

December 2005

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

DEC 0 8 2005

## **Eagles Nest: Aesthetics and Innovation**

**Pruning Considerations for Trees and Shrubs  
Superintendent Recognition Program  
New Sod Harvesting Technology**

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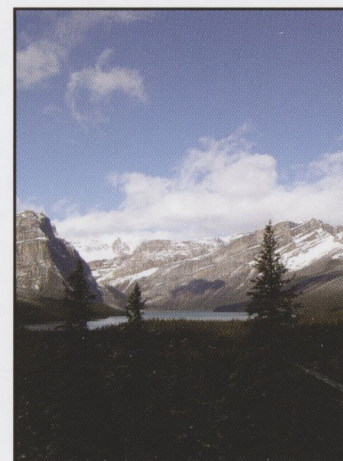
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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

*photo by Mark Prier, Superintendent,  
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club*

Breathtaking!...photo taken on return trip from CGSA Field Day in Jasper.

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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

My term as OGSA President is quickly coming to an end, and as this will be my last President's Message for *Green is Beautiful*, I would like to encapsulate the state of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

Your association continues to be in a very strong position. Operations are committed to serving our members. We have a very dedicated board and staff which maintains a very effective and efficient operation. We hold popular member events which serve as excellent venues for member networking and camaraderie.

The OGSA has evolved its communication internally to its members with the magazine, the website and weekly broadcast emails, in the form of "Clippings", which has given us the ability to communicate information faster and more efficiently.

Externally, we have had great representation from our board and other members to convey the environmental principles behind golf course management to many public forums. We have also benefited from communicating directly with the media to offer first hand information on how golf courses contribute positively to the environment.

The OGSA is entering its second year of hosting its own Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show. This endeavour has been one to streamline the financial investment for our devoted exhibitors, and to present quality educational seminars, which are more specific to meet our growing demands in the profession. It has proven to be a very financially rewarding venture, which will help the association grow in future years.

Membership continues to grow at an overwhelming rate which helps to financially balance operations. Financially, we are developing an investment strategy to both protect the OGSA's future and advance programs such as research, scholarships, education and environmental advocacy. It has been a good year.

In closing, I would like to voice my appreciation to you for allowing me the opportunity to interact with the OGSA board, staff, members and all those involved in our great profession. Best wishes to you and your families for a New Year filled with happiness and promise.



by Paul Scenna  
Donalda Club



## ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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### Green is Beautiful 2005

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## Editor's message



by John Bladon  
Nu-Gro Corporation

Well, this final issue of 2005 is finally in the books so we'll see you next year! Enclosed, is a submission from Dr. Eric Lyons entitled *Hot and Cold; Common Problems for Different Seasons*. Mike Bladon, retired University of Guelph horticulturist, has provided us with some food for thought on pruning in the golf course landscape and this issue's member profile is of long-time OGSA member, David Stevens, of Beaverbrook Golf Club, in Minden.

We have also enclosed some highlights of activities in the field. Firstly, we have some photos from the OGSA Superintendent Recognition Program, which was spearheaded by the board and particularly, Chris Andrejicka of Essex. It recognizes superintendents who have prepared

golf courses for OGA sanctioned events throughout the 2005 season. We have also enclosed a summary from Norm McCollum's retirement party hosted by the DeCorso family in Guelph. The OGSA was certainly well represented!

Weather has been a hot topic throughout this year and will continue to be. Recent hurricanes have a significant impact on many lives and will continue to for some time. Enclosed is a story on Stonebridge Golf Club, in the Ottawa area, and an event they put together to benefit others affected by these tragic events.

The editorial committee will be meeting up shortly as the planning process begins for next year's issues. If you have a contribution you are willing to make, please get in touch with Dorothy or myself and set the wheels in motion!

Finally, I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.

## What's new

### A Farewell To Norm McCollum...

The season ended on a bittersweet note as we celebrated the retirement of long time GTI Research Superintendent Norman McCollum. Norm touched many in the industry and research community through his thirty-seven year involvement at Guelph as well as with the turf managers' short course and on-campus diploma teaching. A lasting legacy of Norm's support of turfgrass education has been established in the form of the Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diploma Entrance Scholarship. The scholarship received a boost at Norm's retirement gala on October 27th when Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association President Paul Scenna announced that the OGSA would commit \$1,000 annually to the scholarship. We wish Norm a long and healthy retirement.



Norman saying goodbye to Dr. Tom Hsiang

### And Welcome To Peter Purvis



Peter Purvis after a very windy day at the GTI

While we say farewell to Norman, we welcome his replacement Peter Purvis. Peter came to the job through an internal university transfer, having worked for several years in woody plant research both at the Vineland Research Station and the Guelph campus. He spent a good part of his summer learning practical turf management under the excellent direction of David DeCorso at Victoria Park East Golf Course, here in Guelph. Peter has quickly fitted into the GTI research team. His practical research experience and exceptional horticultural skills and knowledge will be a tremendous asset as the GTI turf and environmental research programs continue to grow.

**The conference provides great opportunities to meet and socialize with your colleagues**

**Awards luncheon**

The OGSA Awards Luncheon will take place on Thursday, January 5th, 2006 at 11:30 am. Come enjoy lunch and celebrate the achievements of many of your OGSA peers. The 2006 OGSA Awards Luncheon is sponsored by Nu-Gro.

**Trade Show Social**

See you on the trade show floor between 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm. Take this opportunity to mingle with our exhibitors in a social atmosphere. The tradeshow social is sponsored Bayer Environmental Science.

**Annual General Meeting**

OGSA 2006 AGM will be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 5th, 2006. Get an update on the State Of The Association. This is your opportunity to vote for the Board of Directors, ask questions and make suggestions.

**The President's Welcome Reception**

The President's welcome reception will take place on Thursday, January 5th at 7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to network with the OGSA Board of Directors and fellow OGSA members.



**Welcome!**  
**O.G.S.A. Welcomes**  
**our newest members**

- Bill Allison** Class S  
Seneca College
- Christopher Anker** Class D  
Kings Forest GC
- Dave Atkinson** Class S  
Seneca College
- Stuart Bradshaw** Class F  
Hamilton G & CC
- Paul Dobias** Class F  
Taboo Golf Course
- Matt Giffin** Class C  
Garrison G & CC
- Jeremy Gilbert** Class C  
Forest City National GC
- Steve Gruhl** Class C  
St. Catharines G & CC
- Marcus Hepfeld** Class A  
Berlin Golf Club, Germany
- Daryl Jantzen** Class F  
Caledon Woods GC
- Sean Jordan** Class D  
University of Guelph
- Andy Marois** Class F  
Garrison G & CC
- Wade Miller** Class S  
University of Guelph
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Seven Lakes Golf Course
- Brendan O'Kane** Class C  
Guelph Lakes G & CC
- Mike O'Loane** Class C  
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- Robert Wright** Class C  
Devil's Paintbrush
- David Wyllie** Class A  
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**ONTARIO GOLF  
 SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
 2004-2005 REPORTS**

The following OGSA reports, required for the Annual General Meeting on January 5th, 2005, can now be viewed on our web site [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca).

Log into the Members Only section and go to "Member News".

- Director Election Notice
- End of Year Financial Statements
- End of Year Director Reports
- Minutes from AGM January 11, 2005

According to our bi-law passed at the AGM last year, these reports are made available on our web site.

The package can also be viewed at our office:  
 328 Victoria Road South, Guelph, Room 115

If you require a hard copy of these reports please notify the office and a package will be mailed to you.

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# University of Guelph update

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

## HOT AND COLD - common problems from different seasons

As you put your course to bed for the winter, it is a good time to reflect on the past season and the winter to come. While sitting down and reflecting I realized how many of the problems turfgrass managers encounter in the summer can be similar to the problems associated with winter hardiness. Probably the largest factor affecting turfgrass survival is a lack of carbohydrates and energy for growth, recovery, and resistance to pests (fungi and insects). In both hot and cold weather the ability of the plant to photosynthesize is diminished. This reduction in carbohydrates and energy affects the plants ability to recover and ultimately leads to either winter kill or in the case of creeping bentgrass, summer bentgrass decline.

During this time of year, often times, mowing heights are often raised slightly, to allow for more leaf area and potential photosynthesis. This allows the turfgrass to "harden" or become prepared for the winter season ahead (AKA become more winter hardy). During this time the turfgrass shifts its carbohydrate allocation from growth to storage for the winter months and spring recovery period. These storage compounds also help the turfgrass offset the desiccation that can occur at severely low temperatures. If at any time throughout the winter the carbohydrate storage is depleted then the grass will lack the ability to resist freezing desiccation or will not have enough energy to initiate new growth in the spring.

How does this relate to summer bentgrass decline? In the summer, high temperatures and low mowing heights limit photosynthesis by turfgrass. This limitation is accompanied by an increase in respiration, the break down of carbohydrates into energy. The net result of this is that the plant slowly runs out of food and energy and can no longer continue to grow and effectively ward off pathogens. With the pressure to provide faster greens, mowing heights have dropped even lower resulting in less leaf area and turfgrass more susceptible to disease and less able to recover from injury.

As a researcher I have worked on many projects related to these two issues. Both of these projects are ongoing and the primary goal of these projects is to be able to

select for varieties of creeping bentgrass or new species that have mechanisms to help them survive stressful times when carbohydrates and energy becomes limiting.

## Selecting for heat stress mechanisms in bentgrass species

This study is part of a larger study being conducted at Rutgers University led by Dr. Bingru Huang a pioneer in turfgrass heat tolerance research. This study compared creeping bentgrass to a thermophilic grass in their ability to survive high root temperatures. One of the most telling parts of the story was that at high root temperatures the thermophilic grass was able to maintain a positive carbon balance, in other words make more energy than it was burning. The creeping bentgrass, in this example L-93 a relatively heat tolerant creeping bentgrass, was unable to maintain this positive carbon balance (Figure 1). The actual mechanisms behind the efficiency of the thermophilic grass are still being explored, but once determined they will aid in the breeding of more heat tolerant creeping bentgrasses.

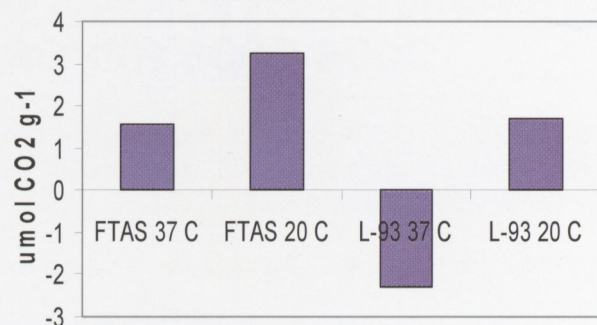


Figure 1. Net carbon exchange, Photosynthesis (Daytime) – Respiration (Nighttime), at two different temperatures of L-93 creeping bentgrass and a thermophilic bentgrass.

## Thawing and re-freezing effects on winter hardiness

When concerned with winter hardiness much work goes into measuring which varieties accumulate the most carbohydrates during the fall hardening time. This work has led to many advances in winter hardiness throughout the years. Another aspect of winter hardiness is the ability of the grass to thaw and refreeze again in the spring. While these events are common, they are also

unpredictable making them difficult to study in the field. In this study, I simulated a freeze thaw cycle and looked at the survival of some annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass (Penn A-4). The freeze thaw cycle significantly reduced the survival of both grasses (Figure 2). In future research I want to screen different grasses for their ability to survive thawing and re-freezing events in the spring so that we can begin to understand the mechanisms of survival to aid in the development of new cultivars and in your ability to manage the situation for greater survival of current cultivars.

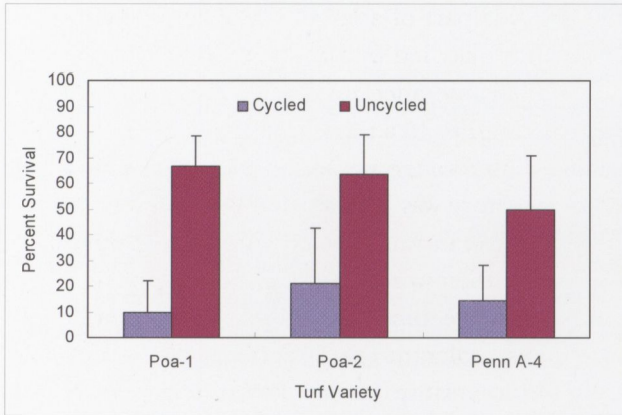


Figure 2. Effects of a thaw and re-freeze cycle on annual bluegrass (Poa-1, Poa-2) and creeping bentgrass (Penn A-4) held in a freezer for 39 days after first spring thaw.

## Notes from the University of Guelph

I want to extend congratulations to Evan Elford, MSc. Candidate, in successfully acquiring an NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship with the sponsorship of the OTRF to study weed control efficacy of overseeding.

I also want to continue to encourage you to fill out the Moss Survey, whether you have moss on your course or not. Darragh McGowan's research is progressing well but we need more of your support. The survey can be found at: [www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/moss\\_survey\\_front.html](http://www.uoguelph.ca/GTI/moss_survey_front.html). If preferred, contact Darragh and a survey can be mailed or faxed.

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# From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau  
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

## Trouble shooting spray injury

If you have ever been in the situation where you have applied a pesticide, a wetting agent or some other application to your turf and have had some phytotoxicity, you know what a sinking feeling that is. There are many reasons why this happens.

Some of them could include:

- High temperature and high relative humidity.
- Incorrect amount of the pesticide added to the spray tank.
- Poor water quality.
- An adverse reaction of the pesticide with an adjuvant, wetting agent or any other tank mix combination.
- A mislabeled pesticide container.
- Sabotage (a disgruntled former employee or an environmentalist group).

In this issue, I would like to suggest a checklist that will help you avoid any of these problems. If a problem does occur this list will also help you determine what the problem could be and it could also help you decide on what sort of action or remediation is necessary to get healthy turf back.

## Checklist

1. When spraying any pesticide, read the label carefully and follow the label directions.
2. Make a note of the weather conditions, including temperature, relative humidity, cloud or sun and any rain that falls after the application. Write down the amount of pesticide and other products that are added to the tank for future reference.
3. If you are tank mixing something for the first time make a test application on your nursery green. Wait at least 4-5 days after to make sure there is no phytotoxic reaction. If there is a problem, make sure to make a note of it for future reference.
4. Do not apply pesticides to turf that is under drought stress. Water turf well a couple of days before applying a pesticide.
5. Keep all sprayers in working order and calibrate them regularly.
6. Maintain a separate sprayer for herbicide applications. Do not use this sprayer for applying other pesticides.
7. Always keep a small sample of a spray tank mixture for 4-5 days after a pesticide application is made. If a problem develops, you can have the sample tested to determine if the pesticide in the tank was actually the pesticide in the pesticide container. The manufacturer of the pesticide usually has access to a lab to do this type of testing. There have been instances where fungicides have been contaminated in the pesticide plant with herbicides such as atrazine. In addition, the remainder of the tank mix can be sprayed on a portion of your nursery green or other bentgrass under different weather conditions to see if it still causes phytotoxicity. If it doesn't, it is a good indication that the damage was a combination of the pesticide application itself and

the weather during or shortly after the application.

8. Make a note of the damage. Is there any pattern? Is the damage worse where the sprayer overlapped or were there strips of unsprayed grass that were not affected (Figure 1)? Are shady, stagnant greens affected as well as open, sunny greens? If the damage follows the spray pattern, you can be fairly sure it was what was in the spray tank that caused the damage. If it is worse in shady, stagnant areas, it is possible that it had something to do with the temperature and relative humidity around that particular green. There can be adverse affects when the temperature rises above 30°C and when relative humidity is high.
9. Are broadleaf weeds as well as grasses damaged or are only the grasses damaged? Creeping bentgrass is sensitive to 2,4-D and may turn an off colour if treated with 2,4-D. If there are broadleaf weeds present in the treated area they will die, where the bentgrass will only be slightly injured. This is a clue that the damage was caused by a broadleaf herbicide of some kind.
10. Core aerate and overseed damaged areas as soon as possible to get turf back to a healthy state. Make sure to keep the seed bed moist until the seedlings are well established.
11. If you suspect sabotage of some kind, you may not be able to find out what caused the damage. In this case, you may not know if the chemical is persistent in the soil or if it is a chemical that leaches readily. To find out, you can do a simple bioassay. This involves taking soil from the damaged greens. I recommend that you take several cup cutter size plugs from the damaged area. Remove the dead grass and thatch layers. Take the top 2.5 cm of soil from 3-4 plugs and put it in bucket, mix it up and put some of the soil in a small pot. Label it with something to indicate that it is the top layer of soil. Take the next 2.5 cm layer from the same 3-4 plugs and put it in a pot and label it 5 cm and do the same for the next 2.5 cm layer and label it 7.5 cm. In each of these pots, sprinkle the top of each of the pots with creeping bentgrass seed. Place the pots on a window ledge and keep them well watered. If the seedlings germinated and grow into seedlings then the pesticide in the soil is not persistent and you can go ahead and core aerate and overseed the damaged areas. If the seedlings die, then you are dealing with a persistent pre-emergence herbicide and you will need to excavate a layer of soil from the greens and bring in new root zone media before you overseed.



Green strips indicate areas that the sprayer missed.



# Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Bob Burrows  
Rosedale Golf Club

This is old news by now, but the Fall Field Day at Jasper Park Lodge, Alberta, on September 19<sup>th</sup>, was an absolutely outstanding event. Thanks to the co-sponsors, especially the Toro Company, for their support. The strong support from Ontario was evidence of the much-anticipated venue, with great scenery and camaraderie. To continue with the success of this tournament, we are in the process of negotiating some final details with an outstanding venue in Quebec, with exact details to follow for this September, 2006 event.

The Score "Superintendent of the Year" award will be given to Mr. Rhod Trainor of the Hamilton Golf & Country Club, and the John B. Steele Award will be given to Mr. Larry Brown, President of the Atlantic Golf Group of Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Toro Future Superintendent of the Year Award will be given to Mr. Jason Steadwell of Red Lake Area Golf & Country Club, Winnipeg, MB and the Toro Environmental Achievement award is as yet undeclared. Congratulations to all the recipients! The eighth annual salary and benefits survey was sent out in November, and the fourth annual IPM/BMP survey will be conducted this spring. The newly updated "Environmental Management Resources Manual" is available for purchase on CD, and is also available in French. We are encouraged by the continued agreement with the GETAC technician members joining with CGSA and we welcome their participation with a bright future.

All class A, B, and Assistant members are now required to submit a copy of their pesticide licenses in order to remain a member or risk being reclassified. The Board has directed the headquarters staff to strictly enforce this requirement. A targeted marketing campaign is ongoing, which will elevate the professional recognition of our members and non-

members alike. At the CGSA Annual meeting in March 2006, a presentation will be made to consider the adoption of "mandatory education" and a slight reclassification of our membership and our standards. This process is a continuation of the approach begun by the NOS principles. As reported over the past few years if adopted, the program would certainly have some degree of impact on our profession. You are encouraged to become familiar with the proposal and voice your concerns or support. Kathryn Wood, Director of Professional Development, elaborates on this process in the following article.

The CGSA will be hosting various regional seminars in Ontario in the near future. Specifically, November 17<sup>th</sup> in Mississauga was well attended with Bob Milligan on "Increasing Staff Productivity". Another spring seminar is planned for Western Ontario on "Turf Stress Management" with details to be announced later. Plan now to attend a seminar in your region.

The upcoming joint CGSA/WCTA conference is being held in Vancouver from March 1-5, 2006 with keynote speaker Peter Legge. There will also be ten excellent pre-conference seminars, a series of concurrent sessions, a closing keynote speaker, awards luncheon, a golf tournament, and great local hospitality. This conference promises to be a great success. The CGSA Board is excited about forging closer ties with the OGSA as they both continue with their joint management venture of the Ontario show at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel January 2006, as well as the Sheraton Centre, Toronto in 2007.

What better time than now, in the history of our profession, to belong to both your provincial and national Associations. Thank you for your support and encouragement over the past season!

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

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# CGSA Education Update

by Kathryn Wood  
Director of Professional Development

As many of you are aware, the members of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) approved a continuing education proposal for the membership at their Annual General Meeting in January 2005. This program will see the launching of the Accredited Golf Superintendent designation and a revamped Master Superintendent designation to take effect July 1, 2006.

The program was designed to keep the program: attainable, NOS integrated, accessible, affordable, deliverable, inclusive, and professionally challenging. It was also important that recipients of the designations would receive respect and recognition for their accomplishment. The approved program can be found on the CGSA website [www.golfsupers.com](http://www.golfsupers.com).

As the approved proposal lays out the main aspects of both the programs, it's now up to the CGSA Accreditation Committee to hammer out the fine details. The committee will be meeting several times over the course of the late fall and early winter to approve items including: assignment of point/credit values to various activities related to eligibility for and renewal of accreditation; the guideline for review of

education programs; guidelines for grandfathering; and policies for extensions, disputes or appeals.

The questions for both the Accredited Golf Superintendent and Master Superintendent exams will be developed through an agreement with a group of Canadian turfgrass educators, representing educational institutions across Canada. The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology will act as project manager for the initiative. The committee will also be charged with reviewing all questions to ensure that they are appropriate for the level and area of knowledge for both designations.

As you can see, by the number of items to be finalized and approved, the committee will be busy over the next two months!

I would encourage you to visit the CGSA website often as the details, once approved will be posted there. CGSA will also be releasing these details to the membership through it's *Greenmatter* updates and through articles such as this in regional magazines and newsletters. If you have any questions regarding the new programs, please contact Kathryn Wood at 1-800-387-1056, ext 225 or [kwood@golfsupers.com](mailto:kwood@golfsupers.com).



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# Health & safety



## Certification Training

Most of those reading this article have at least some knowledge of the requirements for Certification Training. But just in case, there may be some who are not fully aware, it is probably a good idea to review the requirements in the Province of Ontario.

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

I noted in previous articles that any organization that regularly employs 20 or more persons must have a Joint Health and Safety Committee and at least two certified members.

When the Act states 20 or more regularly employed, it means full or part time. It also means that you calculate this based on the number of people employed by the club. The Ministry of Labour looks at the total number of people on payroll and generally includes those persons who may be employed on a contractual basis, such as happens in some organizations, where the proshop or the kitchen is contracted out to a group that supplies services for the club. These folks are included, not excluded from the head count.

So if your club employs twelve (12) to maintain the greens, fairways and equipment and say nine (9) to run the kitchen, proshop and clubhouse, your club would be required to have a Joint Health and Safety Committee with two certified members.

The process of certification is completed in two parts. The first part entails taking a course called Certification I. This course is generally about three days long and covers various aspects of Occupational Health and Safety such as understanding the Act, workplace inspection, accident investigation, recognition of hazards and understanding the role and function of the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Once you have successfully completed this training you are provided with a temporary Certification Certificate.

To get your permanent certification documents you must complete the workplace specific portion of the certification training known as Certification II. To accomplish this part of the process the Joint Health and Safety Committee along with the management of the club must jointly determine the significant hazards inherent in the workplace. This is accomplished through a process known as "Hazard Assessment".

Once the significant hazards have been identified, and agreed to by the Joint Health and Safety Committee and management, then each person who has received their Certification I documentation must now complete training on each of the identified significant hazards. This generally means that each certified member will have to attend a course on each of the identified significant hazards. This generally takes about two days.

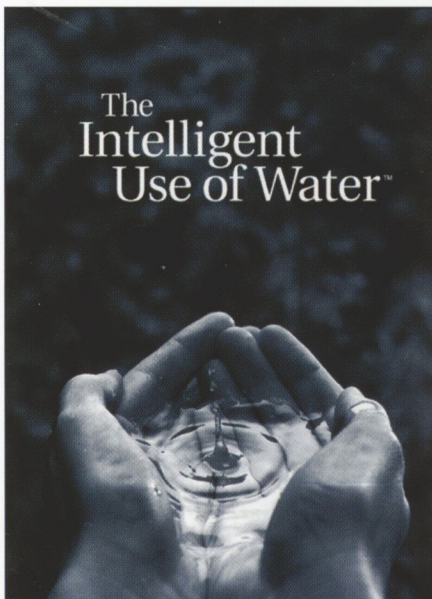
Once the training is completed on the significant hazards then the required documentation is sent in to the Workplace Safety & Insurance Board (WSIB). The submitted documents are reviewed and the WSIB issues your permanent Certification Card.

I trust this helps you understand the process. If you have not completed your certification or you have questions feel free to give me a call and I will do my best to answer your questions.

*Have a very excellent Christmas and  
all the best in the New Year!*

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# OGSA Year Ender ... Crossword Questions

## Across

3. This super hosted the 2005 Pro Super
6. Audubon star super from Guelph
10. Beaverbrook Owner Super
11. CGSA Super of the Year
12. This Chris looks after a course in the "Midnorth"
13. If we clicked our heels, we would find this wizard in the OGSA office
14. There is a consequence to everything he writes
15. 2005 McClumpha locale
16. He gets "Randy" about Dundas
24. Black Bear Super
26. OMAF Turf Guru
27. Turf Care Overlord
28. Federal regulator of pesticides
31. "The man who lost himself"
33. London Supers Assoc.
34. Mother Nature took a personal dislike to this Toronto super in 2005
35. Drew of The Ridge
37. This Clublink Super ought not to be confused with a former Habs coach
41. \_\_\_\_\_ of potash
42. Measurement for controlled release nitrogen
43. Verti-\_\_\_\_\_
44. New locale for the 2006 conference
45. Architect at Eagles Nest
46. Milorganite or Sustane
47. He leaves his Mark at Blue Springs
48. The site of Arnold Palmer's first PGA win
49. "Off the fairway" columnist

## Down

1. He's the new guy at Lambton
2. Ontario based enviromental consulting firm
3. Brewster's right hand man
4. Sunningdale relies heavily on this guy
5. Member Goodmans new project in Gravenhurst
7. DMI Fungicides
8. New honorary OGSA member from the Star
9. Almack and Smith Profession
17. He tends to the Rock
18. New Cutten super
19. They make Aspirin too
20. LeCour's new project
21. This "Lyon" loves his turf
22. Incoming OGSA President
23. Retired GTI Superintendent
25. Sand and Mixes Company
29. If we "Pointed West" we would find him there
30. New Old Bentgrass
32. Great Blue or Bigwin
36. Crown \_\_\_\_\_
38. TDI International Prez
39. The Thornhill pear?
40. Graham Bell or Jeff

### REMINDER

Ontario Golf Course  
Management Conference  
and Trade Show.

The registration form can  
be down loaded from the  
home page of our web site:  
[www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca)



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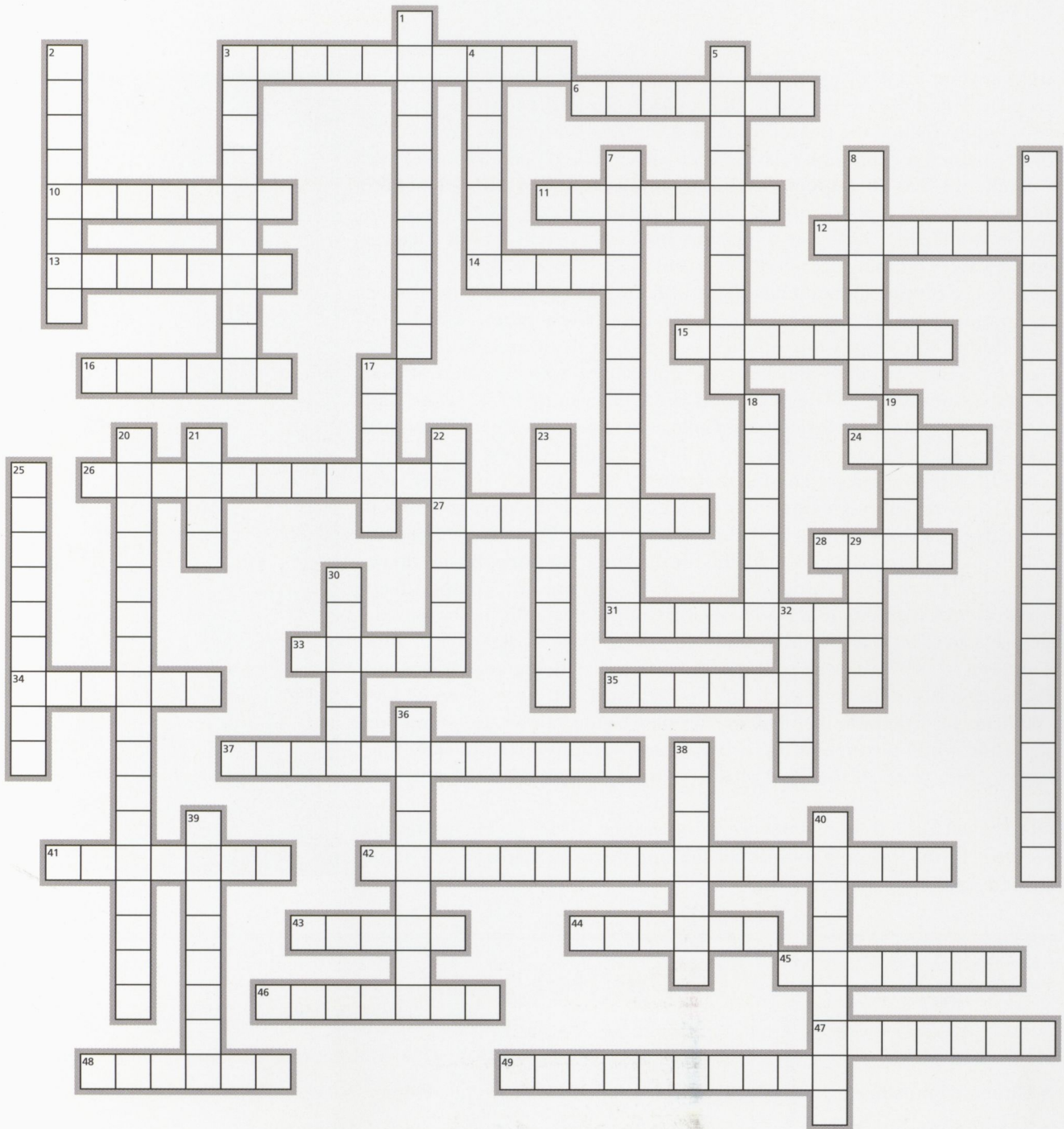
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# OGSA Year Ender ... Crossword Puzzle



Answers on page 23...

# Member profile

## Interview with David Stevens,

*Superintendent, Beaverbrook Golf Course*

*by John Bladon, Editor*

Would anyone think of opening a golf course during a down turn in the economy never mind during the Great Depression? Set in the town of Minden, the Stevens family opened the Beaverbrook Golf Club for business on July 1, 1939 and it has remained a community fixture ever since. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of the Stevens family; 14 year OGSA member David Stevens, wife Sonia and daughter Stefanie, currently own and operate this little 9 hole gem set on the banks of the Gull River in the Haliburtons. For the history books, Dave tells me the take on opening day was a whopping \$3.50!

Originally, the property was a mixed farm with hay, oats and chickens, owned by Dave's grandparents, Harry and Margaret Stevens. Dave's father, came home to Minden during the Depression, and it was then that Andy and Ada Stevens, Dave's parents first envisioned and built the golf course with the help of Len White, a golf professional. They operated the course until 1971. Dave had graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph a few years prior, in 1966, and after working in the family business for a while, approached his father about purchasing the course. "It's a lot of hard work" was dad's initial response although a deal was soon made to see the next generation of Stevens run Beaverbrook from 1971 through to today. Dave and wife Sonia met and were married in 1982 and a passion for the game runs deeply with them. Neatly displayed about Beaverbrook's quaint clubhouse are autographed flags and other souvenirs from Augusta National Golf Club. The family has now made the pilgrimage to The Masters three times following Dave's original trip with Gord Witteveen in 1997, the year of Tiger's first victory. "Being at Augusta and watching Tiger was an absolute thrill and something I will never forget," says Dave. With his keen knowledge of Beaverbrook's history, Dave also shows me some black and white pictures of the original farm without a tree in sight and speaks quietly with pride of the 5000 plus trees he has planted on the property over the years.

Finally, I asked Dave if he had any words of wisdom to share. He quotes his mother saying "If you are going to work for nothing then you might as well sit for nothing...it doesn't cost you any more"



## "In the Hot Seat"

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Favourite Major?                            | The Masters (was there any doubt?)  |
| • Ultimate Foursome...you and what three?     | Palmer, Nicklaus, Weir              |
| • Favourite Architect?                        | Stanley Thompson                    |
| • Favourite piece of turf equipment?          | Toro Triplex Greensmower            |
| • Favourite Meal?                             | Steak and Potatoes                  |
| • What's in the CD player right now?          | Country and Western                 |
| • Rate your home lawn on a scale of 1-10.     | 8 (it's the golf course after all!) |
| • What would be a turning point in your life? | Marrying my wife, Sonia.            |

# Golf course highlight

## Hunters Pointe Golf Club

289 Daimler Parkway,  
Welland, ON L3B 6H2  
Phone: (905) 714-4552  
Fax: (905) 714-4633

Email: johntaylor@hunterspointe.ca  
Website: www.hpgolf.ca

Golf Course Superintendent: John Taylor



photo courtesy of Hunters Pointe

### COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?  
Region of Niagara

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?  
Semi-Private with 250 members

Typical number of rounds  
30,000 rounds per year

Typical opening and closing date  
April 1 to November 30

How long have you been a superintendent?  
23 years

List other accomplishments  
OGSA Board 1988-96  
OGSA President 1995  
WOGSA Board 1996-2001  
WOGSA President 2002-present

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

How many staff?  
2 year round, 13 seasonal staff

How many assistants and mechanics?  
2 Assistants: Kam Anderson & Brad Malton  
1 Mechanic: Darrin Beach

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?  
18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?  
6,884 yards from the back tees and  
5,332 yards from the front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?  
220 yards, irons only, and 18,000 sq. ft.

How many bunkers?  
104 Ohio 535

How many times does water come into play?  
7 ponds come into play 10 times

Who was the original architect?  
Graham Cooke

What was the year of original construction?  
1999

What major tournaments have been held there?  
2003 Ontario Junior  
2003-05 Great Lakes Tour  
2001-05 Toronto Star Amateur Qualifier

What is the size of your maintenance shop?  
3,500 sq. ft.

What type of irrigation system?  
Rain Bird

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?  
3 acres of greens  
3 acres of tees  
35 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?  
Poa/Bent, Providence Bent on greens,  
Dominant on tees and fairways, bluegrass  
Roughs, Fescue secondary roughs

How many USGA and loam greens?  
20 modified USGA

What is the predominant soil type?  
Sand greens and tees, clay elsewhere

What equipment do you have in inventory?  
4 - Jacobsen TC 22 walk greens mowers  
2 - Jacobsen PGM walk mowers  
2 - Jacobsen LF 3400 fairway units  
2 - Jacobsen AR - 5 rough units  
2 - Jacobsen GK - 6 triplex units  
2 - Smithco trap rakes with push blades  
2 - Cushman 4 wheel turf trucksters  
1 - Kubota 4310 4 wheel drive tractor  
1 - Case 40 XT skid steer loader  
5 - Club Car carryall II carts  
1 - Club Car 4 passenger cart  
1 - Smithco 220 gallon sprayer  
1 - 300 gallon PTO sprayer  
1 - 25 gallon sprayer  
2 - Ryan GA 24 aerators  
1 - Cushman core harvester  
1 - 4 yard dump trailer  
1 - Aerway  
1 - Turfco 1530 topdresser

1 - set greens rollers  
1 - set verticut heads  
1 - Ditch Witch trencher  
1 - Vicon spreader  
1 - 100 gallon hydroseeder  
1 - PTO Aeravator  
1 - Spreader/grader cart path blade

### COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?  
Perimeter irrigation heads installed in 2004, paddle tennis courts built in 2005, clubhouse built in 2001, 5 championship tees added in 2005.

### LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?  
Adding to the irrigation and drainage systems, cart path curbing and paving, maintenance building expansion, bunker rebuilding

### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?  
High flashed bunkers means lots of washouts in any heavy rain event, property built on material that was excavated in the construction of the Welland Canal - very rocky and heavy clay.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?  
Growing grass on this property when it gets dry

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

We only use an Aerway on our fairways and rough as we don't want to bring up any clay.

# Eagles Nest: Aesthetics And Innovation

article by Mark McIvor, Assistant Superintendent

photos by Dorothy Hills

A ski hill, a Jeep college, an old gravel pit, and a marshy bog is all that Eagles Nest Golf Course was. Now Eagles Nest is an aesthetic golfing marvel that reaches just beyond 7400 yards in length; which is also rated amongst the best in Ontario. We were the host of the 2005 OTRF and most comments were positive which, from your peers, is all that you are searching for.

Eagles Nest was transformed with an elaborate construction process. This included moving in 1.3 million cubic metres of earth, excavating a 9 acre pond and creating an earth dam. Manufacturing an earth dam was an integral part of the process because it not only made a great fairway; it refurbished a wetland that was all but destroyed.



Proper surface drainage not only helps the water movement on the course, but the rolling terrain enhances the links style look as well. The intricate piping for all of the sub surface drainage was also a great feat because of the sheer volume of water that can be created by the surface drainage and the enormity of the dunes that surround each hole. The irrigation system was another task that had to be precise so that the right distribution and coverage is received. There are well over 1200 sprinkler heads on the golf course and this is not including all of the turf valves that are spread out for syringing in the hot southern Ontario summers, which we experienced this season.



The technology and innovation does not stop there, the grass varieties at Eagles Nest are also quite unique. Velvet bentgrass greens have given a great putting surface with higher heights of cut; they have also shown great resistance to a lot of different stresses, such as disease pressure. The colour of the grass has proven to be distinct and appealing as well. The fairways are a mixture of creeping red fescue, chewings fescue, and colonial bentgrass. They have since been over seeded with velvet, as the benefits of the velvet really started to show. The tees have the same mixture as the fairways with the exception of substituting velvet bentgrass for colonial bentgrass. The rough is almost purely a fescue blend with a small amount of Kentucky bluegrass mixed in for increased traffic areas.

The fertility program at Eagles Nest is an elaborate one; it was put in place to create the playing conditions that the public can enjoy, for beauty and for conditioning. The majority of the products used are natural in composition with the most impressive being our soy based products. The soy based products give us a great micronutrient package and they also help keep thatch in check with all of the microbial activity. The soy products require a certain soil temperature so they are usually only used from late spring to early fall; other products are then used to get us through the remaining periods of time.





Being a links style golf course Eagles Nest offers a true test of all your abilities. This begins with navigating your way through over one hundred difficult sod wall bunkers; some of which extend over your head. They can really turn a golf score from good to bad in a short period of time. These bunkers were created with extensive labour and attention to detail. Along with the sod wall bunkers there are also more traditional links style bunkers which have been given little islands scattered throughout. These bunkers also add a lot to the golf course and can give you some treacherous lies bringing a whole new meaning to playing safe.

Gorgeous views encapsulate the golf course at every turn. Elevation changes and the massive dunes give the course incredible dimension and provides risk and reward situations to negotiate. The elevations on holes three and twelve are the most drastic and give you a tremendous look at more than the hole in front of you. The eighth hole also has a significant elevation drop but that is probably not the first thing you will notice when you stand on the tee. It is named "Blink Bonnie" (beautiful view) for its spectacular view of the City of Toronto. I would not let it distract you though because it is a tricky little par 3 that can be more



trouble than first bargained for. Eighteen is a wonderful finishing hole and puts an exclamation point on the end of every round. With its intimidating pond for the tee shot and the large and luxurious clubhouse tucked behind the green for your approach, it makes the end the day just as amazing as the start.



Along with all of the technology and innovation at Eagles Nest there are the people that make it possible; these are the 25 employees on the turf staff. It is their dedication and hard work that make everything possible out on the course and around the clubhouse. Brent Rogers and Michael Rossi deserve credit though for taking this team and making it run effectively and efficiently.

Seeing Eagles Nest develop from the beginning of construction until now has definitely been an exciting experience. Being able to play the course has also given me a new found satisfaction for what I have done for the past four years. When you decide to come and visit us at Eagles Nest I will give you two tips; 1. Bring a camera, and 2. Bring your "A" game.



# Superintendent Recognition Program

The Superintendent Recognition Program was initiated three years ago to recognize superintendents who host significant provincial tournaments at their respective courses. During the awards ceremonies an OGSA director presents the superintendent with a plaque, recognizing their work and dedication in preparing for and managing successful tournaments.

This program has been very well

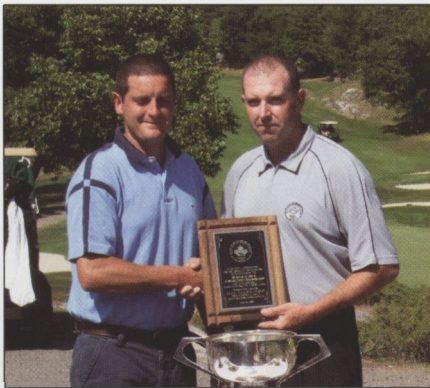
received by both competitors and the Golf Association of Ontario, and is crucial to promoting the profession of the golf course superintendent and their professionalism within the golf industry.

If any member has any input they would like to contribute toward the continued success of this program, please speak to any OGSA Director.

*Photos left to right.*



*Paul Dermott receives plaque from Randy Booker*



*Chris Hudswell presents plaque to Jeff Alexander*



*Chris Anderson receives plaque from Trevor Clapperton*



*Ryan Beauchamp Host Supt. for the ON Jr. Juvenile Boys Championship*



*Bob Burrows presents plaque to Sean Gunn*



*Lamont Anderson presents plaque to Dan McCaffrey*



*Gary Wilcox receives plaque from Ryan Beauchamp*

The following superintendents were plaque recipients in 2005

## Tournament

Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur Championship

Ontario Women's Amateur Championship

Ontario Men's Amateur Championship

Ontario Junior & Juvenile Girls' Championship

Ontario Senior Women's Amateur Championship

Ontario Junior & Juvenile Boys' Championship

Ontario Senior Men's Amateur Championship

Ontario Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

## Superintendent

Sean Gunn

Paul Dermott

Gary Wilcox

Jeff Alexander

Phillip G. Brown

Ryan Beauchamp

Dan McCaffrey

Christopher Anderson

## Host Club

Toronto Board of Trade Country Club, Woodbridge

York Downs Golf & Country Club, Unionville

Redtail Golf Course, Port Stanley

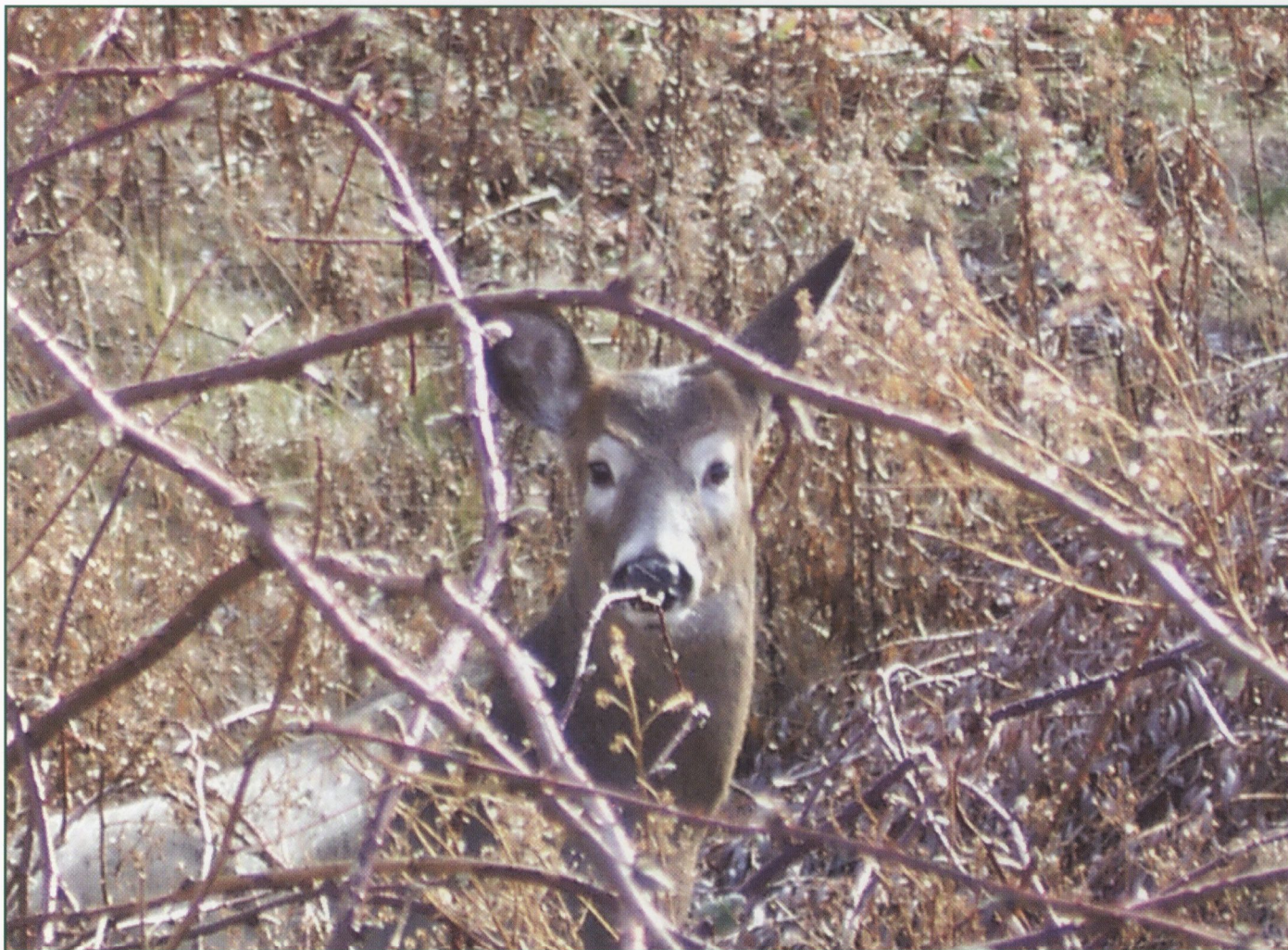
Parry Sound Golf & Country Club, Parry Sound

Summit Golf & Country Club, Stouffville

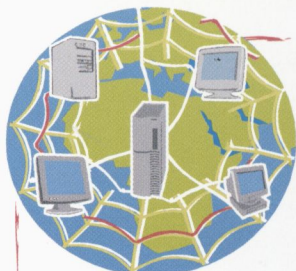
St. Thomas Golf & Country Club, St. Thomas

Sutton Creek Golf Club, Essex

Bay of Quinte Golf & Country Club, Belleville



*Wild and Wonderful ... photo by Jeff Alexander, Superintendent, Parry Sound Golf & Country Club*



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# Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Update

by Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent  
Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

The Chapter Delegates meeting for 2005 was conducted at the Kansas City Marriott, September 30 – October 1. The topics for discussion and a brief summary for each are listed below:

## Long Term Dues Strategy

A process is being developed to program dues increases to address the financial needs of the association and recognize the impact to the membership. History has shown that big increases have slowed and even reversed membership growth. When this happens, there is the obvious impact to the association revenues but the bigger concern is of the individual missing out on education, information and other membership benefits. The proposed plan calls for increases based on CPI every two years rounded to the nearest five dollars. Anything higher than the index increase would require membership approval. Communications and discussions with members will commence this year in order to amend the bylaws during the AGM 2007 to take effect January 2008.

## Marketing Class A and Certified Members

With the first renewal date for PDI coming in June 2006, the GCSAA have been trying to position the member who achieves/retains their Class A status by promoting what it means to have the designation to the profession and the facility employing the superintendent. The PDI was passed with a 3-1 margin a number of years ago and the first set of grandfathered Class A's are due to meet their renewal in June of 2006. An information packet is available from the GCSAA, for use by superintendents to help them obtain support from their employers, titled "Professional Development: Building on Success". This will explain your continuing education and professional development needs to your employer as the implementation of the new criteria to enter Class A membership approaches.

GCSAA is committed to giving the PDI the support it needs to be successful. They are beginning to differentiate the classifications and encourage Superintendent Members to advance towards Class A.

## Board Travel and Expense Policies

Questions about expense policies were raised at previous delegates meetings and this report was in response to the

many queries. In summary, in order to attract the best leaders within the industry to serve on the board, the policy is set to ensure no expense related to GCSAA service is being covered by anyone but the GCSAA. This includes expenses related to travel, hotel, meals, etc as well as clothing allowance, golf apparel, and travel accessories. These are all within a policy defined by the GCSAA and audited annually by both the CFO and external auditors.

## Environmental Programs Update

The Environmental Programs Committee and the associated task groups along with The Institute Board of Trustees have recommended the development of an environmental communications effort. This is to raise awareness of environmental issues facing golf within a web-based information tool: [www.EIFG.org](http://www.EIFG.org). Case studies are being sought featuring practical environmental solutions. Prioritized topics for case studies are: water, ipm, construction, wildlife, and energy.

## Projected Financials for 2005

Operating Revenues	=	\$17,958,000
Operating Expenses	=	\$17,848,000
Net Operating Income	=	\$110,000
Investment Income	=	\$250,000
Total Net Income	=	\$360,000

## GCSAA Elections

Candidates were introduced and met with to discuss their running for the 2006 GCSAA Board of Directors and they are as follows:

- Sean A Hoolehan; Office of President
- Ricky D Heine; Office of Vice President
- David S Downing; Secretary/Treasurer
- Mark D Kuhns; Secretary/Treasurer
- Greg A Blew; Director
- Gary K Carls; Director
- Patrick R Finlen; Director
- John C Miller; Director
- Sanford G Queen; Director

Please forward your comments regarding these candidates and the OGSA vote to Jeff Stauffer [jstauffer@creditvalleygolf.com](mailto:jstauffer@creditvalleygolf.com) prior the 2006 Golf Industry Show.

# New Sod Harvesting Technology Benefits Ontario Green Industry

by John Bladon, Editor

Competitive edge. It remains the ever-elusive quest in any business today. For sod growers Ron and Steve Schiedel of The Greenhorizons Group of Farms, when the customer says "Jump!" they have always asked "How high?" Recently, with the addition of some incredible new technology, they are poised to jump two feet higher on behalf of their customer.



Steve and Ron Schiedel

The Schiedel farming history in Ontario can be traced back more than 200 years, when the ancestors of Greenhorizons founder Richard Schiedel purchased large tracts of land along the banks of the Speed and Grand Rivers. The family's success in both dairy and grain farming continued into the 1980's, when the transition to farming Kentucky bluegrass sod had already begun and the green industry was to be changed forever. Compact Sod was born in 1975 and became the first production facility under what is now known as The Greenhorizons Group of Farms. Since its inception in 1989, Greenhorizons has expanded to include Hamilton Sod, Niagara Sod, Halton Sod, Ontario Sod and Compact Sod as divisions of the company and is growing and harvesting grass on 4000+ acres.

Back in the early days, sod was hand loaded and unloaded...one roll at a time. The process was arduous and labour intensive and because of that, there were limitations when it came to the harvest and therefore limitations on what could be done to satisfy the supply chain and the customer. Since those early days and continually over the past 40 years, the key to Greenhorizons' success as the #1 grower in the province has always been an embedded willingness to embrace the future.

"Ron is enthusiastic and an innovator. I believe the key to his success is in his ability to strike that fine balance...to remain acutely aware of what has worked in the past and use that as a springboard to foresee change and embrace advancements. He has always been a leader, on the cusp and never willing to stand pat. The Schiedels simply have not allowed current successes to limit their future" Rob Witherspoon, Executive Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

The Trebo AutoStack and Greenhorizon's sod blends are the future. Their blends contain the most elite Kentucky bluegrass varieties available today. Dark, dense

and dwarf variety turfgrass ensure the customer receives product at the top of its class. The AutoStack has changed the way sod is harvested and in turn the product the customer receives. Greenhorizons are the first in Canada to purchase multiple units and they were so impressed, they bought 4 of them. At approximately \$350,000 per unit this was no small decision. The key to this new technology is in its ability to harvest more than double the square feet per hour, thereby lessening the influences of weather and labour. This translates into a more consistent product that is fresher, more readily available and that takes less time to lay.

"Our customers were always complimentary when it came to the cultivars we were growing and our dedication to service. With their feedback, we really felt the one thing that was missing was more consistency from roll to roll and palette to palette. With this new technology, every roll will be just that in terms of size, thickness, seams and freshness." Ron Schiedel, President, Greenhorizons Group of Farms

The quality produced by this new harvester is unmatched and it has features that separate it from its predecessors. Firstly, it has eliminated the hours associated with manually stacking palettes. The Trebo AutoStack has 88 spears automatically picking up 10 rolls at a time! Secondly, traditional harvesters had a side mounted sod cutting unit. The Trebo units have mid mounted cutting units with a roller out front. With these adjustments, field imperfections are now rolled out in advance of the cutting unit. These center mount cutting units, coupled with automatic steering, also eliminate the tracking problems associated with former harvesters and ensure every roll is exactly two feet wide. The result? A 5'x 2' roll that is of consistent size and thickness with 25% less seams. No scalps, cones or parallelograms. Finally, with a two-foot wide roll you might think that weight would be a problem but this cutting technology is so precise, it actually decreases the weight of a roll.

Competitive edge. A quantum leap ahead. Never willing to stand pat and committed to the "service first" ethic, Greenhorizons are poised to show you the "Two-foot" advantage.



Showing off their toys at the trade show

# REGISTRATION FORM - ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

MEMBERSHIP:  OGSA Member  Non-member

TITLE  
 SUPERINTENDENT  ASSISTANT  OWNER/GEN.MGR.  TECHNICIAN  
 STUDENT  INDUSTRY ASSOCIATE  OTHER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROV. \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

GOLF CLUB/BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT**

Please register 1 person per form  
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Seminar - Developing a Turf Management Program	<input type="radio"/> 50	<input type="radio"/> 150

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	MEMBER RATE UNTIL NOV. 15	MEMBER RATE AFTER NOV. 15	NON-MEMBER RATE UNTIL NOV. 15	NON-MEMBER RATE AFTER NOV. 15
All-Inclusive, 2 Day Includes education program, keynote speaker, trade show, Awards Luncheon, President's Reception, trade show lunch, trade show social hour, refreshment breaks.	<input type="radio"/> 275	<input type="radio"/> 310	<input type="radio"/> 310	<input type="radio"/> 350
Education Per Day: <input type="radio"/> Thursday or <input type="radio"/> Friday Includes education program, keynote (Thursday), trade show, lunch, trade show social hour, presidents reception (Thursday), refreshment breaks.	<input type="radio"/> 195	<input type="radio"/> 220	<input type="radio"/> 225	<input type="radio"/> 245
Mechanics Program Special education program, trade show, lunch, refreshment breaks.	<input type="radio"/> 120		<input type="radio"/> 120	
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Class AA - Retired Members Only - Same as All-Inclusive	<input type="radio"/> 100			
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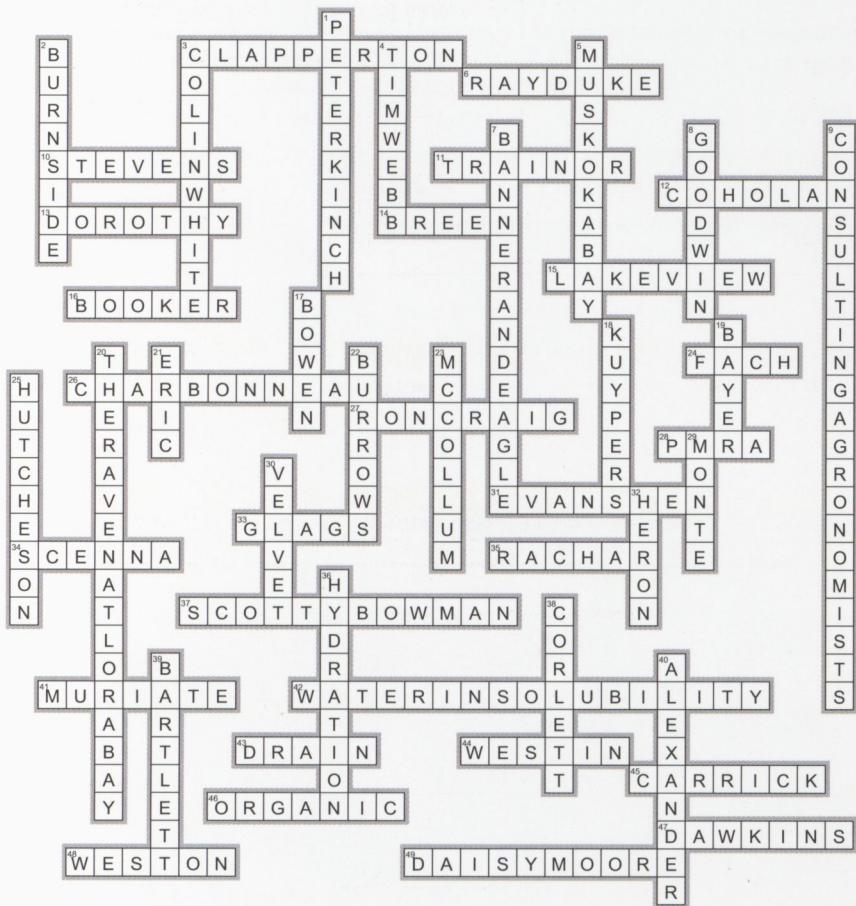
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## Answers



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# Lending a hand

by R. David Dickinson, Superintendent  
Stonebridge Golf & Country Club

On Saturday October 8, 2005 the staff in the turf maintenance department at Stonebridge Golf & Country Club, in Ottawa, hosted a Fall Fun Day. The purpose of this event was to:

- Raise money for hurricane relief.
- Satisfy the certification requirements in the outreach and education portion of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program For Golf Courses.
- Educate residents within the community about golf course maintenance practices and procedures.
- Promote environmental awareness and responsibility.

Over 180 resident's within the Stonebridge community attended the Fall Fun Day which included hay wagon rides, a hole-in-one challenge, a silent auction, kid's bird house construction, turf centre tours, equipment demonstrations, Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, door prize draws, free pumpkins, hotdogs and soft drinks.





# On the REEL side of things



by Mike Slack  
Slack Reel Service

## To change or not to change

**B**earings that is! This question is asked of us on a regular basis. Numerous mechanics have opened the subject up for debate and my answer has always remained the same. Changing out all your reel and roller bearings depends greatly on the operation.

Without question, it is a costly proposal to purchase bearings and labour intensive to change them out. When we consider changing out seals as well, "because we are already in there", the cost rises even further.

Let us consider some basics. If we follow our equipment manufacturer specifications for bearing adjustment and regularly grease our bearings, their lifespan will certainly be maximized. Arguably, this falls into the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" category of logic. The danger comes if you happen to be an operation that believes bearings lubricate themselves on grass juice, willow leaves and pine cones. Clearly, you may be asking for trouble.

There are people in the field who say "We have no time to be changing bearings in the summer so we change them all in the winter." This is an excellent practice as reels are usually sharpened during winter months and so from an efficiency standpoint this makes good sense. If an operation can manage the supply and labour costs by annually replacing bearings then by all means do so. It will minimize issues and precious down time during the growing season. However, annual replacement is not a requirement. Consider that any reel or roller with "end play" up or down, clearly ought to be replaced. In doing so, inspect the bearing closely for wear

patterns in the cone or play in the roller cage. As a rule of thumb, any reel or roller that has been notorious for problems during the season ought to be scheduled for bearing replacement in the off-season.

Clearly, the best way to alleviate bearing replacement is to be proactive. Look after them and they will look after you. Regular greasings, properly timed adjustments and purchasing good quality replacements will, in combination, minimize our aggravation with bearings. Hopefully you take something from this and consider...if you are long on willow leaves and short on grease guns it just may be a winter for "change."

**Mike will be happy to answer any of your questions, on a regular weekly basis, through the OGSA web site forum, "Turf Talk". To post a question or comment go to the Members Only Section of [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) click on "Turf Talk" and start a new thread or click on an existing thread. If you have any problems using "Turf Talk" call the OGSA office at 877-824-6472 or 519-767-3341 and we will assist you.**



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# Pruning Considerations For Trees And Shrubs

by Michael J. Bladon, NPD

The pruning of trees, shrubs and evergreens is a large and diverse subject and this article will embrace a broad approach to the maintenance of trees on the golf course and within the golf course landscape. Shade trees and shrubs have many functions. They provide fruits, nuts, seeds, foliage and insects as food for native wildlife. They provide protection from the sun as well as regulating temperatures. They help prevent erosion, and in the growth process, give off oxygen and absorb CO<sub>2</sub> thereby removing impurities from the air. Very few are native to North America; most come from China, Japan, Korea and Europe. Finally, trees strategically placed on the course not only enhance that particular landscape but also add a degree of strategy to certain holes.

Pruning is an operation which regulates and controls growth, flowering and fruiting and determines the form of a tree or shrub. Within the golf course landscape, trees and shrubs are forced to grow under a variety of different conditions. Corrective pruning may be necessary in some of these situations. Pruning helps to remove unsightly dead wood and prevents the harbouring of disease and insects. When trees or shrubs are grown for their flowering displays pruning is an integral part of their cultivation. When this care is not taken, growth may be weak and flowers small. It is important that the pruner know what to do. He or she must have a good knowledge of plant growth and the flowering habits of the subject. Skill, good common sense, some care, and an enjoyment of plants all are attributes of the consummate professional.

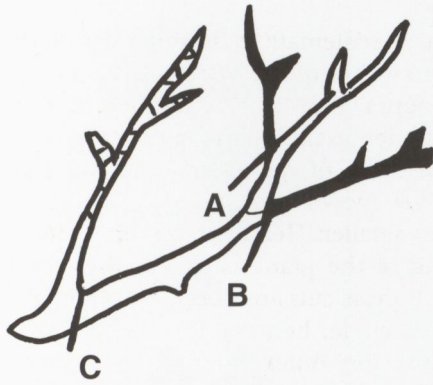
Why do we prune? It is integral to maintain or reduce the size of a tree or shrub. This keeps landscape plants within reasonable bounds and limits the need to rejuvenate large overgrown specimens. Many trees and shrubs should be thinned as weak, overcrowded branches develop over time. This can be particularly important to golf course turf when it comes to adequate light infiltration. By removing dead and diseased branches, we also aid the plant in maintaining its shape, vigour and general health. Certain shrubs, when overgrown, may be restored and younger growth may be facilitated when using proper rejuvenation steps. *Syringa* (Lilac), *Ligustrum* (Privet) and *Forsythia* are examples of some of these species. We prune to stimulate future flower and fruit development and in these situations, all old and faded flowers and fruit clusters must be removed. New transplants often require light pruning to enhance establishment and ensure survival. One can also prevent potential damage and reduce liability by pruning limbs which are hazardous to buildings, power lines, nearby plants, golfers, golf carts and turf maintenance equipment. Pruning can also be a mechanism to shape plants out of their natural form and into hedges or more formal displays.

When a wound develops on a tree or shrub, from pruning or otherwise, healing begins immediately. This is due to a

response by the meristematic cells which start to divide very quickly more so within the growing season. The cells form a substance better known as cambium and are in a continuous cylinder just below the bark. As they divide they manufacture a circle of raised material and this healing growth, or callus, moves over the bare part of the wound which becomes smaller. Healing takes time and has to do with the health of the plant as well as the quality of the pruning cuts. If these cuts are sloppy, cambium may not be in an unbroken circle, hence a longer healing time. As healing persists, the outer layer of cambium forms a protective cork or tissue layer. This change is brought about by the accumulation of a fatty substance called suberin on the walls of these particular cells. The healing tissue will remain obvious throughout the life of the tree or shrub.

Timing is critical when it comes to pruning operations. The bulk of the tree species found in Ontario may be pruned safely during any time of the year. However, there are exceptions to every rule. *Acer* (Maple), *Cladrastis* (Yellowwood), *Betula* (Birch) and *Juglans* (Walnut) will bleed profusely from wounds made in February or March. Although other maintenance activities on the golf course may take precedence, these species ought to be pruned when leaves are present and wounds can rapidly callus and close during the growing season. It must be said that one can also better judge the weakened branches from the healthy ones during this time as well. Trees or shrubs that flower before the end of June should be cut back after flowering as the flower buds develop on the past season's growth. Trees or shrubs that flower after the end of June may be tackled in winter or spring prior to the start of new growth. These are often the areas close to or surrounding the clubhouse. Evergreens, both broad and narrow leaved types, may be pruned anytime the wood is not frozen. It is important to recognize that we do not want to prune beyond the living foliage on narrow leaved evergreens. The older wood of *Picea* (Spruce), *Pinus* (Pine) or *Larix* (Larch) will not produce new shoots. Finally, avoid late summer pruning, during August and September as it encourages new growth which will not sufficiently harden before winter. This will often result in winter injury.

Where do we choose to make our cuts? If deadwood is being removed the cut must be made back to sound living tissue. Good callus formation and healing will only result from healthy wood. Removal of diseased tissue requires care to ensure enough volume has been taken away. Make your cut in the area of the branch collar or close to a branch or bud. Snags or stems left behind impede or slow the healing process. Allow the tree or shrub to develop its natural shape and avoid "haircut" pruning. Weak V shaped crotches should be removed when limbs are small.



### Selecting where to cut

Figure 1: A twig showing ideal cuts (A & B). (Depending on the health of the wood it may be better to cut at C)

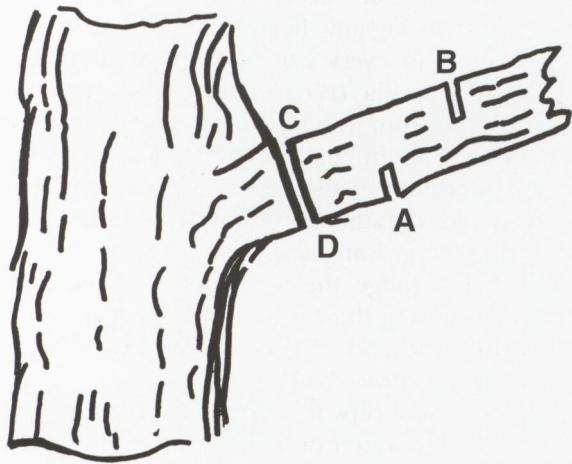


Figure 2: "Three cut method" for large limb removal

- A - 1st cut
- B - 2nd cut
- C-D - final cut at branch collar

Finally, early diagnosis is the key to reducing future management countermeasures. Trees may exhibit signs such as; sparse foliage, paler green leaves that are smaller than what is deemed normal, a general decline in vigour and die back or lack of newer growth or smaller diameter branches. Controls are in an accurate site assessment and the appropriate selection, planting, pruning, fertilizing, watering, cabling and bracing of large trees and protection from grade changes or winter injury. In the case of larger, mature specimens, the services of a qualified arborist should be sought out.

Only with sound basic practices will we be able to see the inherent beauty trees and shrubs possess and see them retain that beauty long term. A healthy and well-balanced plant is a picture to see for all seasons; spring, summer, winter and fall.

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- Harris, W. Richard; Hamilton, Douglas D; Davis, William B; Leiser, Andrew T. Pruning Landscape Trees. University of California, Agricultural Extension Service.*

*Mike Bladon, retired 9 years now, is a Niagara Parks Horticultural School graduate of 1962. He has worked for 27 years for the Grounds Department at the University of Guelph and is a founding member of the Sports Turf Association. Mike is still an active horticulturist.*

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## Above the hole

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

Looking back on the fall semester, the highlight for me has easily been the field trips to neighbouring golf clubs. The opportunity to walk a golf course with the superintendent or assistant is truly an invaluable experience. The insights they have provided into the history of these clubs, as well as maintenance practices, and personal experiences have allowed us to feel more comfortable in preparing for life in the turf industry. Moreover, it's always beneficial to see both the scale and practices of other turf operations. I think it helps to provide a greater perspective on the industry. The hosts of these tours have also helped to shape this perspective and they have been more than welcoming in doing so. It is in some ways surprising how generous they have been with their time and expertise. After all, they gain very little from the experience. I mean let's face it, walking around a golf course in drizzly, 3 degree weather with a bungling pack of scuzzy young men isn't exactly a good time. Unless of course your name is Demi Moore, then the experience may prove to be rather fruitful.

But the truth is, these individuals have selflessly donated their time to enrich our education and that is a glowing example of one of the industry's greatest strengths. There is a definite camaraderie among those in the turf field and although I have been in the industry just a short time, it is certainly evident. You see it on a daily basis with superintendents and assistants phoning up colleagues and chatting about their struggles and successes. You also see it at annual tournaments and tradeshow where individuals evaluate what worked for them and dispense the information to anyone who may find it useful. This free flow of knowledge and ideas is extremely refreshing. Especially for someone who has a background in journalism; an industry where the only thing that is shared is an irrefutable disdain for anyone above you.

As a student of turf management now, I find the field trips almost overwhelming because so much information is being offered and it takes time to process it all. In fact, there were several occasions where the host superintendent asked if the class had any questions and we all just stood there slack-jawed. Hopefully, they were not offended by this. I think it was more a case of information overload or students not wanting to sound dumb. Incidentally, they say the only stupid question is the one that isn't asked. But if there are no stupid questions, then what kind of questions do stupid people ask? Regardless, there really is an undeniable partnership in this industry. I even see it on a smaller scale in the classroom. Guys are always talking about what they do and why it works. Like the time Dave told us how he got grease out of his silk thong. Granted, that information may not be quite as pertinent. Nevertheless, I look forward to one day being able to contribute ideas to the many people who have helped me and to the many people who have yet to emerge.




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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North Properties

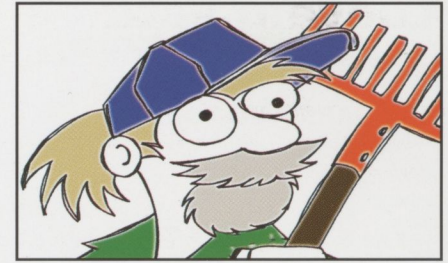
It's every Canadian Dad's dream to take his son to the rink, put on his skates, and send him out onto the ice while he sits up in the stands deluding himself into thinking that it's just a matter of time until the NHL scouts come knocking. My son Walker started playing this year. So far, no scouts.

His hockey genetics are not strong. My father wouldn't let us play organized hockey, because we had to spend our Saturdays milking cows and cleaning out calf pens. When we were done, we'd get the odd pickup game going on a frozen pond somewhere. There's a certain set of skills that are developed when playing on the free range ice that is formed by the wind, snow, and Zamboni-less-ness of a farm pond. I could stickhandle on choppy ice, avoid rocks and stumps, and even leap over giant watery cracks; but put me on smooth arena ice, and I looked like a startled pony on a linoleum floor. Anyone who played against me figured out in the first shift that I never go to my right. Can't. Never could. Public skating always goes counter clockwise. Why?

Krista's donations to his hockey DNA are even worse. She's about the size of an elf, and has the attention span of a gnat. I've seen her play. She was often reading the board advertising when the puck went into the net. Once she played half a game holding her stick backwards, because she wanted to see if it made her feel, "more balanced".

So he's not likely going to go pro, unless they change the rules enough that a five foot two, easily distracted guy who can't go right, is what the league is drafting. But what he *has* got; is better equipment than I ever had. Safety is the primary concern. Neck guards, mouth guards, cage helmets... When I was playing, the closest thing we had to safety equipment was a toque. In those days, moms worried more about head colds than concussions. When I think about some of the things we did, we must have been concussed most of the time. We jumped our bikes off of homemade ramps that we threw together with half rotted used lumber, riddled with rusty nails, and supported by stacks of bricks, cinder blocks, and rocks. We didn't even know what a bike helmet was. For inspiration, every other night Evel Knievel would jump something on TV and go to the hospital. And there were none of those disclaimers on the bottom of the screen warning us not to try it at home. So we did.

Now they put disclaimers on everything. My personal favorite is the Barbie ads during Saturday morning cartoons, where the bottom of the screen says, "doll cannot move independently". If you're stunned enough to think that a plastic doll can really ride a plastic horse around the house, you likely can't read anyway. And if it can, then you've got yourself a "Chuckie" possession thing going on there, which is an altogether more serious problem. My 'Hot Apple Pie' has contents "that may be hot". There is a gorge near my house that has signs on it that



say, "Falling into the gorge may cause serious injury".

All this is aimed at reducing liability. The result is that we protect stupid people. Charles Darwin would be quick to point out that we really don't want some of these people swimming in the gene pool. I have a cousin who has said for years that he's going to start a political movement called the "Natural Selection Party". They would eliminate guard rails, lines on roads, disclaimers, and any sign that warns you not to do something that only a complete idiot would do. I'd vote for that.

I've estimated that 35% of our course equipment down time is as a direct result of malfunctioning safety switches. It's only a matter of time until golfers are forced to start wearing equipment to protect them from errant golf balls. Eventually, someone will successfully sue a club because he took a Titleist in the chompers, and then our insurance companies will force us to put golfers in hockey equipment because statistics indicate that more people die on golf courses than in arenas. Insurance companies love statistics. Statistics tell us that 95% of people die while lying down, so the logical conclusion to the insurance industry is that if we could find a way to always be standing we'd never die.

I've resigned myself to the idea that eventually we'll all be wearing helmets day and night, winding ourselves in 3 inches of bubble wrap, every corner will be round, all hard surfaces will be padded, and we'll be living in a soft, fluffy, marshmallow world. Personally, I'd miss my chainsaw scar.



TURFTOONS

By Doug Breen

# Looking back

## 10 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott, Project Manager  
Gordon Wendover Construction

The Board of Directors of the OGSA in 1995 were: **John Taylor**, (pres.), Twenty Valley, **Alex La Belle**, (vice pres. & newsletter editor), Merryhill, **Bruce Burger** (past pres.), Lakeview, **Simon George** (tres.), Oakville, **Ian Bowen**, Oshawa, **Bob Heron**, Beacon Hall, **Paul Dodson**, Lionhead, **Doug Suter**, Credit Valley, **Paul White**, Mississauga, **Ken Nelson**, **Jerry Richard**, Craigowan and **Keith Bartlett**, Thornhill. **Cindi Charters** was the office secretary.

New Members: **Terry Magee** (F), Mississauga, **Richard Leadbeater** (S), Parkview, **Tracy Fowler** (F), Hamilton, **Paul Brown** (F), Islington, **Greg McLinton** (B), Carleton, **Kevin Inglehart** (S), Univ. of Guelph, **Ken Johnson** (B), Indian Hills, **Terry Gale** (F), Indian Hills, **Gary Stairs** (F), Board of Trade, **Bill Thornton** (B), Wyldewood, **Todd Davey** (S), Cardinal, **Randy Booker** (B), Sleepy Hollow, **Kent McDonald** (E), Ontario Seed Co., **Tami Packham** (E), Ontario Seed Co., **Tim Baxter** (F), Bear Creek, **Natalie Arms** (F), Board of Trade, **Dave Svab** (F), Weston, **Michael Sammon** (F), Loyalist Golf Club, **Doug Dougherty** (E), Ray Gordon Equipment, **Daniel Passmore** (E), Frechette Lawncare, **Nicole Snider** (F), Beach Grove, **Sean Kelly** (F), Islington, **Brent Stainton** (B), Derrydale, **Gavin Kellogg** (A), Tyandaga, **Rob Allison** (F), Twenty Valley, **Ernie Amsler** (B), Angus Glen, **Mike Ettles** (F), **Bruce Patterson** (F), Angus Glen, **Jim Power** (B), Pine Ridge, **Steven Ransom** (F), Twenty Valley, **Tim Schaly** (F) Muskoka Lakes, **James Scott** (S), Univ. of Guelph, **Eric Williamson** (F), Angus Glen.

A retirement reception for **Dr. Jack L. Eggens** was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. It was organized and directed by **Gordon Witteveen**, and the presenters were former students and friends: **Nigel Rennie**, **Rob Ackermann**, **Dean Baker**, **Keith Bartlett**, **Ian Bowen**, **Angelo Capannelli**, **Paul Dermott**, **Bill Fach**, **Ron Heesen**, **Jerry Richard**, **Paul Scenna**, **Pelino Scenna**, **Mike VanBeek**, **Paul White**, **Mark Schneider**, **Marie Thorne**, **Hugh Kirkpatrick** and **Daisy Moore**.

OGSA, GTI, OMAFRA Field Day was held at the Springfield Golf Club on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> hosted by **Ray Dlugokecki** (Duke for short). Low gross scores were **Thom Charters** (70), **Jeff Stauffer** (72), **Paul Scenna** (72) and **Ted Ellis** (73). **Rob Witherspoon** was appointed as new GTI Director.

The Superintendent, Greens Chairman Day was held at the Rosedale Golf Club on July 17<sup>th</sup> hosted by **Bill Fach**. The winners were as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> low gross - Brampton Golf Club, 2<sup>nd</sup> low gross - Bay of Quinte and 3<sup>rd</sup> low gross - Galt Country

Club.

The Pro/Superintendent Day was held at Monterra Golf Club on June 13<sup>th</sup> hosted by **Ron Heesen**. The winning gross team, **Dan Lavis** and Pro **John Davis**, was from Ingersoll and the low net prize went to Deerhurst, **Ed Farnsworth** and **Paul Kennedy**.

**On the move:** **Thom Charters** to Bayview from Weston and **Jeff Burgess** took his place. **Jim Molenhuis** left Lionhead to work at a new golf course, Lake Joseph being built by ClubLink. **Paul Dodson** from Aurora Highlands to Lionhead. **Peter White** from Credit Valley (assistant) went to Aurora. **Blake McMaster** moved from Brampton Golf Club to Royal Montreal. **Jay Lavis** left Cardinal and went to Blue Mountain and was replaced at Cardinal by **Robert Sloan** from Sudbury. **Gary Morris** left North Bay Golf Club and went to John Evelyn Golf Centre and North Bay hired **Kevin Wingerden**, assistant at Thornhill. **Mike Courneya**, assistant at Markland Wood, moved to the Loyalist Estate Golf Club near Kingston, **John Scott** is the new super at Ottawa Rivermead and **Mike Côte** took the job at Glendale. **Chris Andrejicka**, assistant at Devil's Pulpit, is the new superintendent at Essex. **Bernie Martin** from Osprey moved to Hunters Glen (formerly Huntington) The Beverly Golf and Country Club hired **Scott Dyker**, **John Parker** moved from Greystone to Trafalgar. **Andrew Keffer**, assistant at Emerald Hills took over at Greystone. **Derick Powers** moved from Brockville Golf to Carleton Golf and Yacht Club.

**Paul Dermott** and **Dave Gourlay, Jr.** were both nominated as directors of GCSAA by the OGSA. **Paul Dermott**, **Paul Scenna** and **Greg Williams** won the Environmental Steward Award from the GCSAA. The GCSAA Conference and Show was held in San Francisco.


The OTRF Golf Tournament was held at Spring Lakes Golf Club hosted by **Mac Frost**. **Jay Evelyn** was low gross with a 71.

Ransomes America Corporation and G.C.Duke Equipment Limited announced the new revolutionary all electric riding greensmower which operates on (8) 6 volt golf cart style batteries which offers quiet, pollution free operation.

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