisconsin, showed that sharp sands could be used to deter earthworms from surfacing on putting green surfaces, with the end result being a reduction in earthworm castings.

I would say that in Canada, we are seen as leaders in the

world of pesticide bans. I am not sure that this is something that most of you feel we should be renown for. Because of this, our work at Olds College and GTI with alternatives for broadleaf weed control such as beet juice extract, soybean meal, etc. is leading edge and many other countries were interested in the results we were obtaining with some of these products.

In the symposium entitled "Turf in the Urban Environment" there was a large focus on phosphorus based fertilizers, how phosphorus gets into water bodies and trying to untangle the myths from the science. As in Canada, with the pesticide situation, there is legislation coming into place in the United States that restricts the use of phosphorus fertilizers on turf without the scientific proof that, that is where the phosphorus in lakes and streams is coming from. I am afraid also that this sort of restriction on phosphorus based fertilizers will start to crop up in Ontario also. If and when it does, hopefully the scientific information will be there to back up where and when phosphorus on turf is an



Aerial view of Llandudno, photo by Pam Charbonneau

Some other bits and pieces that I found interesting were the use of recyled glass for both greens construction and as a replacement for bunker sands. There is also a new turfgrass which is a hybrid between Kentucky bluegrass and Texas bluegrass that is extremely drought tolerant. We have arranged to obtain some seed of these hybrids to evaluate their performance in Ontario. On that same track, there were several papers focusing on water conservation, from turfgrass performance with reduced irrigation, how reduced irrigation interacts with nitrogen and potassium fertilization and evaluation of crop water stress indices as a model for irrigation scheduling of creeping bentgrass.

Last but not least, there was some data presented on insecticide control of leatherjackets from Gwen Stahnke, Washington State University. Their results show promise for the use of Merit (imidacloprid) at peak egg laying. There were also good results for an insecticide cyhalothrin-lambda (the trade name is Scimitar in the US and Demand in Canada) applied in the fall to control leatherjackets. We will be looking at these products, as well as nematodes and other alternative products for the control of leatherjackets.

Stay tuned for the next edition of "From Roots to Shoots" where I will supply more detail of some of these studies that could possibly have an impact on how you manage turf in the future.

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Health & safety

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

Updates To The Health & Safety Act

Here is a bit of a follow up to my article in the last issue of Green is Beautiful. As a number of you are aware, the Ontario Ministry of Labour is now out in force. And to quote from one order I have recently seen, the inspectors seem to be targeting workplaces (read Golf Courses) where there have been lost time accidents in the past few years. The Ministry is saying that workplaces "are being selected to be part of the

Ministry of Labour 2005/2006 High Risk Firms Initiative". I suggest that if your workplace has experienced one or more lost time injuries in the past few years you

are probably on the target list.

You may not have been contacted to date, but since this is a two-year initiative, it may not be long before it is your turn. If you have had a visit you certainly understand what I am saying. If you have not had a visit then you might want to prepare yourself. Some of the things that they are checking are the training and fit testing required for those workers using half masks with OV cartridges. When was the last time that you did this? Do you know what you have to do? Do your employees know how to fit test a mask? All workers must be trained to use and wear and maintain Personal Protective Equipment. WHMIS is big on their agenda, as is Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification one and two. Some of the other items that are being closely checked are the lifting device certificates and the compliance requirements for compressed gas cylinders. And the list could go on depending on what the inspector has on his or her agenda!

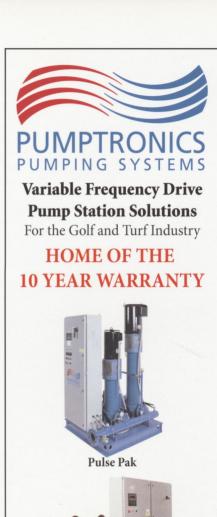
Another issue that some of you should be aware of is a proposed change to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Some of your facilities have been registered as "farming operations" with WSIB. This registration will no longer exempt you from some of the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as there is a proposal being put forward by the government to deal with section 3 (2) dealing with the farming operations exemption. What the legislation will look like is a bit of a guess at this time but from what we can determine workers in "farming operations" will have the same rights as workers in other operations. At the present time farm workers do not have the legal right to know about hazards in their workplace nor do they have the legal right to refuse unsafe work. This is a potential interesting change in the legislation. It may not affect many of you but there may be some golf course operations that will be affected by this change to the legislation.

There you have it. Some food for thought. I trust that your summer went well.

Have a great Autumn!!

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Springfield Golf & Country Club Recognized For Environmental Excellence

Springfield Golf & Country Club, Guelph, Ontario, has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Ray (Duke) Dlugokecki, Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Springfield Golf & Country Club is the 27th course in Ontario, 52nd in Canada, and the 548th in the world to receive the honour.

"Springfield Golf & Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property and preserving the integrity of the local watershed," said Shawn Williams, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Williams. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of working as a Golf Course Superintendent is the ability to work closely on a daily basis with the environment and all of the wildlife that inhabit our property," states Superintendent Ray Duke. "The Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary Program has helped our golf course maintenance department create this balance by reviewing and altering our fertilizer, pesticide, irrigation and mowing programs to minimize and eliminate any negative impacts on the environment."

"One of the main draws for golfers to play Springfield is the 17 acre Provincially Significant Wetland and the holes which play adjacent it. Therefore, the preservation of this area is not only critical for the wildlife but also for the successful operation of the entire facility," explained Duke. "With all of the negative and misinformed press surrounding the misuse of pesticides, fertilizer and water, I am extremely proud of our golf course to be recognized by the ACSP as environmentally responsible," acknowledges Duke.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Australia,

Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. Audubon certified courses in Ontario also include:

Blue Springs Golf Club, Acton Camelot Golf & Country Club, Cumberland Circled Pine Golf Course, Borden Cranberry Resort Golf Course, Collingwood Diamond Back Golf Club, Richmond Hill, Donalda Club, Don Mills Glen Abbey Golf Club, Oakville Granite Golf Club, Stouffville Hamilton Golf and Country Club, Ancaster King's Riding Golf Club, King City Markham Green Golf Club, Markham Monterra Golf at Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood Nobleton Lakes Golf Club, Nobleton Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Downsview Peel Village Golf Club, Brampton Rattlesnake Point Golf Course, Milton Rocky Crest Golf Club, Mactier Saw Mill Golf Course, Fenwick St. Thomas Golf & Country Club, St. Thomas Station Creek Club, Gormley Stone Tree Golf & Fitness Club, Owen Sound The Lake Joseph Club, Port Carling The Toronto Board of Trade Country Club, Woodbridge Thornhill Country Club, Thornhill Woodlands Links, Clinton Whitevale Golf Club, Whitevale

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses.

For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acss@audubonintl.org. or visit their website at www.audubonintl.org.









Member profile

Interview with Barry Endicott,

Project Manager Gordon Wendover Construction by Kerry Whale, Plant Products

At age 12, Barry's family moved from Welland to the small town of Utopia outside of Barrie. Although his father, Curly, built and landscaped houses, his true love was golf. When Curly purchased Richbrook, an 18 hole, semi-private golf course in Utopia, Barry was soon working on the family golf course cutting the greens, etc. Barry realized that he too, like his father, loved working on a golf course and playing the game. When his father sold the golf course in 1971, Barry stayed on to be the superintendent for the next two years. Barry formalized his career choice with a Diploma in Horticulture from the University of Guelph.

From there Barry moved south to be an assistant for Gord Witteveen at the Board of Trade Golf and Country Club in Woodbridge. Less than two years later, Barry took on the superintendent's job at Glen Shield/Willowdale Golf Club. Located at Dufferin and Highway 7, it was a 27 hole public course and an 18-hole private course and driving range. Today the course is the Glen Shield subdivision with the 407 highway going over the 3rd fairway.

Next, Barry went to be the superintendent of Chinguacousy Golf Club (now known as Caledon) for the next 8 years. He then went to Millcroft Golf Club to build and grow in the golf course.

In 1988, Barry went to Nobleton Lakes Golf Club, a semi-private 18-hole golf course. Over the 15 years, Nobleton hosted many fun tournaments including the Blue Jays and an All Star tournament. By 2002, Barry had



helped Nobleton expand to 27 holes. proudest moments at Nobleton was when he was recognized as the 4th golf course in Canada to be certified in the Audubon Society.

Another highlight in Barry's career was being able to work with both of his daughters on the golf course. Jane has continued in the industry and is now working at the Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course while Christine has pursued a career in interior design. Over the years, Barry has held many positions with the OGSA.

After Barry's 15 years at Nobleton Lakes he decided to take a year sabbatical to travel with his wife Bev as she had just retired from teaching high school math. Not one to sit too long, Barry returned to work at Heritage Hills and then Banty's Roost. Now Barry has taken his turf/irrigation career in a new direction by working with Wendover Construction.

Barry is an avid skier and takes every opportunity he can to hit the slopes. Over the past few years he has enjoyed teaching Track 3 Skiing twice a week. This is a special program designed to help the disabled learn to ski. Another hobby of Barry's is playing the piano. Fitness classes and running fill up the rest of his time.

Barry is a strong believer in our industry and the importance of networking and friends. Attending the Turf Shows across Canada is important to him, as this is a great opportunity to meet new friends, see the country and learn from peers (and if he can throw in a golf game or a ski outing at the same time – even better)

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major?
- Best piece of turf equipment ever?
- Favourite golf course designer?
- Ultimate foursome...you and what three?
- Lowest round ever and where?
- Favourite meal?
- Favourite Course played outside of Canada?
- Favourite Movie?
- What's in your CD player right now?
- Rate your home lawn on a scale of one to ten (1 worst, 10 best)
- What would you envision yourself doing if you were not working in the turf industry?

British Open

The Verti Drain - great at Nobleton Lakes

Rene Muylaert

Neil Acton, Jerry Richard, Marlon Gieseler

69 at Bear Creek G. C. (formerly Richbrook)

Baby Back Ribs

Carnoustie, Scotland

Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Elton John

Playing my baby grand piano at a ski lodge

Golf course highlight

Scarboro Golf & Country Club

321 Scarborough Golf Club Rd, Toronto M1J 3H2

Website: www.scarborogolf.com Email: publications@scarborogcc.com Phone: (416) 266-4546 Fax: (416) 266-1259 Golf Course Superintendent: Keith Rasmus



photo by Trevor Clapperton

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in? Scarborough

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

Private with 400 equity shareholders and 400

Typical number of rounds 27,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date April 21 to November 15

How long have you been a superintendent?

How long have you been an O.G.S.A. member? 17 years

How many staff?

8 year round and 25 seasonal staff

Who are your assistants and mechanics? Assistants: Bill Gilkes, Lesley Thomas Mechanic: Leo Dahl

How many gardening staff?

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes? 18 + 1 short par 3 hole (128 yds)

What is the yardage from back and forward tees? 6,526 yards from the back tees and 5,150 yards from the front tees

What is size and length of driving range & tee? 3 acres, 310 yards

How many bunkers? 72

How many times does water come into play? 11 times (crossing Highland Creek)

Who was the original architect? Cumming built in 1912 and redesigned by A.W.Tillinghast in 1926

What major tournaments have you held? Four Canadian Opens in 1940, 1947, 1953 and 1963

What is the size of your maintenance shop? 5,500 square feet

What type of irrigation system? Toro Osmac

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?

2.2 acres of greens 2.7 acres of tees 224 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass? Poa annua/Bent

How many USGA and loam greens? 3 greens on 8, 13 & 17

What is the predominant soil type? Sandy loam

What equipment do you have in inventory? 22 utility vehicles

16 walk behind greens mowers

3 fairway mowers

2 rough tractors

3 triplex mowers

2 outfront rotaries, etc.

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed? Redevelopment of tee complexes at holes 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 15, & 17.

We have just finished creating a master treeplanting program. The focus of the program is to not increase the number of trees on the property but to increase the representation of native species of trees on the property. Presently, of the 58 species of native trees to southern Ontario, only 17 are represented on the property. The goal is to have a representation of all the species of native trees and to remove the undesirable "aliens". The program is being implemented this year. It will take 5 years and approximately \$350, 000. The end result will be the removal of approximately 200 trees and the addition of approximately 260 trees. This will enhance the bio-diversity of the property and in some areas re-establish some of the "old growth forests" that used to be plentiful. This is a project that will benefit future generations.

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years? Tree program Bunker restoration program New maintenance facility

PTTW - move the pump station that is presently on line on Highland Creek to a new reservoir or pond.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Flooding - Historically holes 5,6,8,12, and 17 get flooded, in both summer and winter. This happens approximately every other year. The physical damage can be enormous and the associated clean up and repair is always a challenge. The resulting layer of fine turf from the silt that is left behind when the water recedes creates a serious compaction and layering problem. After these high water events, the mechanical cultivation of the flooded areas has to be increased to assure there is still good infiltration of water.

The last 12 weeks have been the most challenging of my career. I had 8 greens in terrible condition after the winter with 3 greens being 90% deceased. I finally had all 18 holes open for play by the 6th of June. Since then the heat, drought stress, high humidity and disease pressure has been unsurpassed in my tenure.

These challenges have been great but it has also been an opportunity to use all of my experience, education and expertise. To be able to grow the golf course back in, deal with the environmental pressures and communicate effectively with the membership has truly been a great test, and a very rewarding experience.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories? There are many! In 1993 we started working with the Metro Association for Community Living, (now Community Living Toronto). We employed mentally handicapped individuals and trained them to fill divots, rake bunkers, etc. The goal of the program is to develop these individuals' skills to make them employable. From this program the "divot busters" program was created that we have today. Many other golf courses now participate in this program. You have a supervisor and 2 or 3 individuals who fill divots. We have had several people go through this program that now have the skills to hold a full-time job. The program is great for all parties involved and helps to fulfill a vital community service.

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform

Light frequent top dressing on tees. Topdressing greens in the rain.

The 37th Presidents' Day

by Trevor Clapperton, Superintendent Dalewood Golf & Country Club

Teams of Superintendents, Presidents, Greens Chairmen and Directors took part in the 37th annual Presidents' Day at the Scarboro Golf and Country Club, all competing for the William Sansom trophy. This tournament has evolved through the years, to what is today, our association's most popular and prestigious event, promoting camaraderie between team members and other teams. It is an opportunity to share ideas between clubs and enjoy friendly competition. The day is also one for the host club to showcase their course to peers, fellow superintendents, presidents, greens chairmen and directors.

The Scarboro Golf Club is an A.W. Tillinghast design established in 1912 and is the only Tillinghast design in Canada. It has played host to many prestigious events over the years but most of all, hosted the Canadian Open in 1940, 1947, 1953 and 1963. The 6526 yard par 71 proved to be a real test of golf to all who participated.

Despite the hot, dry weather most superintendents have been dealt this summer, Keith Rasmus and assistants Bill Gilkes and Leslie Thomas had the golf course in absolutely magnificent



Keith Rasmus accepts plaque presented by Paul Scenna, OGSA President

After golf, the 34 teams gathered in the beautiful clubhouse to enjoy a terrific meal prepared by Clubhouse Manager Beauregard, Catering Manager Blaguna Evroski and all of their

After dinner, Vice-President Tom Davies officially welcomed all participants to the Scarboro Golf Club and Country Club and had special acknowledgments for Keith Rasmus and General Manager Joe Murphy, for their contributions to the club over the years.



Tom Davies, Vice President, Scarboro G&CC

All scoring was tabulated and posted at the clubhouse by Head Professional, Terry Kirkup and his staff. Terry and his staff also handled the pari-mutuel and I would like to thank him and his staff for their support in providing a great day.

Congratulations to Dean Baker's North Halton team for capturing the William Sansom Trophy for winning the 2005 Presidents' Day with a score of 120 in the progressive net best ball format.



Trevor Clapperton presents the tropy to Dean Baker, Ian Scott, Herbert Arnold & David McNally

A special thank you to Dorothy Hills and her staff at the OGSA office for organizing the day, to Keith Bartlett for assisting at the registration desk and to Jeff Alexander for running the parimutuel and helping throughout the day.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year, when our host club with be Rosedale Golf Club.



Photo by Paul White

Congratulations to all our winners!

1ST Place Winning Team North Halton Golf & Country Club - score 120 Dean Baker, Dave McNally, Hebert Arnold and Ian Scott

2nd Place Winning Team Twenty Valley Golf & Country Club - score 126 Steve Muys, Gary Hunter, Rob Maxwell and Barbara Brown

3rd Place Winning Team Scarboro Golf & Country Club - score 128 Bill Gilkes, Leslie Thomas, Marianne Klein and Bob Weller

4th Place Winning Team Donalda Club - score 130 Paul Scenna, Doug McIntosh, Jay Lilge and Pat McGoey

5th Place Winning Team Pleasant View Golf Course - score 131 Gord Witteveen, Sid Witteveen, Mike Vanbeek and Victor Witteveen

LONGEST DRIVE

#1 Ladies - Marianne Klein - Scarboro G&CC

#1 Men - Rob Latter - Credit Valley G& CC

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

#2 Mad River GC - Ray Richards, Tim Price, Robert Storek, Will Matthews

#11 Donalda Club - Paul Scenna, Doug MacIntosh, Jay Lilge, Pat McGoey

#4 Ladies - Leslie Thomas - Scarboro G&CC

#14 Men - Will Mathews - Mad River GC



Photos by Trevor Clapperton



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Spring Field Day

Article & photos by Dorothy Hills

Sunny skies and warm hospitality greeted the Spring Field Day participants at the Guelph Lakes Golf & Country Club, on Monday, June 20th. Our host superintendent, Don Heinmiller and his staff had the course in fine form for this annual event. General Manager, Jim Farrelly and his staff had organized a wonderful day for all to enjoy.



Don Heinmiller receives plaque from Chris Andrejicka

Guelph Lakes Golf & Country Club, designed by Dave Moote, is a challenging, 18 hole, picturesque course. The spirit of the course really is in the way the holes were designed around the many aesthetically pleasing environmentally sensitive areas. Patience and accuracy would be the format for the day for those who were eager to capture the covetted "Clayton Switzer Trophy".

After the round, we gathered in the clubhouse, converted farmhouse, for fellowship and a delicous meal. Our MC, Chris Andresjicka, quickly guided us through the ceremonies and the many prize presentations.

We look forward to this event each year to take a moment to recognize our regular contributors to our magazine. Our attending contributors were introduced and, encouraged to stand and be recognized for their hard work and dedication to Green is Beautiful.

Dr. Eric Lyons gave a summary of the work he is conducting at the University of Guelph and the G.TI. His key message was that communication between the industry and the university is critical to moving forward in developing the research and educational programs that will effectively serve the turfgrass industry in Ontario, Canada and beyond. He encouraged us to recruit and train future industry leaders, develop an interest and become actively involved in what we are doing, and let him know the kind of problems we are facing on a day-to-day basis, and what he can do to better serve our needs. A summary of his presentation can be found on page 8 of this issue.

Prior to Dr. Switzer presenting the trophy to the Low Gross Winner, it was announced that he had recently, on June 12th received the special distinction of being elected to the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, for his enormous contributions to all aspects of agriculture, through his various positions as a professional educator, university administrator and government deputy minister. We, in the golf industry, recognize Dr. Switzer for his leadership and direction, and in negotiating the unique partnership between industry, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food and the University of Guelph

that resulted in the creation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. He then led the fundraising program to build the G.M. Frost Research and Information Centre. Dr. Switzer's genuine interest in people, loyalty and unselfish passion for the industry has contributed to the advancement of our profession over the last half century. Congratulations Dr. Switzer!



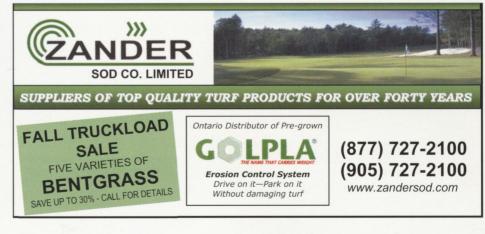
Dr. Switzer presents trophy to Bruce Burger

Once again, our Associate members donated to the prize table. Our thanks to All Turf, , Maple Turf Supply, Master's Turf Supply, Plant Products, Vanden Bussche Irrigation and Wendover Construction for your generous contributions. I apologize if I have missed anyone, but prizes were being dropped off at registration and we may not have got them all recorded.



A Thorne between two Roses, L-R Jeff Alexander, Marie Thorne and Clayton Switzer

continued on page 20



Springfield Day continued...from page 19

EVERYONE WAS A WINNER BUT THE PRIZES WENT TO

Superintendents Assistants, Associates and Guest 1st Low Gross 1st Low Gross Bruce Burger Eric Lyons 2nd Low Gross 2nd Low Gross 74 (retro) Scott Gardner 72 Vito Cirone 3rd Low Gross 3rd Low Gross Paul Scenna 76 Kevin Holmes 74 1st Low Net 1st Low Net John Taylor 63 Mark Scenna 64 2nd Low Net 2nd Low Net Ray Richards 67 Barry Johnson 65 (retro) 3rd Low Net 3rd Low Net Rob Ackermann 68 Darryl James Closest to the Hole #2 Closest to the Hole #7 Rob Calder Cory Janzen Longest Drive # 5 Longest Drive #18 Bruce Burger Brian Rosenberg

Closest to the Line #13

(all participants)

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Dr. Joe Vargas Visits St. Thomas Golf & Country Club

by Mark Prieur, Superintendent Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

St. Thomas Golf and Country Club Superintendent, Ryan Beauchamp invited several guest superintendents to his golf course to join himself and Dr. Joe Vargas, from Michigan State University, for a site visit. Nine superintendents, ranging from Milton to Goderich to Windsor, came to collaborate ideas needed to solve greens issues on how to overcome the many challenges facing golf course superintendents this season. It must be noted that having a consultant of Dr. Vargas' calibre was a saving grace when local turf advisory services were not available from July 8th to the 25th, due to the I.T.R.C. Conference in Wales.

It was very interesting to see experienced and "rookie" superintendents working in everyone's best interest. Sharing ideas and photos, tricks of the trade, what works and what does not was all discussed over this drive-around format meeting. No question was too small, and to lighten the mood of the discussions, digression was at an all time high. After all, I think the last time anyone of us had a day off might have been Easter.

Everett Nieuwkoop, from Master's Turf Supply, attended and was armed with some pretty interesting technology, a USB turf microscope that enabled the superintendent to examine turf for disease. The scope not only provided excellent resolution of the turf, but it also enabled us to take photos and utilize them in an electronic format! This tool was very useful throughout the day and provided some visuals for the meeting that would follow at Ryan's turf maintenance facility.

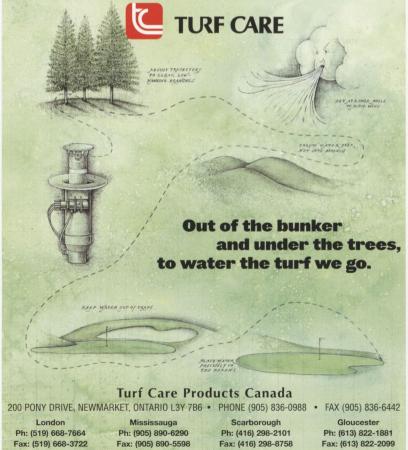
Everyone left St. Thomas with a fresh list of goals and the feeling that they were not alone during the rough summer. Many thanks to Plant Products and Master's Turf Supply for all their support on this important day. A special thank you goes out to Ryan Beauchamp for organizing the field trip. It's sure to be the highlight of the summer.



Dr. Vargas in the white shirt, blue cap



L-R Bob Pattinson, Bob Bates, Randy Hooper, Everett Nieuwkoop, Graham Shouldice, Tim Baxter, Steve Robinson, Dr. Joe Vargas Jr., Jon Flemming, Mark Prieur, Ryan Beauchamp, Dan Albright, Wade Beaudoin, Cory Dulong



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Plant Products Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament

by Kerry Whale Plant Products

Once again, at Turner Park in Hamilton, the teams started arriving for the Plant Products Annual Slow Pitch Tournament. Living up to tradition the day was a scorcher. This year we were happy to welcome many new golf courses to the tournament with a record number of 42 teams entered.

Not only is the competition getting better but this year the teams seemed to step it up a notch by arriving in team buses and many teams were decked out in sharp new uniforms.

As we see the year unfold on the golf course we have been through a long spring and a summer that may never end, it was the perfect time to leave the golf course behind and have a bit of fun on the baseball diamond. The umpires agree that this is one of their favourite tournaments of the year and the St. John's ambulance staff was thrilled that the injuries were at a minimum for the day. Of course we love our chip wagon truck and the friendly faces who are always smiling even though it must have been over 100 degrees in their chip wagon. With the record temperature we were thrilled to welcome the new addition of the ice-cream truck, sponsored by Pickseed.

Each team played a minimum of 2 games and the final two teams ended up playing a total of 5 games. This year we saw the final four teams: Eagle's Nest, Cutten Club, Rosedale and Dundas Valley battle it out to see who was going to the finals. Both games were very close and hard fought but in the end Cutten Club and Dundas Valley moved on to the finals to battle it out for the "Stanley Cup" of slow pitch.

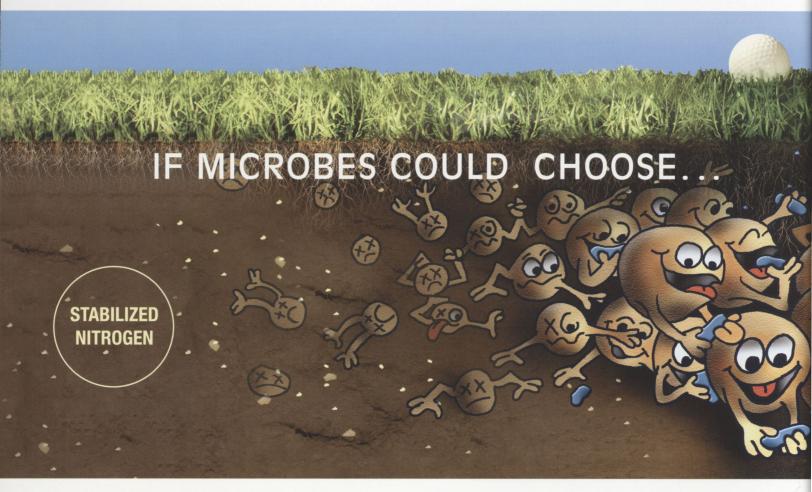
Cutten Club took the early lead and held on for the first few

innings when Dundas put on the pressure and started to catch up, but still came up a little short when it was all over. Our new winner for 2005 was the Cutten Club.

Thank you to all the teams for making this day so much fun and a special thank you to all of our sponsors who helped make this day possible through their generous support.

Hopefully you have all forgotten how sore the top of your legs were the next day and are already planning for next year's tournament!





O.T.R.F. Fundraising Event

This year s location was outstanding and is deserving of it s honour as Ontario's best new course last

vear.

On August 2nd, a full field took to the Doug Carrick designed Eagles Nest Golf Course, in Maple, for the annual OTRF fundraising golf tournament and was treated to a close up look at velvet bentgrass in action. After dodging Carmen Electra, Steve

Martin and the odd thundershower, rounds were finally completed and the field was able to retreat to the confines of the clubhouse for fellowship, dinner and prize presentations overseen by M.C. and tournament chair, Chris Dew. Brent Rogers, Mike Rossi and their maintenance team as well as the balance of the staff at Eagles Nest are to be commended for their first rate hospitality and their showcase of the golf course.

Dr. Eric Lyons and Ron Schiedel, OTRF President, both addressed the field during dinner, talking on the importance of all the present organizations working together as the future unfolds. In the name of turfgrass research, the tournament brought together representatives from all facets of the turfgrass industry including golf superintendents, golf course owners, sod growers, sports turf managers, lawn care affiliates, golf associations, educators and suppliers alike.

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On the REEL side of things

by Mike Slack Slack Reel Service

id you hear who got the job at this club? Or at that club? These are questions usually associated with the golf course superintendents on the move.

In the past few years, and with this one in particular, they have been words associated with the golf course mechanic. They have always been considered an extremely important piece of the maintenance puzzle, but of late, they have become even more critical as technology changes and an overall shortage of capable hands

shape the present tense.

So what does this mean for our industry? In the past 15 to 20 years, the mechanic position has evolved from a fix it all Charlie to a very precise technical position. When moving heights were 3/16" and a reel was out 10 thousands of an inch, it largely went unnoticed. Currently, we are dealing in heights of .085" to .125" which, has presented a new set of issues to deal with. Those include: reel diameters, micro bedknives, bedknife attitude, computers on equipment, mower tracking and spin or relief grinding (always a great issue!) Okay, STOP...its no wonder this job isn't easy.

What, as an industry, can we do about the shortage of mechanics? For one, mechanic stealing is not the answer. If you have a good mechanic, making sure he or she has a decent, competitive salary, reasonable hours, and is involved in all areas of fleet management, including purchasing, is a great start. Make them feel like they are a part of the management team. Who better should know about a piece of equipment and it's serviceability? Providing funds for upgrading of professionalism through service schools and seminars can also be invaluable.

If in a position where you are looking for a mechanic, options are limited sometimes to hiring someone who is new to the field. In this case, hire someone with engine expertise and good common sense. The reel side of the job can be learned and in the interim, his hire will keep units running. Reel sharpening is an on site trainable process along with reel set-up. There are a number of local mechanics that love to talk about their reels, and provide guidance for new arrivals.

Here are some tips that may help in your day to day operation:

- Arrive early it gives you time to check your equipment over before it leaves the shop with no interruptions from staff.
- Keep good service records.
- Write service hours on each machine and make it visible to staff so they can inform you when the next oil change is due.
- 4) Keep a good stock of fast moving parts like bearings, seals, filters and bedknives.
- 5) Attend service schools. Keep yourself updated with the ever changing equipment.
- Create a mechanics network in your area. You never know when someone has experienced the same issues you're struggling with.
- Never let your service slip. Keep on top of minor problems before they become
- Keep a clean shop and clean equipment. Hydraulic pumps and engines need to breathe and stay as cool as possible, especially in the recent extreme heat. Create a dedicated clean up day once a week.
- 9) Test your equipment after you repair or adjust it. Time is critical in the morning.
- 10) Install a marker board for staff to write down any problems with the equipment instead of telling him when he is under a piece of equipment.

Don't hesitate to send your comments or questions...this is just from my end of the wrench! slackrs@allstream.net

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Above the hole

by Justin Parsons, Student & Intern Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

here is a new aesthetic trend in the turf industry: brown is the new green. Or at least that is what we have been telling ourselves at Trafalgar. It's amazing how you can learn to live with struggling grass when you don't have much of a choice in the matter. In fact, our rough isn't actually brown, it's more of a burlywood, and I'm confident that's a hue we can all embrace. In addition, rather than view it as unsightly, we like to think of it as "beautiful discoloration".

It's no secret that this summer has been hotter than voicemail from Pat O'Brien. But whether or not this is a bad thing depends entirely on your perspective. Obviously for golf course superintendents, annual bluegrass, and those with sweating disorders (www.sweatmanagement.ca) it has been a trying summer. But for all you pythium lovers, fungicide salesman, and sweat management specialists, the season has been rather lucrative.

This summer has also been extremely beneficial for a turf management student intern. My knowledge of this field has been expanded far beyond the textbooks in the last few months and I have Mother Nature to thank for it (aside: my knowledge of grammar was just expanded in the last sentence because I realized "Mother Nature" is actually capitalized).

In all seriousness, as stressful and frustrating as this summer has been, I wouldn't trade a day of it for anything because I have learned the value of several things that I

previously took for granted. Like water, for example. While some courses may have a plentiful supply, others are forced to evaluate every drop during drought conditions. Indeed, hand-watering becomes a critical tool. It forces you to be more faithful to your water supply and reminds you how easy it is to let the convenience of technology mask our dependency on the natural world.

As an intern, I don't have a fraction of the responsibility and accountability that a superintendent has, but this extreme season has also shown me what will be required of me if I am fortunate enough to one day be the head of a greens department. Everybody looks to you for the answers and depends on you to be in control. Even though there are some things you can never have control over. During these uncertain times, the questions swell and the answers dwindle and it is up to the superintendent to handle it all with composure and confidence.

Fortunately, it is usually the stressful times that prove to be the most valuable later on because they provide us with knowledge of personal and practical limitations. Quite often these limitations stretch far beyond what we had envisioned and we are left feeling that much more confident as our experience grows. Like water, experience and the resulting confidence is something you just can't put a price on.





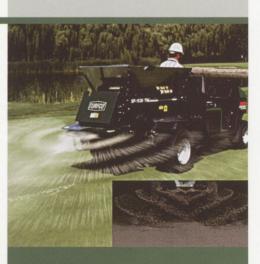
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Off the fairway



by Daisy Moore

Climbing Plants

limbing plants add a unique vertical component to the garden and are especially robust and ornamental in the summer garden. There are many places on the golf course where climbing plants and vines would be assets. For example, climbing plants are particularly useful in providing a screen and adding an ornamental quality to the narrow corridors between golf holes and behind

tees. Climbers can also add a special visual treat around the club house. Once you discover the glory of climbing plants, you will be forever committed to building trellises, arbours and just about anything to form a structure on which plants will grow.

Providing the proper support for climbing plants will depend upon the climbers you choose. There are self-clinging vines, twining vines, those that send out tendrils that attach themselves to things and those which simply grow tall and leggy and need something to lean on. You must know their growth habit in order to provide the proper support.

Self-clinging vines will require a brick, stone or masonry wall on which they can cling on to by means of rootlets or claw-like disks. Boston ivy (Parthenocissus tricuspidata), Trumpet vine (Campsis radicans), Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), Baltic Ivy (Hedera helix) and climbing Hydrangea (Hydrangea anomala petiolaris) are examples of these. It is untrue that clinging vines will draw the moisture out of brick and cause it to become brittle. The rootlets that attach themselves to walls do not seek out water like the actual roots in the soil. Self-clinging vines are generally deciduous perennials that increase their spread each year. They require little or no pruning except to keep the spread in check and prevent total coverage of windows when they grow on the side of buildings. Twining vines require a trellis or strong vertical supports on which they can twist around and grow upwards. Silver lace vine (Polygonum aubertii), Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia durior), Honeysuckle vine (Lonicera x heckrottii), and Wisteria (Wisteria floribunda & W. sinensis) are some perennial examples of these. Morning glory (Ipomoea purpurea), Moonflower (Ipomoea tricolour) and Scarlet Runner Bean (Phaseolus coccineau) are three examples of annual, twining

Plants with tendrils require a trellis, wire or other plants on

which to cling. Clematis (Clematis sp.) and many annual vines such as Sweet Peas (Lathyrus odoratus) and Wild Cucumber (Echinocystis lobata) will sprawl on whatever is nearby. Try a Grape vine (Vitis sp.) and really impress your members with an arbour with luxurious growth reminding them of their favourite wines.

Climbing plants use structures and other plants to support themselves and grow towards the sunlight rather than taking the time to grow the woody support stems themselves. The energy they reserve is steered towards rapid, elongated growth. Some climbers will lose their vine characteristics and become shrub-like forms if supports are unavailable. Euonymous fortunei is an excellent example of this. Climbers such as Virginia creeper, English ivy or Memorial rose will be content to sprawl along the soil surface and act as a ground cover until they reach a structure which they can climb. Climbing roses have no natural method to support themselves but rely on having a structure nearby on which they can lean. If support is not available their growth will be stunted and they will become shrub-like in form.

Climbing plants are useful additions to the garden for both their floral attributes and leafy cover. They can provide screening, cover an unattractive wall or vista or add a spectacular splash of colour against a trellis, arbour or fence. They may also be used to grow over and amongst other perennials and shrubs which have flowered early and no longer serve an ornamental purpose. Clematis, for example, can be trained to grow up the stems of Delphinium and provide a late season flower display after the Delphiniums are finished. Wild cucumber plants will seed themselves everywhere if left unchecked, but when transplanted to suitable locations, they will provide a light dusting of delicate white flowers growing over the tops of non-flowering shrubs or chain-link fences.

They say that good fences make good neighbours. Flowering screens make even better ones.

For more tips on gardening, or if you have any questions, visit my website <u>www.daisymoore.com</u>

Daisy Moore is a horticulturist and garden designer. She works with commercial, including golf and residential properties throughout the GTA. Daisy hosts "The Gardening Show" on 570news, Saturday mornings 7-8am.



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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent Golf North Properties

ack of all trades, but Master of none", is an old saying that is often, quite rightly, applied to superintendents. It's an occupational hazard, that we often find ourselves with a lack of budget (or humility), at that crisis moment when a clear thinking person would hire a qualified tradesman to come in and handle the situation. We grow grass. We are not, generally speaking, very good carpenters. It's O.K. to admit it, we're among friends here. All of us can pour concrete. Heck, it just runs out the back of the truck. However, few of us can form concrete, and almost none of us can finish concrete. Krista says I never finish anything, except supper.

I'm also a very poor mechanic. I'm a sub-par welder. I just use up a lot of rods, and then bang the crap out of it with a hammer. If it holds together, she's a good weld. I blame my high school guidance counsellor for that. He told me that if I didn't take French, I'd never be accepted to University, so I had to drop welding to learn how to order "Le Quartre Livre et Le Coke" at McDonald's. I wonder how many other people in my school never learned how to weld because of that idiot.

Je mal a la tete just thinking about it.

Plumbing is the corker though. It looks so easy while you're paying that guy \$80 per hour, to do what looks to me like irrigation and drainage on a very small scale. I missed plumbing in shop class too, because I took typing with my buddy Gary, to meet chicks. Can't blame the guidance counsellor for that one.

Last week, the plumbing gods got even. It started with a slow drain in the bathroom sink. The drain had been slow for a while, because God only knows what's gone down it over the years, and we'd poured enough drain cleaner down there to create our own little Love Canal. But one day last week, I decided that in the interest of drain IPM, that I'd forego chemical control (O.K., we'd run out), and try a little mechanical control. So I took a wire coat hanger (they're not just for breaking into cars anymore), bent it straight and tried to ream out the gooseneck under the sink.

This is when I learned that drain cleaner corrodes drainpipes. Go figure. The coat hanger popped a neat hole about the size of a dime in the copper gooseneck. Sped the drain right up; sink was empty in no time. "No problem," I said, "Hardware store's right around the corner, I'll remove the gooseneck and take it with me to the store to make sure I

get the right one."

The gooseneck was so badly corroded, that I crushed it with my bare hands trying to take it off - and the vertical pipe it was



attached to. Basically, everything from the pipe hanging on the bottom of the sink, to the union on the floor was like tinfoil. So I went to the store and bought those parts, installed them, filled the sink and looked for leaks. There was a tiny drip way up high by the drain openie/closie thingie. Yes, that is the technical plumbing term. At least the guy at the store knew what I was talking about when I explained to him that I'd broken it off.

When I got back with the new one, I lay under the sink and prepared to loosen the nut on the bottom of the drain. I gave it a little tug, and that was the point where the entire 'drain assembly' pulled through the bottom of the sink and dumped the contents of the overflow drain onto my face. Back to the store to buy a new sink. According to the guy at the store, drain cleaner corrodes metal sinks as well. Again, go figure. A sink that shape couldn't be gotten, so I was told, and that I'd need to buy a new countertop, "But since they're kind of pricey, you may as well buy a whole new vanity."

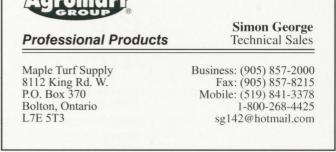
Started with a slow drain, ended up needing a new bathroom. At his point I called my buddy the plumber, who got me a new sink that fit the existing counter in an hour. It was installed in less time. There's a moral here somewhere, but it escapes me at the moment, and I haven't got time to think about it, because right now I have to go take the microwave apart, because it isn't warming up my

hot dogs as fast as it used to.









IN MEMORIUM

KEITH NISBET (1917-2005)

Golf Course Superintendent, politician and public minded supporter of all good causes.

by Gordon Witteveen with assistance of Colin Nisbet

Keith Nisbet was born in 1917 in Toronto. Shortly after his birth his family moved to the blossoming town of Aurora, where his father

owned and operated a greenhouse and florist business.

Keith initially began his adult work career at the Bank of Montreal. His career path changed very quickly when in 1944, he, his father "Pop", and brother Doug purchased the old Aurora golf course. Keith took on the role of maintaining the course, while his brother joined the family florist business. Keith quickly fell in love with the golf business and expanded the 9-hole course to 18 holes. When the golf course enterprise proved profitable, "Pop" Nisbet and his sons sold the Aurora Golf Course and bought 200 acres of land on the outskirts of Aurora. Using the best of the natural landscape Keith built Westview golf course. Westview is a 27 hole course, with stunning views and tree lined fairways. With his father's encouragement he created conditions at Westview Golf Club that were the envy of many private clubs in the area.

Because of his inquisitive mind he quickly learned the fundamentals of greenskeeping and applied them to Westview. Noteworthy in his development of the course, was the installation of an innovative irrigation system, far ahead of its time. He befriended experts at the best golf courses in Ontario and in the United States. Through careful observation and innovation he mastered his craft while setting trends in golf course agronomy. All his knowledge

benefited the golfers who made Westview their home.

During these early years Keith's interests extended far beyond the game of golf. He and his wife Marion were raising a young family of four children. Keith was dedicated to building a strong community. This dedication led him into local politics. From 1954-1958 he served as a member of the Aurora School Board. He served as Aurora Town Councilor from 1955-1957. From 1958-1960 he held the position of Deputy Reeve of Aurora. Eventually, Keith ran for Mayor of the Town of Aurora. He held the position from 1961-1963. After a short break from local politics, he returned to serve from 1969-1972, as a Trustee with the newly formed York Regional Board of Education.

However, golf was his first love and he readily accepted leadership positions in every organization that he became involved with. He joined the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association in 1947. He held the position of President during 1966 and served on the Board of the United States counterpart, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America from 1967 to 1970. In 1982 he received the President's Award from the OGSA. The GCSAA presented Keith with a Distinguished Service Award in 1984 for his lifetime of contributions.

Keith's contributions to the game of golf extended beyond our provincial boundaries. At the National level his support of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association helped that association get off the ground. In 1966 Keith became a charter member of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association. His peers recognized his life-long contribution to the association when in 2001 he received their highest honor for outstanding

performance, the John B. Steele Award, from CGSA.

Keith recognized that there was more to golf than greenskeeping. He understood that supporting amateur golf would ensure the positive growth of the industry within Ontario. Keith became a great supporter of the Ontario Golf Association, the amateur body of golf in the province. In 1972 he served as President of the Ontario Golf Association. In recognition of his many years of service to the sport of golf, the OGA made Keith an Honorary Governor in 1973. Recognizing the importance of encouraging the junior players and amateurs, over the years he often hosted many amateur golf tournaments at Westview.

The University of Guelph needed support to develop a turfgrass research program. Under Keith Nisbet's guidance the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation was born. Keith served as the group's founding President from 1978-1982. In that capacity he raised



Keith with his grand-daughter Alex Nisbet

money from industry, the golf associations, and golfers at large. Keith directed these funds to further research at the university.

When the golf course owners in the province united, they called on Keith Nisbet for support of the National Golf Course Owners Association in Canada. Like all associations that Keith was involved with the NGCOA thrived and now represents most golf courses in the

province.

In 1980 Keith Nisbet retired as superintendent of Westview, and turned the management of Westview Golf Course over to his son, Colin. For many years Keith and his wife lived in an apartment that overlooks the old Aurora Highlands Golf Course in Aurora, where it all began. Keith died peacefully on July 18 from natural causes.

- 1947 Joined OGSA & GCSAA
- 1966 President OGSA
- 1982 Received President's Award from OGSA
- 1966 Charter member CGSA
- 2001 Received John B. Steele Award from CGSA
- 1967-1970 Director GCSAA
- 1984 Received Distinguished Service Award from GCSAA
- 1978-1982 Founding member & President OTRF
- 1961 Director of Ontario Golf Association
- 1963-1973 Chairman of OGA Greens Committee
- 1972 Honorary Captain of the Willington Cup Team for Ontario at the Canadian Amateur Golf Championship
- 1972 President Ontario Golf Association
- 1978-1982 Chairman of OGA Rules Committee
- 1973 to Present Honorary Governor OGA
- 1954-1958 Member Aurora School Board
- 1955-1957 Aurora Town Councilor
- 1958-1960 Deputy Reeve of Aurora
- 1961-1963 Mayor Town of Aurora
- 1969-1972 Trustee York Region Board of Education
- 1977 Received Special Achievement Award from Province of Ontario for Amateur Sports
- 1945-1957 Purchased & operated Aurora GC. Keith as superintendent oversaw 9 hole expansion.
- 1957 to Present Constructed & operated Westview GC. Keith served as superintendent until 1980.



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Looking back

20 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott, Project Manager Gordon Wendover Construction

he board of directors of the OGSA in 1985 was: Hugh Kirkpatrick, Westmount (president), Barry Endicott, Caledon (vice), Robert Kennedy, Garden City, Neil Acton, Brooklea, Bill Fach, Essex, Gordon Nimmo, Sarnia, Scott Dodson, Chedoke, Thom Charters, Islington, Shorty Jenkins, Bay of Quinte, Gord Witteveen, Board of Trade, Tom Simpson, Newcastle and Al Draper, Greenhills (past pres.). Endicott was newsletter editor with Neil Acton and Ron Heesen as assistants.

"Green Is Beautiful" won one of the top ten best newsletter awards in Washington at the CGSAA Conference in February. At that time, Barry Endicott stepped aside as editor and Neil Acton was appointed as the new editor. Jackie Dermott retired as

secretary of the OGSA and the new secretary was Cindi Charters.

New members: Brian McCann (A), Allandale, David Lauterbach (E), Jim Morrison Ltd., David Barnes (B), St. Clair Parkway, Mike Post (B), Strathroy, Wayne Studds (E), Llewelln Security, David Schmelefske (F), Merry Hill, Don McFaul (A), Glen Abbey, Brian Guthro (F), Board of Trade, Charles Eberle (A), Ridgetown, John Taylor (A), Twenty Valley, Ken Graham (F), Brampton, Dan Lavis (A), Kleinburg, Walter Dudnick (B), Dalewood, Gerald Sterling (A), Bluewater, Scott Wilson (E), Rochester Midland Chemicals, Colin Nesbit (A), Westview, George Forest (A), Pike Lake, Paul Gillen (E), Holland Equipment and Doug Black (B), Beaverdale.

On the move: Paul (Pelino) Scenna moved on to Burlington Golf Club and Bruce Burger left Dalewood to take Paul's old position at the Galt Country Club. Tim Sherlock left Caledon, as assistant, and went to Cornwall and Greg O'Heron left the Board of Trade, as an assistant, and went to Markland Wood as superintendent. Greg Aljoe moved from Merry Hill to Foxwood and Sid Witteveen left Vaughan Valley and started construction at Loch Marsh Golf Club. Steve Miller and Randy Price both left

the business to start different landscaping companies.

The GCSAA Conference was held in Washington on February 5-13. Barry Endicott received an award for "Green Is Beautiful". Al Draper was a session chairman and Blake McMaster, Neil Acton and Ron Heesen were all speakers. The conference was attended by over 50 Canadian superintendents. The CGSA Conference and Show was held in Winnipeg in March. **Blake McMaster** was elected as the 17th president at the Bill Hynde was chosen as the Superintendent Of The Year Score conference. Magazine Award winner.

The Georgian Bay Superintendents were in full swing with meetings at Deerhurst, Ed Farnsworth, Borden, Ray Richards, Royal Downs, Stew Picken, Horseshoe Valley, John Hughes, Barrie, Ed Doda, Brooklea, Neil Acton and Midland, Alex LaBelle. An OGSA/Borders Cities meeting was held at the Dominion Golf Club on April 10th hosted by Dan Uzelac. The Canadian team of Bill Fach, Bob Heron, Thom Charters

and Pat Hebert, all with scores of 81, beat out the Americans by 6 shots.

The Spring Field Day was held at the Cutten Club on June 19th. This was the first time in fifteen years that this tournament was not held at the Galt Country Club. Richard Creed was the superintendent. The low gross winners were Greg Aljoe, Merry Hill 74, Blake McMaster, Brampton 75, Ted Ellis, Greenwood 76, Bruce Vollet, Conestoga 76 and Ioe Kenny, Oaklands 76.

The President, Greens Chairman and Superintendent tournament was held at the Board of Trade with Gord Witteveen as host. The winning team was from the Summit Golf Club, Doug Hoskins. The Superintendent/Pro tournament was held at Greenhills Golf Club, hosted by Al Draper. Top team winners were from Whitevale G. C., Warren Vout 157, Westmount, Hugh Kirkpatrick 160 and Oakville, George Garner

There was an OGSA curling meeting held at St. Georges on March 12th hosted by Bill Hynde. The team of Shorty Jenkins, John Arends and Tom Murphy emerged as the winning rink. The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents held an early meeting at Beechwoood Golf Club in Niagara on April 25th. Gross winners were Tom Bell, Dave Nichols and Bill Glashen.

The OTRF Fundraising Tournament was held at the National on August 12th with \$9,700 being raised. Bill Glashen had the best score with a fine 79. Ken Wright was the superintendent host and Gord Witteveen hosted the barbecue back at the Board

The McClumpha Tournament was held at the Thornhill Country Club hosted by Dave Gourlay Sr. The winner of the George Drew trophy was Curly Endicott with a score of 90. Low score for the day was Bruce Burger with a score of 74.

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