October 2005

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# **Green is** Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## Enviromentally Sound Oslerbrook Golf & Country Club

Rhod Trainor receives Score Superintendent Of The Year Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament Assistants Tournament

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## **COVER PICTURE**

photo by Steve Lawrence Photography

Markland Wood Country Club view of the 9th hole from the Bloor Street Bridge. A distant memory was the nasty flood which covered the entire fairway and rough August 19th of this year.

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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

If am sure most of you have seen the fabulous line-up of speakers that are described in the program for the Conference and Trade Show January 4 - 6. Dr. Thom Watschke will kick off the program, Terry Evanshen, will inspire us all in the keynote address, followed by a diverse and comprehensive schedule of educational talks that should provide interest for all aspects of our profession.



by Paul Scenna Donalda Club

Most deserving appreciation goes to Sean DeSilva and his conference committee for putting together such an excellent symposium. I would also like to thank all of the companies and distributors who have sponsored the program as well as all of you that will be there to participate in our trade show.

I would like to congratulate OGSA's Rhod Trainor, of Hamilton Golf and Country Club on winning "Superintendent Of The Year". The CGSA has indeed recognized a great superintendent. Well deserved Rhod! Your fellow members are very happy for you.

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation to attend Norman McCollum's retirement gathering. For anyone in this business who has ever gone through the University of Guelph you will have experienced the passion and great knowledge he has for turf. Thank you Norm, you will always be a great friend of the O.G.S.A. For details go to the GTI web site <u>www.uoguelph.ca/GTI</u> and click on *Norm McCollum's Retirement Party*, at the top of the page.



**ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS'** ASSOCIATION **Guelph Turfgrass Institute** 328 Victoria Road South Guelph, ON N1H 6H8 Ph: 519-767-3341 Toll Free: 877-824-6472 Fax: 519-766-1704 Email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca Website: www.golfsupers.on.ca **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** President : Paul Scenna Past President: Vice-President:

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## on and great great friend

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### Editor's message



Well, it is that time of year again. Once golf courses have been put to bed, it becomes a time for communication with others in our profession. Conferences, seminars and networking with peers will dominate our winter work schedule. It is also a time to catch up on reading. Research papers, trial data and

by John Bladon Nu-Gro Corporation

articles by our fellow superintendents offer an opportunity to open our minds to new concepts, ideas and management strategies.

### What's new

#### Master's Turf Supply Customer Appreciation Day

by Everett Niewukoop and Gary Tate

Due to inclement weather on August 19<sup>th</sup> we had to postpone our boat trip to September 13<sup>th</sup>. It was too rough to go on to the water so we gathered at Lynn Meadows Golf Club for our barbeque. Many thanks to Terry Polischuk for hosting our barbeque that day.



On September 13<sup>th</sup> we set out of Port Dover aboard the C.S Powell for an evening cruise and some fishing off the Turkey Point shore line. We wrapped up the evening with Perch platters served up at the Erie Beach Hotel. We hope to see everyone back onboard in 2006. Thanks again to all our customers for your support.

For additional pictures, please visit the slide show on our website at <u>www.mastersturfsupply.com</u>. Joe Adams of Flamborough Hills Golf Club did a great job putting this together.

In our final in season issue, we have an article on Rhod Trainor, CGSA and Score "Superintendent of the Year" penned by Dean Baker...Congratulations Rhod! Pam Charbonneau speaks to some research on bentgrass dead spot and Greig Barker, Dean's assistant, has written a piece on the beautiful Oslerbrook Golf Club and it's super, Jay Honeyball.

Have you done something of interest this year or planning to next? *Green is Beautiful* would be pleased to have an article from you for an upcoming issue on that point of interest. Contact us with your idea!

## Stanley Thompson Society Collection at Guelph

by Dorothy Hills

OGSA was delighted to be included in a celebration of the official opening of the Stanley Thompson Society Archival Collection, which took place on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The event began with a tour, directed by Michael Ridley, Chief Librarian and Chief Information Officer, at the University of Guelph, McLaughlin Library, where the archives are now permanently housed.

The Stanley Thompson Society was founded in 1998 to research, record, and publicize the life and works of Canada's Stanley Thompson (1893-1953). Thompson was one of the world's leading golf course architects. His main work spanned the 1920's to the early 1950's.



Bob Moote, (in the red tartan jacket) OGSA Life Member was on hand to aid in the presentations

The collection consists of Stanley Thompson's working drawings, papers, photographs, articles, correspondence, nursery orders, contracts and agreements, reports, handwritten notes, and a few oversize blueprints and drawings collected by the society. Included are recollections of Stanley Thompson by various people, and feature articles about him in the library from Ontario Golf Magazine, MacLean's, Saturday Evening Post, and Toronto Star Weekly.

Stanley Thompson was a skilled amateur golfer who became an internationally recognized golf course architect. From 1920 – 1950, Thompson had a hand in designing more than 140 golf courses, many of which remain among the top golf courses in Canada. His use of natural features, placement of hazards, and alternating long and short holes, can still be enjoyed at courses such as Toronto's St. George's, Vancouver's Capilano, and Jasper Park.

Stanley Thompson has a lasting connection with Guelph. Although he only had a small hand in the layout of the course at the Cutten Fields Golf Club (Cutten Club) in Guelph, after 1940 he and his family had strong ties with the club which they owned and managed. He also had a home and office there named Dormie House.

The celebration culminated with a reception at the Cutten Club, where several presentations were made, including the unveiling of the Dormie House Plaque, which will be permanently installed at a later date.

### ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2004-2005 REPORTS

The following is a list of the OGSA reports, required for membership viewing and action prior to the Annual General Meeting, on January 5th, 2005.

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

According to our by-law passed at the AGM last year, these reports can be accessed, <u>as soon as they are available</u>, on our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca.

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

The package can also be viewed at our offices: 328 Victoria Road South, Guelph

If you require a hard copy of these reports please notify the office and a package will be mailed to you. Toll Free (877) 824-6472 or (519) 767-3341

Welcome! O.G.S.A. Welcomes our newest members
Danny Beacock Class F Pheasant Run Golf Club
Paul Belsey Class C The Sands Golf Club at Taboo
<b>Maria Brkic</b> Class F Toronto Board of Trade CC
<b>Scott Crawford</b> Class F Markham Green Golf Club
James Goodrow Class C Sarnia Golf & Curling Club
Nicholas Graham Class S Penn State University
Mike Jennings Class F Lambton Golf & Country Club
<b>Tom Kinsman</b> Class F St. George's Golf & CC
Jeff Parsons Class Supt Espanola Golf & Country Club
Scott Pratt Class C Coppinwood Golf Club
Jerry Shields Class A Island Springs Golf Resort
Matthew Smith Class F The Rock at Red Leaves
<b>Kyle Whitehead</b> Class C Coppinwood Golf Club
Brent Wickett Class A Lookout Terrace Golf Course
Fowler Construction Class E Scott Aitchison
H & M Turf Limited Class E Brett Murray

## Health & safety

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

#### **Emergency Planning**

With the local and world issues that have manifested themselves over the past few months the subject of Emergency Planning is back in the limelight.

I know that I do not have to remind you of the poor response that occurred in the United States after Katrina hit the Gulf Shore. I am sure that you remember. I am also sure that the effects of the tornadoes in August in this area are still fresh in your minds.

The question is – "What has your club done to develop an effective Emergency Response Plan?"

Back in November of 2001, I wrote an article for *Green is Beautiful* that dealt with this issue. I am drawing some of this article from that one. The issues are the same. The process is the same. Have you and your club taken the time to ensure that the response you have will be effective? Have you tested your systems?

Take a moment and think about what you would do in your workplace or home if fire were to strike or if you were involved in a storm or tornado. How would you react? How would your work place react? How would your family react?

Do you have a written plan? Every one of us should take the time to plan and be prepared for that potential emergency situation. Think about how you would ensure that all your staff or family could evacuate a burning building.

Think about where you would congregate if your workplace or home were to be on fire.

Have you a place to go to where you could make an emergency call? Your phone in your office or home may not be accessible.

Have you gathered together basic information about your lives that someone may need to know if you were incapable of telling them?

Does your workplace have a plan to get back up and running if your systems are destroyed?

Here are some basic things that you should do to prepare your emergency plan:

- Establish the planning team. Identify an individual to be in charge contact your local fire department.
- Assess the risk and course capabilities. Identify potential areas of concern and identify resources available.
- Develop the Plan. Set a clear objective.
- Develop response procedures.
- Implement the plan. Train your workforce on the plan. Have a designated meeting place. Know who to call.
- Continuous Improvement. Test the plan. Fix the things that did not work.

This is only a very brief overview of some of the issues. Take the time now to develop a plan before you are in crisis. If you need help contact someone and get help. This winter, work carefully. Plan ahead. Be prepared. Be secure in the knowledge that you have prepared for all identified emergencies.

> Lets make this a successful winter. Have a great, safe, fall season!!

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REGISTRATION FORM - ONTARIO GOLF COURSE         MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW         MEMBERSHIP:       OGSA Member         Non-member         TITLE			Please • Do • Fax	<b>PLEASE PRINT</b> Please register 1 person per form • Do not mail after Dec. 5, 2005 • Fax completed form with credit card payment to 905-602-1958. Mail		
				leted form with che		
<ul> <li>SUPERINTENDENT</li> <li>ASSISTANT</li> <li>OWNER/GEN.MGR.</li> <li>TECHNICIAN</li> <li>STUDENT</li> <li>INDUSTRY ASSOCIATE</li> <li>OTHER</li> </ul>		CGSA	OGSA or credit card payment to OGSA c/o CGSA 5520 EXPLORER DRIVE, SUITE 205, MISSISSAUGA, ON, L4W 5L1			
NAME						
STREET	CITY	PRO	<b>v</b> .	POSTAL CODE		
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GOLF CLUB/BUSINESS			Plat Arrange			
PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR	S					
		MEMBER RATE		NON-MEMBER RATE		
Seminar - Developing a Tur	f Management Program	○ 50		○ 150		
CONFERENCE FEES						
		<b>MEMBER RATE</b> UNTIL NOV. 15	<b>MEMBER RATE</b> AFTER NOV. 15	NON-MEMBER RATE UNTIL NOV. 15	NON-MEMBER RATE AFTER NOV. 15	
All-Inclusive, 2 Day					1	
Includes education program trade show social hour, refr	n, keynote speaker, trade show, Awards Lu eshment breaks.	ncheon, Presiden	t's Reception, tr	ade show lunch,		
		○ 275	○ 310	0 310	○ 350	
Education Per Day: O Thur						
presidents reception (Thurs	n, keynote (Thursday), trade show, lunch, day), refreshment breaks.	trade show social	nour,			
		○ 195	○ 220	○ 225	0 245	
Mechanics Program						
Special education program,	trade show, lunch, refreshment breaks.	0 120		○ 120		
Horticulture Program						
Special education program,	trade show, lunch, refreshment breaks	0 100		0 100		
Trade Show Per Day: O The	ursday or O Friday	○ 120		○ 120		
	, trade show social hour (Thursday).					
,		0 75		0 75		
Class AA - Retired Member	rs Only - Same as All-Inclusive	○ 100				
Student - 2 Day Package - Student - 1 Day Package:	Same as Two Day Education package	0 70		0 70		
○ Thursday or ○ Friday - S	ame as 1 Day Education package	0 40		0 40		
I will be attending the Pres	ident's Reception on Thursday 🔿 Yes					
METHOD OF PAYMENT : O C	HEQUE (PAYABLE TO OGSA) O VISA O M	ASTERCARD				
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CARDHOLDER'S NAME (PLE	EASE PRINT)			PLUS GST@7%		
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#### EXPIRY DATE

**Please read**: OGSA does not accept any responsibility whatsoever for any accident, illness, injury or adverse circumstance(s) suffered by any person(s) while traveling to or from or while attending our event, however caused. OGSA reserves the right to cancel all or part of this event and return money paid for portion affected. Program schedule/speakers are subject to change. **Privacy Information**: The information provided on this form is used for registration and statistical purposes. It may be shared

with OGSA business partners. **Cancellation Policy**: Cancellations must by received in writing BEFORE December 5th, 2005 to receive a full refund less \$60.00 administration fee. No refunds after December 5th, 2005. Substitutions are permitted.

## **TERRY EVANSHEN, The Man Who Lost Himself**



In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Terry Evanshen was one of the Canadian Football League's top players, and Hall of Famer. A man of great determination and grit, he was one fine player, and a happily married man, with three daughters, a beautiful horse farm, and, after he retired from football, a growing second career in sales.

Then in 1988, this life was ripped from him when a van ran a red light and slammed into his jeep. The force of the crash shot Evanshen the length of the jeep and 15 feet out the rear window. Although his body was in remarkably good shape, his brain was badly damaged. He was so near to death that a priest administered last rights.

When he awoke from a coma two weeks later, he did not recognize his wife or his children or his friends. He did not know who he was; 44 years of memories had been totally destroyed and his personality largely annihilated.

Terry was left with retrograde amnesia, the permanent loss of his long term memory, and also impaired short-term memory. Gone were all his memories; his spectacular 14 year career, the Grey Cup win, the Most Outstanding Canadian in the CFL awards, the pass receiving records, the memories of his close family, his wife and daughters and his education. After being in a coma for almost a month and six months of hospitalized rehabilitation, Terry began the long and painful road back to rebuilding his shattered life.

In the book "The Man Who Lost Himself", June Callwood describes Terry Evanshen's slow, difficult struggle to rebuild a sense of who he is. This is a story about the mysteries of the brain and the effects of brain damage on personality and identity, but it's also the story of how someone's spirit can survive even the loss of identity, and how the exceptionally strong love of Evanshen's family helped him through his initial years of frustration and rage. This is a fascinating and inspiring story.

Watch for the CTV Original Movie, "The Man Who Lost Himself: The Terry Evanshen Story". The movie will star JAG's David James Elliott and four-time Gemini Award winner Wendy Crewson. Terry Evanshen inspires you to look at your own life in a way you have never done before. He gives a moving account of how he re-establishes his identity every day by rebuilding his confidence and purpose one step at a time. He shows you the never-ending power of the human mind to overcome obstacles, and the incredible perseverance of the human spirit.

Join us at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2006 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show, and share Terry's remarkably inspiring story of perseverance and personal courage as he reinvents himself and rebuilds his life. **Terry Evanshen will inspire you to look at your own life in a way you have never done before!** 

## **TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE & SHOW**

10. Attend the pre-conference seminar. Dr. Watchke is renowned in his field, and the price is unbeatable.

- 9. Hear keynote speaker, Terry Evanshen, "The Man Who Lost Himself". He will inspire you to look at your own life in a way you have never done before.
- 8. Attend the conference educational sessions to learn more about current issues and topics of interest to golf course superintendents, and earn CGSA, GCSAA and IPM educational points.
- 7. Gain better insight into the golf course superintendent's profession by visiting with conference and show attendees. Acquire innovative ideas and identify best practices.
- 6. Gather information and visit with OGSA Directors and Staff at the OGSA booth, about association programs, services and resources.
- 5. Visit the trade show, see the latest equipment and make contacts with industry representatives.
- 4. Attend the Awards Luncheon and support those in your industry who will be recognized for their contributions. It's included in your Thursday program package.
- 3. Attend the President's Reception. It's an opportunity to socialize and network with your colleagues.
- 2. Establish and strengthen professional relationships with other golf professionals, through networking and the sharing of ideas, problems and innovative solutions.
- 1. Return to your golf course with renewed energy and perspective on how to best serve your golf facility.

### **IPM CREDIT ALLOTMENTS**

#### Developing a Turf Management Program - full day pre-conference seminar

#### (10.66 CEC's)

Items to be covered during the seminar include: climate, weather models and turfgrass management, turfgrass nutrition and soil management, water quality and irrigation management, pest resistance management, turfgrass insect management programs, turfgrass disease management programs, turfgrass weed management programs, plant growth regulator use, biostimulant use and the importance of timing in orchestrating management systems. In other words, how you can put together a full turf management plan for your facility.

Thomas Watschke, Ph.D.

#### Using Bio Stimulants & Growth Regulators to Improve Turf Stress

#### **Tolerance - one hour**

#### (1.33 CEC's)

This session will discuss the classification and definitions of the various growth regulators. Also, the differences among various bio-stimulants will be explained. After the foundational information is provided the possible use scenarios for some of the products will be explained and reviewed based on the population dynamics of the turfgrass sward being treated. Thomas Watschke, Ph.D.

#### The Science and Technology of Turf Protection Products - one hour (1.33 CEC's)

This session will discuss the scientific research, development and regulatory process involved in developing a turf protection product. Development of a pesticidal active ingredient is a long process carried out over a period of 8 to 10 years, and involves investigating tens of thousands of molecules to identify a commercial lead. Each product undergoes a thorough evaluation of safety, biological efficacy, environmental and ecological assessment. The session will also include an overview of the formulation development process, and a discussion on the impact of factors such as water quality, pH and spray tank additives on application performance and biological performance of turf protection products. Ravi Ramachandran, MSc. Ph.D.

#### Drainage Technology - Issues to Think About - 45 minutes

#### (1 CEC)

Some technological advances have greatly helped the drainage industry, some have not. Some basic principles have been around for close to 100 years and are still very relevant, others are not. This session will describe how to use the best of the new technologies and of the old drainage principles to achieve a successful, effective and long-term drainage solution. John Kelly

#### **IPM Update - 45 minutes**

#### (1 CEC)

Update and review of the IPM accreditation program in Ontario will be given during this presentation. Jarrod Barakett

#### Why and How to Conduct an Irrigation Audit; What to do with the

#### **Information - one hour**

#### (1.33 CEC)

Water audits can and should be an important part of an irrigation managers program. Jeff and Dave will explain the how's and why's of auditing but also the reasons and benefits that can be realized once regular water auditing is practiced at your facility. Yes, it is about using a valuable resource in a responsible manner but it is also about understanding the other factors in turfgrass management that it may affect.

David Smith/Jeff Stauffer

#### Factors Affecting Root Growth - one hour

#### (1.33 CEC)

Healthy roots are essential for high quality playing surfaces. In this session Dr. Eric Lyons will discuss the different environmental and management factors that can promote or adversely affect root growth. The talk will help golf course superintendents better understand root growth so they can better manage all areas of the golf course. Eric Lyons, Ph.D

## Score "Superintendent Of The Year" Rhod Trainor

#### by Dean Baker, Superintendent North Halton Golf & Country Club

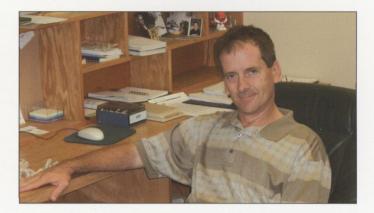
Throughout the years this prestigious award has been given to individuals that have dedicated themselves to the profession of golf course superintendent. Each individual has brought their own unique style, not only to their occupation, but to this award. Winners of this award have all supported and contributed to our industry in many different ways. From their representation on committees and boards, their continuous education to our new rising turf stars, the dedication in serving our golfing customer, our membership, our golf course, and of course the most important facet that is often overlooked...how well the superintendent can grow grass.

"I have been extremely fortunate to be on a team lead by an exceptionally skilled mentor, who has earned the uptmost respect from the turfgrass industry." Tracy Fowler, Assistant Superintendent, Hamilton G&CC

Rhod Trainor's career in the turf industry stems well over thirty years. Growing up working on golf courses, his first career role came in 1976 as the assistant superintendent at Wyldewood Golf Club. Three years later he received his first superintendent's position at Chippewa Golf & Country Club Estates. In 1982 Rhod moved to St. Thomas Golf and Country Club where he remained the course superintendent for 8 years. In the spring of 1990 Ancaster's prestigious Hamilton Golf & Country Club hired Rhod to be their superintendent, and 15 years later he has not looked back. He continues to leave behind, both past and present, a membership filled with respect for him and our profession.

#### "He is an integral part of our management team who contributes to the overall success of the operation" George Pinches, Chief Operating Office, Hamilton G&CC

Any superintendent will know that the ability to grow good grass will inevitably be your life line. Rhod Trainor is a master in the art of grass growing. His ferocious appetite for knowledge and keen sense of his environment has given him an almost calming, scientific approach to agronomy. Rhod is constantly pushing his golf course to be better. Hamilton is a major testing ground for new products, but always under the watchful eye of the superintendent. As members consistently rave about course conditions, it is Rhod's tournament and championship preparation that has given him the most notoriety. His meticulous style has made him a very successful host of many major championships; The 1985 Ontario Ladies Amateur; 1991 Men's Ontario Amateur; 1994 Men's Canadian Amateur; 1996 Senior PGA Tour DuMaurier Championship; 2003 PGA Tour Bell Canadian



Open: and still yet to come, the 2006 PGA Tour Bell Canadian Open will be back again at Hamilton Golf & Country Club. There is no doubt through Rhod's accolades and praises, he can certainly grow grass.

"His management skills and drive for perfection has elevated Hamilton Golf & Country Club to its rightful place as one of Canada's best" Paul Scenna, President OGSA

Rhod is very much a people person. Although he may be private in many ways, his people skills is one of his greatest assets. From the people he has worked with, to the many committees and individuals he reports to, Rhod is professional but personable. His staff has a great respect for him for he is a great leader, a great teacher, and will always make you feel part of a team. Hamilton has benefited greatly from the extensive training and safety programs Rhod has developed for his 32 person staff. This has produced a carefully orchestrated team of full and part-time employees that operate at peak efficiency at all times. The result has been a consistency of quality that is a source of pride for Rhod, his staff and ultimately, the members at Hamilton Golf & Country Club. On a lighter note, individuals who know Rhod will comment on his "dark side". For it is Rhod's stinging wit and sense of humour that will break the ice in any conversation and put a smile on your face every time.

"There are very few individuals in any profession that have such a profound impact on others." Ryan Beauchamp, Superintendent, St. Thomas G &CC

Rhod strongly believes in the need for superintendents to achieve a higher profile, involving them both in and beyond the scope of golf. Towards that end, he has served our membership in many capacities. He is the Past President of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association. He very capably handled the burdensome work as editor of the OGSA magazine, "Green is Beautiful". Rhod also served for 7 years as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the very successful Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Most recently, Rhod took on the opportunity to teach his craft to others as an instructor of Turf Management at Landscape Ontario and Humber College. Rhod continues his own professional growth by maintaining his Certified Golf Course Superintendent status through the GCSAA, and recently certifying himself as an IPM agent (2004), and an irrigation auditor (2005). Rhod has volunteered so much of his time both locally and provincially, but yet has turned down opportunities on a national level.

"Rhod was selected as our very first Superintendent in Residence in conjunction with the University of Guelph Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management program. Rhod was selected for this honour as he epitomizes the type of turf management professional we aspire to help create through our program." Rob Witherspoon, Director, Guelph Turfgrass Institute

This brings me to what I consider Rhod's biggest attribute, his family and friends. Rhod and Susan Trainor are celebrating 25 years of marriage in 2005. They share a great love for golf and curling, as do their children. Katie 20, Michael 16, and Kurtis 15, who have followed their parent's footsteps where sports are involved. The entire Trainor family are active members at Hamilton Golf & Country Club, as well as the Dundas Granite Curling Club. Golf has always been Rhod's passion and it is easy to see that this passion is shared by the whole family. Sue is a 19 handicap and in 2004 won the Ladies "A" Flight at Hamilton. Katie is an 8 handicap and in 2003 won both the Juniors and Ladies Club Championship at Hamilton. As a student in Commerce at Queens University, Katie in 2002 was also the recipient of the OGSA Heritage Award. Michael with a handicap of 5 enjoys beating his dad on a regular basis. Finally, Kurtis with a handicap of 18 is close behind his big brother and will soon be looking into Rhod's pocket as well. It is obvious to see that the Trainor family is a very active household...and also very loving. It is also not hard to understand why Rhod's "close to home attitude" is so important.

"Rhod Trainor, in my opinion, is a great example of what the Golf Course Superintendent position has evolved into. He is a great communicator, and easy leader, and a fine person who has found a way to juggle the demands of a high pressure job with raising a family." John Taylor, Superintendent, Hunters Pointe Golf Course

In summary, when looking at Rhod's attributes for winning "Superintendent of the Year", I think of four things. His dedication and his skill in doing what we all should do well, grow great grass. His leadership skills and personal style with everyone he meets, from the staff that work for him, to the golf club, committees, and individuals he reports to. The education he continues to strive for in our industry, be it for himself or for those who have been taught by him. Rhod's great dedication to his family and their enthusiastic involvement in Rhod's passion...golf. Lastly, it would be remiss of me not to mention the friend he is to so many people. I find myself fortunate to have such a good friend. Professionally he is there at a moments notice with all the knowledge described above. Personally he is there to "tell it like it is" be it good or bad, but most importantly he will always leave you with a smile on your face.

"How could one not be impressed with the man's credentials." Paul Evenden, Superintendent, Brantford G&CC

Rhod Trainor exemplifies the public image that we all should strive for in carrying our profession beyond our golf course to the general public and into the future.



## From roots to shoots



Spromised in an earlier edition of "From roots to shoots", I will take this opportunity to highlight some of the research results presented at the  $10^{\text{th}}$  International Turfgrass Research Conference held in July 2005 in Wales.

by Pam Charbonneau OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

During the summer of 2005 a new disease was found in Ontario. The new disease – bentgrass dead spot – was confirmed by Dr. John Kaminski of University of Connecticut. His PhD research work was studying this disease and he has also reported some of his findings on the influence of nitrogen,

iprodione fungicide and pH on the incidence, severity and recovery of bentgrass dead spot at the conference in Wales.

#### History of Bentgrass Dead Spot

Bentgrass dead spot was first discovered on a Maryland golf course in 1998 and it has since been found in 11 states and of course, now in Ontario. The scientific name of bentgrass dead spot is *Ophiosphaerella agrostis*. It affects creeping bentgrass on newly constructed sand based greens. The initial symptoms of this disease include small, purple-red clusters of leaves that turn tan and eventually die back to a 2.5 - 8 cm dead spots When the disease is active the outer leaves of the spot have a reddish hue. The disease spots rarely coalesce and they develop into completely dead spots that resemble ball marks (Figure 1.).



Figure 1. Bentgrass dead spot on a golf green in Ontario showing the typical symptoms.

If you examine the dead leaves they often contain fruiting bodies called pseudothecia. They are flask shaped structures which contain ascospores that are dispersed through wind and water.

The disease is active between May and December but the damage is most severe during the summer months (June to August). Conditions that favour the disease are full sun and dry weather.

#### **Research Results**

- The primary objectives of Dr. Kaminiski's studies were to: • Determine the influence of various nitrogen sources and
- iprodione on bentgrass dead spot (BDS) recoveryDetermine curative and preventative effects of nitrogen
- sources and manganese on BDS incidence and severity and • Determine the role of soil pH on the incidence and
- severity of BDS

Studies were conducted in 2001-2003 at University of Maryland Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility in College Park, MD. They were divided into two studies: Autumn Recovery Study I and Curative Management and Recovery Study II.

#### Autumn Recovery Study I

This study looked at the effect of various nitrogen sources and iprodione on the recovery of BDS. The nitrogen treatments were: • IBDU (31-0-0)

- SCU (29-0-0)
- Ammonium sulphate (21-0-0)
- Urea (46-0-0)
- Methylene urea (40-0-0)
- Fortified organic (10-2-6)

All nitrogen sources were applied at  $1.2 \text{ kg of N}/100\text{m}^2$  between Sept. 6, 2000 and Nov. 3, 2000. Each main plot (nitrogen source) was split and either received five applications of iprodione or no fungicide.

There was no significant effect of iprodione on bentgrass dead spot recovery. The effect of nitrogen source was significant. By the end of the recovery period (Nov. 29, 2000) bentgrass dead spot recovery was observed in all of the nitrogen plots with the exception of the IBDU plot, which was not significantly different from the control plot.

#### Curative Management and Recovery Study II

In this study only water soluble sources of nitrogen were evaluated to determine if acid or alkaline reacting fertilizers or manganese differed in their ability to reduce the incidence and severity of BDS. The five water soluble nitrogen sources were applied as foliar feeds and they were:

- Calcium nitrate (15.5-0-0)
- Potassium nitrate (13-0-44)
- Ammonium nitrate (21-0-0)
- Urea (46-0-0)
- A complete fertilizer (20-20-20)
- Manganese sulphate alone or in combination with urea

Bentgrass dead spot incidence and severity were rated by the number of infection centers and percent disease per plot. Soil pH was determined twice (once in each year 2002 and 2003).

When applied during the early stages of disease development, none of the nitrogen sources prevented new infection centers from developing. Rapid recovery of BDS occurred in all plots receiving nitrogen. The plots treated with ammonium sulphate had the fewest infection centers. Manganese did not affect BDS incidence or recovery. The number of dead spot infection centers and pH were correlated. Disease incidence appeared to be favoured by a pH higher than 6.0, which is similar to the disease take-all patch. Ammonium sulphate was the only N sources to prevent BDS recurrence in the second year of the study.

The applications of iprodione did not cure the disease bentgrass dead spot. This study did not examine the use of iprodione as a preventative treatment for bentgrass dead spot and it is possible that it could work in a preventative program, but this was not examined in this study.

For more information about this study, the full manuscript appears in the 10<sup>th</sup> ITRC Journal. The reference is below. If you are interested in learning more about this disease, we are very fortunate to have Dr. Kaminski coming to speak about his work with this disease at the 2006 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium which will be held on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 at Rozanski Hall, University of Guelph.

#### Reference

Kaminski, John E. and Peter H. Dernoeden, 2005. Nitrogen Source Impact on Dead Spot (Ophiosphaerella agrostis) recovery in creeping bentgrass. Int. Turfgrass Soc. Res. J. 10:214-223.



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## **2005 Assistants Tournament**

by Neil Tandan, Assistant Superintendent Weston Golf & Counrty Club

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual O.G.S.A. Assistants Tournament was held September 19<sup>th</sup> at Markland Wood Country Club in Etobicoke. What a success! The weather was hot and sunny - yet another reminder of the intense summer of 2005 - the BBQ was blazing and the golf course was in ideal tournament condition.

Once again, the **Nu-Gro Corporation** acted as Platinum Sponsor for the event and was represented by John Bladon. Through the generous contribution of Nu-Gro, all participants were treated to a quality golf towel and Nick Leigh (National Pines) to a prize for "Closest-to-thehole" on the par 3 sixteenth. Special thanks to **Nu-Gro Corporation** for their help in making this tournament a 'must attend' on the Fall calendar.

No golf tournament runs without the effort of many people, often "behind the scenes". This year's BBQ lunch was provided by Engage Agro, along with a par 3 proximity prize. Glenn Burgess of Skyway Lawn Equipment helped out by bringing 30 additional golf carts to the tournament to ensure all players would "ride in style!" Vanden Bussche Irrigation contributed by adding bottled water to all the golf carts as well as a proximity prize for a par 3. Plant Products also sponsored a "Closest-to-the-hole". The Ontario Seed Company stepped in with prizes for both Men's and Women's long drives. As a side note, it is the opinion of the Tournament Committee that Matt Dodson – Men's Long Drive – be subjected to a mandatory drug screen for performance enhancing supplements! That drive was HUGE!!

Thanks also to everyone at Markland Wood involved in making the tournament something special. Chris Nelson, Dan Kientz, and their fall staff worked long and hard to produce an excellent golf course with no signs whatsoever of the amazingly difficult growing season just passed. Frank Marando and the pro shop crew took care of all the tournament details (agenda, scoring, skins, prizes) while Brent Macy and Barry looked after the catering (yes, the few vegetarians in the crowd again were treated handsomely). Thanks again Markland Wood!

This event is growing stronger each year and it is the goal of the Tournament Committee to provide the best possible experience for all assistants, foremen, and industry representatives. We welcome all suggestions and ideas for the future.

Here's to next year....cheers!

#### Congratulations to the following players at the 2005 Assistants Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Low Gross: Nick Leigh (National Pines Golf Club) 1<sup>st</sup> Low Net: Cliff Deering (Cliff's Tree Care) 2<sup>nd</sup> Low Gross: Tom Brain (Burlington Golf & Country Club) 2<sup>nd</sup> Low Net: Dave Allen (Markland Wood Country Club) 3<sup>rd</sup> Low Gross: Jason D'Andrea (Duke Equipment) 3rd Low Net: Matt Dodson (Richmond Hill Golf Club) 4<sup>th</sup> Low Net: 4<sup>th</sup> Low Gross: Darren Little (Cedarbrae Golf Club) Jeff Cunningham (Granite Club) 5<sup>th</sup> Low Net: Ryan Smith (Mill Run Golf Club) 5th Low Gross: Steve Gruhl (Burlington Golf & Country Club)



John Bladon presents trophy to low gross winner Nick Leigh



photo by Chris Nelson

## **Golf course highlight**

#### Markland Wood Country Club

245 Markland Drive Etobicoke ON M9C 1R1 Website: www.marklandwood.com Golf Course Superintendent: Chris Nelson Email: marklandwood@bellnet.ca



photo by Chris Nelson

#### **COURSE PROFILE**

- What county is your club located in? GTA
- Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
- Private 650 members, 30,000 rounds
- Typical opening and closing date April 15<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>

Name of Superintendent Chris Nelson

- How long have you been a superintendent? 4 years
- How long have you been an OGSA member? 8 years

List accomplishments Advisor with the OTRF

How many staff? 5 year round, 10 seasonal, 2 gardening staff

How many mechanics and assistants? Mechanic: Tony Caliandro Assistant: Dan Kientz

#### **COURSE STATISTICS**

How many holes? 18

- What is the yardage from back & forward tees? 6231yards from the back tees and 5195 yards from the front tees
- How many bunkers? 54
- How many ponds, and/or water come into play? 13 holes
- Who was the original architect? Eric Hansen
- What was the year of original construction? 1963
- By whom and when was the course remodeled? Bob Heaslip from 1992 to 2004 and currently by Cam Tyers from Carrick Group
- What is the size of your maintenance shop? 8,000 square feet

What type of irrigation system? Toro LTC Plus with individual head control

- What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?
- Greens: 110,040 square feet Tees: 85,000 square feet Fairways: 25 acres
- What is your predominant grass? Bent/Poa mix

What is the predominant soil type? Clay loam

What equipment do you have in inventory? 5 Toro Flex 21 greens walking mowers 5 Toro 1600 walking mowers 3 3150 triplex 2 Jacobsen 3400 fairway mowers 1 Toro 4500 rotary rough mower 1 Toro 3500 rotary trim mower 1 Toro 328-D outfront rough mower 1 Toro 1200 sprayer 1 Toro 5200 sprayer 2 3400 Toro Workmans 1 Toro 2110 Workman 2 Toro 2050 E-Workmans 5 Carry All Turf 2 utility 1 Carry All 1 electric 1 Club Car Precedent golf car 1 John Deere Gator 2 John Deere aerator 1 Toro Hydroject 1 Multicore fairway aerator 1 Vertidrain 1 Procore 660 aerator 1 Massey Ferguson diesel tractor 1 John Deere 2155 tractor 1 John Deere 420 front end loader 1 Bobcat skid steer 1 Kubota 4320 tractor

- 1 Kubota 4320 tracto
- 4 Stihl weed-eater
- 1 Lely pull behind fertilizer hopper
- 2 Scott's Spreader Accu-Pro 2 Little Wonder blowers
- 2 Little wonder blowe
- 3 Stihl hand blower
- 1 Agri-Metal 3 point hitch blower
- 1 Toro belt topdresser

- 1 Vermeer wood chipper
- 1 Brower leaf vac
- 1 Husqvarna sod cutter
- 1 3 point hitch Verti-seed
- 1 Torosand Pro
- 1 Stihl pump
- 1 Honda generator
- 1 Bomag plate tamper

#### **COURSE PROJECTS**

What projects have you recently completed? Tee complex reconstruction and installed slit drainage on fairways

#### LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years? We are currently evaluating our master plan. There are plans for several minor changes to bunkers, greens sites and fairways and tees over the next five years.

#### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property? Being able to successfully improve the course through renovation and working in the limited property space available.

#### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories? Documented evidences of increased wildlife on the property by providing the appropriate sanctuary in an urban environment

#### INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

## What type of innovative practices have you performed?

Installed a creek water level data logger that will provide exact information for flows and velocities of the Etobicoke Creek; helping compile information for our Water Taking Permit Application

## **Environmentally Sound:** Oslerbrook Golf & Country Club

by Greig Barker, Assistant Superintendent, North Halton G & CC

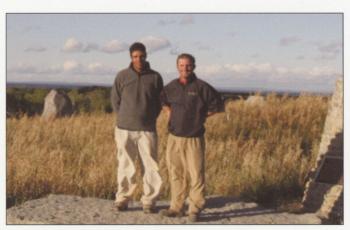
n Collingwood, Ontario there is a new Graham Cooke designed golf club being developed with an incredible amount of focus on environmental rehabilitation and management. Oslerbrook Golf and Country Club is a private golf club in an awesome mountainous setting. This club was implemented by a board and has grown to a membership of over 200 people. This July the back nine opened for limited play with the front nine scheduled for opening in June of 2006.

#### **Qualified Management**

Jason Honeyball was hired as the golf coursesuperintendent in March of 2004. Jason's career has developed over some great venues in golf. His passion for the golf course management industry grew as he worked on the greens staff at Glen Abbey Golf Club for a number of years. While working at Glen Abbey, Jason graduated from the Diploma in Horticulture/Turf Management program at the University of Guelph. Jason then was promoted to the golf course superintendent position at Rolling Hills Golf Club. His stint at Rolling Hills was limited to only a year and a half when he was then hired on at King Valley Golf Club in King City. Jason managed King Valley for about six years before taking on his latest position at Oslerbrook.

Along the way Jason has built a core group of management and key staff which have moved up to Collingwood to be a part of this exciting project. Jason's assistant superintendent is Deni Terenzio. Deni was on the greens staff at Glen Abbey for a number of years and also served as Jason's assistant at King Valley for four years. Deni also graduated from the Diploma program at the University of Guelph early in his career.

When it comes to talking about the people around him Jason smiles and says he couldn't ask for a better situation. The Board at the golf club understands the golf course's needs and when it comes to environmental commitment, they are behind him 100%. The staff that Jason and Deni have surrounded themselves with have worked countless hours with total dedication to seeing this project through to perfection.



Jay and Deni overlooking the property





#### Championship Golf

This golf course is beautifully designed to fit this great piece of property. A very challenging golf course from the back tees with well placed landing areas and bunkers that make you really think about your next shot. Family golf is a large focus at Oslerbrook. There are five sets of tee decks on the golf course to present an enjoyable golf experience for all skill levels to play together. The green complexes are outstanding with challenging bunkers and available pin locations to really change the face of the golf course. It is very easy to see that Jason and his staff have an eye for detail when it comes to turf management and growing in a golf course. The newly seeded greens, tees and fairways are in beautiful shape. The greens were seeded with L-93 and the tees and fairways were seeded with L-93 and SR 1119. This is Jason's first experience with growing in some of the "new" bents. He notes that the maintenance regimes that these grasses can handle in the early stages of maturity surprised him. The practices that Jason has gone with are obviously working very well.



The course

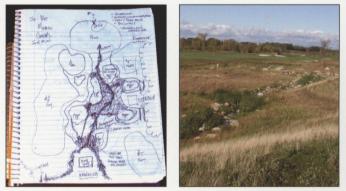
#### **Environmental Stewards**

What separated this project from any other in the area and possibly the province is the environmental commitment that the club has taken. The main focus of the project was to encourage environmental rehabilitation and establishment. Jason mentions that it was clear at the time he was hired that this was to be his main focus. There were a number of outside bodies involved in the development of this project. The Township of Clearview is involved in the due diligence of all practices during construction of the golf club and a number of independent consultants were brought in as well. One of the people brought in to the project was Scott Martin of Wild Canada. Scott is an ecologist and native plant expert. Scott consulted on the plant species and ecological aspects of Oslerbrook's numerous native areas and ecological enhancement sites.

The property boasts a number of water features which are all linked and circulated by a separate pump system. Every piece of drain tile that was installed on the property is linked to one of these water features and is recycled back into the property. Therefore, every drop of water that either falls on the turf or is put on the turf through irrigation is circulated back to the irrigation reservoir. The water holding capacity of this property is outstanding. On my tour, Jason and Deni brought me out to their "lake". This man-made reservoir holds a whopping 55 million gallons. For record keeping purposes there is a flow monitor system that records how much water is circulated and used on the property on an annual basis.

Jason was very adamant about having the most up to date and water conserving irrigation control system installed at the time of construction. During a grow-in, in a high temperature record setting summer like 2005, this has proved to be integral. This has allowed him to keep complete records of irrigation times and totals for his first years on the property.

One of the most inspiring aspects of this property is the man made bio-filter areas placed in strategic areas for both playability and hydrological recycling. Upon construction, a couple of sites were designed by Jason as wet meadows/bio-filters. These are expansive areas that act as natural filtration sites for recycled water. On one site in particular there was an incredible amount of a peat based soil that was scheduled to be turned into the existing ground. Jason recommended that it be scraped out and stockpiled for future use on other sites not as rich in growing medium. There was a conceptual drawing introduced by Jason at a construction meeting and all parties agreed that it was a good plan and was well worth the considerable cost.



Jason's concept

Wet meadow

A lot of material found on the golf course (trees, stumps, rocks), that was used to create a natural setting for wildlife to nest, feed and exist. An incredible variety of native plant species were planted both by the use of hydroseeding and hand planting of plugs, seeds and nursery stock. Throughout the construction process 3-6 staff members were responsible for planting native plants in these areas to ensure proper establishment for both plant maturity and wildlife benefits. All of these areas were and will continue to be hand weeded to restrict any unnatural input in these ecosystems.

To further the golf club's commitment to environmental awareness, the club has made their facility available as a teaching centre to a local school. As part of the school's curriculum the students visit the golf course and participate in a number of outdoor education activities. One of the first projects for the students was to build bird nesting boxes tagged with each student's name. These boxes are installed with the utmost care in relation to proper location for wildlife benefit. As time progresses

## **Environmentally Sound: Oslerbrook Golf & Country Club**

#### continued from page 17...

and projects develop, the components of this educational plan will grow to subjects like orienteering, wildlife identification, plant identification and environmental responsibility. Jason and his staff have and will continue to participate in the education of these topics and practices.



Jason in a man made turtle nesting site

loves the lifestyle in this area. Oslerbrook promotes the family lifestyle in Collingwood. Often Jason's girls will spend time with him at the golf course on the putting green, playing in the bunker sand or looking for frogs in the catch basins.

Jason's passion for golf and environmental management is matched with gleam in his eye when watching his kids play on the golf course that he has spent so much time and



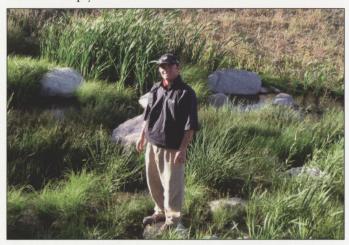
Sydney and Olivia looking for frogs in one of the catch basins

#### Life is Good

During my visit to Oslerbook I noticed a definite sense of satisfaction from Jason. As he talks about all of the different aspects of his latest endeavour, there is a feeling of inspiration and commitment to seeing this project through as one of the best golf clubs in the country.

When I asked Jason if there was anything that he would have done differently up to this point in construction, it took him a while to think of something. I think that we would all agree that is a good sign. "I would have built our permanent maintenance facility earlier" he says. "You have to have a good facility to help run an efficient operation". Jason is having his facility's location signage made up right now....the sign will read "Environmental Management Centre". This is just one more step in the right direction to showing their commitment to the environment. All of the environmental management staff wear Oslerbrook hats that have the words "Environmental Steward" stitched on the side.

Jason lives in Collingwood with his wife Jen and their two daughters Sydney and Olivia. The Honeyball family effort on building. When I asked Jason what else he could tell me about his experience at Oslerbrook Golf & Country Club he simply looked at me and said "Life is Good".



Jason in his wet meadow

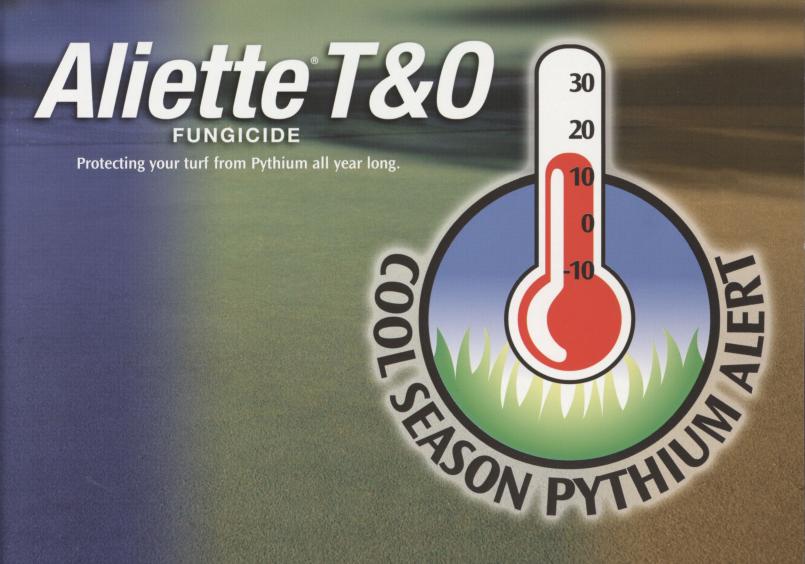


## REMINDER

- Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show.
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## **60th Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament**

by Dorothy Hills photos by Mark Prieur, Superintendent, Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

Lakeview Golf Course is steeped in history. In 1896, the High Park Golf Club was formed. The modest 18 hole course occupied 50 acres along the west bank of Grenadier Pond. Forced to move by a rapidly growing city, the club relocated to its present site in the spring of 1907, and in January 1912 the directors changed the name to The Lakeview Golf and Country Club Limited. For the next two decades Lakeview enjoyed a place at the top of Canada's golfing community. Lakeview twice hosted Canada's national tournament, The Canadian Open, in 1923 won by C.W. Hackney and in 1934 won by Tommy Armour.



The turning point in the club's history occurred on Friday, July 21, 1939 when a fire destroyed its magnificent 30 room clubhouse. The club was purchased privately the following year and operated semi-privately for the next 13 years. The Township of Toronto, later The City of Mississauga, leased the club from 1956 to 1964 and eventually purchased Lakeview Golf Club in 1965. Lakeview Golf Course has since operated as a pay as you play golf course that the community enjoys to this day. Lakeview frequently places high in both national and the GTA "Best Value" golf course ratings.



The weather was unseasonably warm and absolutely perfect for the OGSA members and guests, who gathered at Lakeview, to wrap up the 2005 OGSA golf season, on October  $4^{\mbox{\tiny th}}.$ 

Following our rounds, score cards were left at the proshop for a speedy tabulation by Golf Pro, Darryl Herridge and his crew, while we retreated for a delicious dinner in the clubhouse. Thanks to the hospitality and organization of the Lakeview staff, the entire day was enjoyable.

Trevor Clapperton, OGSA director and MC for the night welcomed our guests and gave a brief history on Alex McClumpha. He then called on Bruce Burger to present him with the Host Superintendent plaque. Bruce promised to look into the possibility of removing some of the trees, for our next visit. Mr. Bob Williams, District Manager for the City of Mississauga gave us a warm welcome and congratulated Bruce, and his staff on the excellent playing conditions, and commented, "The course is like this all of the time." Paul Scenna, OGSA president, took the opportunity to announce that Glenn Goodwin, a great contributor to the game of golf and our association, had recently been named an OGSA Honorary Member and would be present at our Conference Awards Luncheon



to be officially recognized by our members.

As usual, our associate members came through with an abundance of donated prizes. The special raffle prizes were a texas mickey, donated by AllTurf and an Ipod, donated by OGSA. We would also like to thank Ontario Seed Co. for providing the lunch prior to the shotgun start. Without the generosity and support of our associate members, these events would not be possible.

## Winners of the Tournament

#### Flight A - Superintendents & Assistants

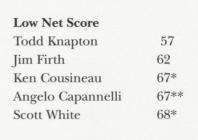
#### Flight B - Associates and Guests

Low Gross Score		Low Gross	
Thom Charters	71	Vito Cirone	75*
Bill Fach	75	Jason D'Andrea	75**
Rick Trainor	77	Kevin Holmes	75***
Rhod Trainor	78	Rod Hermitage	77
Tom Brain	79	Cliff Deering	78

Low Net Score	
Dave Stevens	66*
Colin White	66
Chris Hudswell	68*
Keith Bartlett	68
Rob Ackermann	69

**Closest to the Hole** Colin Nisbet

**Longest Drive** Virginia Kinney



Ladies Low GrossEither FlightSusan Moore93

**Closest to the Hole** Ken Pavely

Longest Drive Bob Williams





R-L Mark Scenna, Turf Care presents George Darou Trophy to Thom Charters

R-L Trevor Clapperton presents plaque to Bruce Burger

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

Congratulations to all our winners and we hope to see you all out again next season.

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## On the REEL side of things

by Mike Slack Slack Reel Service



If only your bedknives could talk! If it were true, reel performance or quality of cut issues would be much easier to solve. Hang on a second...they actually do tell a good story. Peak performance of your cutting units, especially on putting greens, depends on being able to read your bedknives. There are three main areas of the knife to inspect as you service them.

- 1) The bottom beveled or shaved portion of the knife.
- 2) The face edge of the knife.
- 3) The top angle of the knife.

Firstly, if the bottom rub line or "shiny spot" is on the shaved portion only, then you have a perfect set-up for your application. If this rub line starts to progress back beyond this area, approaching the knife screws, there may be excessive rub from the bedknife on your turf. Mower "tracking" or side-to-side motion can actually be felt by the operator of a walk behind type mower when this excessive rubbing is present. In the case where triplex mowing units are in use, these symptoms are usually recognized visually with a "chattering" effect on the mown turf. Correcting the problem can be as simple as changing the attitude of your bedknives, or reverting to a thinner bedknife. In some cases, because reel diameters are too small, you may have to change out to a larger diameter reel.

Upon inspection of the face edge of the bedknife, ensure that it does not have the feeling of a razor and is not rounded off, at the front lip, where the reel makes contact. The importance of the face angle is to support the grass blade as it is being mown. With no face, the grass blade is pushed to a more horizontal angle making it difficult for the reel to grasp it and thereby make a cut. Visual symptoms of a poor bedknife face may appear on the turf later in the day. After mowing in the morning, the rear roller rolls the uncut grass down, making your cut appear normal. However, later in the day, the turf begins to stand back up leaving a very shaggy and unkempt appearance to the stand.

Finally, the top angle. After having checked the preceding two items, perhaps it is time to physically remove the knife and inspect it more closely. During inspection, look for uneven wear from poor adjusting or sharpening. Check also to see if there is a roll or wave in the knife from either foreign material like stones or sticks. You can also produce a roll in the knife from over tightening. This may cause excessive heat and in turn, affect the temper of the bedknife metal. Faulty or poorly adjusted bearings can also contribute to these effects.

The most common symptom of a roll in the bedknife is seeing multiple dominant stripes on the turf after mowing. In some cases they will even sing a tune...just remember they are a better read than they are a piece of music.

Hopefully you can take some of these basic points about bedknives and apply them in operation.

Thanks for the feedback, and I appreciate your comments, good or bad.

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 <u>www.golfsupers.on.ca</u> 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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## Above the hole

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

With fall now in full swing, turf students across the country have been filing back into the classroom (well, at least the good ones have). Of course this means getting acclimatized to the life of a student all over again. As you can imagine, it is quite a dramatic shift to go from a full-time turf position to a full-time student. After all, the two occupations are very different. With one, the bulk of your work is accomplished by noon. With the other, it's a miracle if you are even coherent enough to scratch by midday. Working as a green keeper can certainly be physically demanding, while a students life is about as taxing as a starter's position at a golf club. Also, let's not forget that as a student, the only cutting you do results in a serious reduction of your participation mark. Heck, while I'm on the topic, is the participation mark not the most irritating way to boost your grade? It's like the mail-in rebate. Sure it's a free gift, but it requires just enough effort to make it annoying.

Nevertheless, becoming a student again is no easy task. You must once again learn to read for stretches that extend beyond the average bathroom break. You must also re-train your hand to hold a pen. I don't know what it is, but whenever you stop writing regularly for an extended period of time and then you go back and pick-up a pen, it feels like the most awkward utensil you have ever had to manipulate in your life. I also find that listening to the same person talk for 3 hours in a row takes some getting used to. After all, on a golf course you can go for hours without ever having to say a word to anyone. In fact, I got through an entire week in July on primordial grunts and indecent gestures. Although, there is usually one guy on the turf staff who doesn't know when to shut his pie-hole. Not to generalize, but he is usually retired and named Ed. Maybe I should have spent more time with him my last week in preparation for class.

Regardless, the first few weeks are always a struggle. But at least the knowledge we have obtained over the past few months should give us a little more confidence in the classroom. I am hopeful that the lectures will be more of a give and take dynamic with students asking informed questions, which provoke educated answers from professors. Personally, I am eager to further my learning in preparation for a career in this field. I am also excited that we will never be called "interns" again. For some reason I was never entirely comfortable with that term. Perhaps it had something to do with my boss's penchant for fine Cuban cigars.



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you'll get it all for the same value as your current part-circle fixed trajectory sprinklers. For more information, contact one of our sales representatives at Turf Care or go online to www.turfcare.ca.

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## **Employee Turnover**

With the end of another golf season quickly approaching, now is the time to review your Employee Retention Stategies. This information is provided by GCSAA's Employer Resource Group, Recommending Retention Strategies.

Turnover among golf course employees is expected, given seasonal demands and reliance on an entry-level work force. Findings: Members of GCSAA's Employer Resource Group report a golf course industry turnovers rate of 15 to 20 percent for superintendents and other management staff, and 40 - 50 percent for hourly workers, including seasonal workers. Members of the group indicate that 10 percent is an acceptable turnover rate.

#### **Retention Strategies they utilize and recommend:**

- Make sure pay rates are at least meeting local market conditions.
  John A. Jordan, Cherokee Town & Country Club.
- Recognize consistently better than average performance and reward it. - Vince Alfonso, Jr. , Kimberling Golf Course
- Involve key employees in strategic planning. Acknowledge good performance verbally and in writing. Solicit suggestion of ways to improve course. Mark Kizziar, Lyle Anderson Golf Ltd.

#### Advice if turnover is high within the organization:

- Pay is not the only issue. Better screening, training, and evaluations are needed. - M.G. Orender, Granite Golf Management.
- Improve your selection process with new hires. Be clear with expectations for new hires; give an honest description of work expectations and conditions. Try to develop career paths and training for staff. Be flexible with scheduling. Overstaff and cross train.
  - Loretta Raftery, American Golf Corp.
- Conduct confidential employee surveys and follow-up on suggestions offered to improve working conditions.
   Jim Faubien, Club Corporation of America
  - Jim Faubion, Club Corporation of America
- Hire better. Motivate better. Train better. Establish clear lines of policies and procedures. Treat staff fairly. Pay more.
  Peter Hill, Billy Casper Golf Management
- Determine the reason and look for solutions, such as: more training, more recognition, more flexible work hours, better benefits, wage structure, opportunity for advancement, look at management style and communication styles of supervisors. Also, promoting from within is always our preference.
  Steve Adams, Meadowbrook Management Company.



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## **Off the fairway**



by Daisy Moore

all is a perfect time for gardening. There is little difference in allowable garden activities in the fall versus the spring. Trees, shrubs and perennials (and bulbs of course) can all be planted in the fall. Roots are actively growing, and will continue to grow well beyond leaf fall, in order to store nutrients and water

for winter survival and spring growth. The soil is warm and moist, making it an ideal time to plant, transplant, sow seed and prepare new beds.

Entrance ways, pathways and meeting places are focal points in the golf course environment and should be surrounded by a pleasing display of gardens. In the fall you have the opportunity to shift things around. If plants weren't able to grow to their potential or grew beyond their potential, they can be re-located to a more suitable spot without too much risk. If you discovered a new plant favourite you can plant it now and be assured that it will show for you next year. There is enough time between now and freeze up for plants to adjust to their new home.

Renovating gardens now will pay large dividends for next years' show. Think about how the garden performed this season and whether there could be some improvements. Consider the site conditions and select your plants accordingly. It is pointless to try growing ornamental grasses or colourful annuals in a shade garden. It is equally pointless to plant geraniums in areas that are difficult to irrigate. Choose plants that have the best chance at surviving in the garden where you want to put them. When you choose your plants you also need to consider the growth habit and eventual size of the plants as well as how they will grow with their neighbours. Most importantly, your goal is to have a garden that is showy throughout the year, with as little fuss from you as possible. Sometimes it is not a bad idea to ask for professional help when you want to improve the performance of your gardens.

Transplanting and dividing plants within your existing garden can be done in the fall. An economical way of expanding your gardens without increasing your plant budget is to divide your own perennials and put them into new beds. If you are new to gardening and to perennials, be sure to purchase perennials that are versatile and that can be repeatedly used in different areas of the golf course. Remember that black-eyed Susan can be tiresome after a while, so try something else as well such as the late season performers phlox, helenium or new England aster.

You can choose next years annuals based on the perennials you have planted. For example, *Artemesia sp.* are perennial, matt-forming plants with grey foliage and of medium height. They spread and transplant easily. They

are showy throughout the year, in different ways, and are useful as border plants. Many varieties of Artemesia can be used instead of dusty miller and combined with marigolds, petunias, salvias and many other medium sized annuals, for a showy border. Beebalm, Monarda sp. are summer flowering, matt-forming, 3-5 foot perennials with flowers ranging from pink, red or purple. Beebalm is useful in show gardens, butterfly gardens or in natural areas. It combines well with the annuals cosmos, love-lies bleeding, snapdragons and anything yellow. Fall is a good time to make note of how the annuals performed in each area of the golf course in order to remind yourself what to order next spring and maybe what to avoid in future. Annuals are a great asset in the fall garden. Summer flowering perennials are past and many have been cut back to make room for fall asters or other showy fall plants. In many cases, the annuals offer the only colour left in the garden. For the summer and fall garden I am especially fond of tall marigolds, love-lies bleeding, the tall verbena bonariensis and the trailing (purple) verbena. From my experience these annuals stand the test of time and are a great addition to any style of garden.

The easiest way to be assured of a pretty garden in early spring is to plant spring flowering bulbs. Bulbs can be added to liven up an otherwise successful garden bed or can be used as part of a major bed renovation. Perennials and shrubs are the other members of the garden that are ideally planted in the fall so that they are more established for the following year. By tending and adding to your gardens now, you will reduce your work load in the spring.

Daisy Moore is a horticulturist and garden designer. She works with commercial (including golf) and residential properties throughout the GTA.

Listen to The Gardening Show on 570news (<u>www.570news.com</u>) Saturday mornings 7-8. Visit my website <u>www.daisymoore.com</u> for more tips on gardening.



## **Jump Start Your Gardening**

You will want to ensure that your course gardeners sign up for the Horticulture Program, to be held at the 2006 conference on Friday, November 6, 2006.

Our special guest will be grass aficionado, greenhouse owner, author and accomplished speaker, Martin Quinn. Discussions will include the how, why, and where of using ornamental grasses and their companion plants in a golf course setting. The benefits of finding and keeping qualified gardeners, including increasing interest in horticulture for the golf course, will be highlighted.

Martin will also discuss how to build a greenhouse, and is having a greenhouse a practical and worthwhile financial venture for a golf course? Discussion will also include the importance of the Audubon Certification and IPM programs to the future of golf courses, and the ever encroaching pesticide ban movement.

For more information about Martin Quinn go to his web site: <u>www.martinquinn.com</u>

If you need a registration form go to the home page of our web site: <u>www.golfsupers.on.ca</u>





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## Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent Golf North Properties

Wy father has a keen interest in local history. So when I was a kid, many Sundays after church my parents would take my two brothers and myself on a drive to a museum in the middle of nowhere, or a pioneer village, or a steam tractor show. Sure we saw high fallutin' museums like the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto too, but more often than not, it was the Oil Springs museum in Petrolia, the Historic Gaol (that would be a jail) in Goderich, or a fully restored and functioning shingle factory. There are 50 counties in Ontario, each with it's own museum. I've been to all of them, with the possible exception of Kenora. I'm not complaining, I loved it. Now I'm doing it to my children. They too know the joy of driving three hours out of our way to see a fort, a petroglyph, or the last covered bridge in Ontario. I stop to read every blue historic sign I see.

So it was no shock to anyone, that when I got into the golf business I immediately took an interest in the history of maintenance. I find it fascinating that most of what we do out there, was originally done by rain, animals and wind. There's a great passage in an old "Greenskeeper's" manual about the best way to encourage rabbits to live around your greens, because they mow so much closer than sheep do, and their droppings are more easily removed.

Last winter, while I was sitting in the Carousel of Progress at Disneyworld getting that song hammered into my brain and looking at what old Walt thought the future would look like based on the technology of the past, it got me thinking. If we've gone from horse drawn gangmowers to what we're using now in a hundred years, what will the industry look like a hundred years from now? So this is my vision of the future. And just like Nostradamus, I can say anything I want because none of you will be around in 100 years to tell me I was wrong.

If present trends continue, by 2105 greens will be mowed at minus .0123424 inches. That's right, below grade. Every day we'll mow off the crowns and putt on the roots. There will be no logical reason to mow at this height, but we'll all do it because "that's what all the good clubs are doing". Members will still be pushing us to go lower, because "they know a guy whose brother is a scratch golfer and he said the place down the road is mowing at -.0123421". In order to accommodate this insanity, seed companies will find a way to cross bentgrass with mushrooms, making photosynthesis unnecessary. This will be for the best, because by that time the suns rays will be controlled by the Ministry of the Environment, and they will be billing us by the photon used. Courses without the budget to buy this new "fungigrass" will have to give up on trying to eliminate moss from their greens and just maintain it as a putting surface. We will all have a \$5000 tool called an accumicrogauge, which will measure this mower set up to seven decimal places, so we can know precisely how much we're lying about our height of cut.

In the future, a greensmower will  $\cos \$ 400,000$  and be made entirely of nerf. Everything on it will be controlled by a complex system of relays and safety switches which will malfunction randomly and daily. (Wait, we already have that greensmower, it must be a prototype from the future!) Fuel will cost \$75/ litre, even though it will be common knowledge



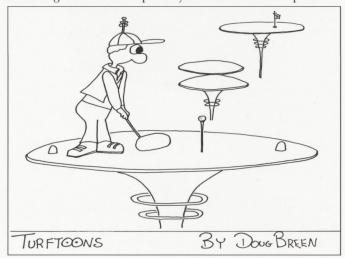
that the oil companies can make fuel from sand. \$74.92/ litre will be taxes, and the Liberal Government, who will have been in power for 115 years, will have a back bench MP looking into collusion by the retailers. The last phosphorus mine in the world will be under the control of a group of radical Saskatchewan Separatists, who the Republican States of America call "terrorists", and the Canadian Government along with their newly acquired Province of Democraticland, prefer to think of as "freedom fighters". Either way, the political unrest will drive the price of a bag of fertilizer to \$6000. Most courses still won't be willing to return clippings on fairways.

In spite of these rising costs, a round of golf will cost about four dollars, because we will have built one golf course for every 10 people on the planet. Consultants will still be recommending that we are in a growth market, pushing for more construction, and all business plans will be based on an \$85 round. Golfers will complain that the cost of their membership makes their rounds work out to almost \$3 per outing, and they will still refuse to eat in the clubhouse because they're on a fixed income.

Clubheads will be loaded with explosives, and golf balls will be made of a polymer that actually creates energy. (take *that* Newton's law) Courses will have to be stretched to 12,000 yards to accommodate the distances that golfers can hit, but pros will still insist that it's technique, not equipment.

Fertilizer prills will be too small to be seen with the naked eye. The personal safety equipment required by the Ministry of Labour will be so plentiful, awkward, and heavy that no one will be able to work while wearing it. All of our employees will be robots, but by 2105 they'll be so human that many will be lazy, sleep in, and show up hung over. Hovercarts will eliminate the need for paths. Aerators will use lasers. Bunker flashes will go up so high and steep that they'll turn upside down.

My great grandson will be dragging his children to a museum to see how they did things way back at the turn of the millennium, and my severed and cryogenically frozen head will be smiling down at them proudly from above the fireplace.



## Looking back

**15 YEARS AGO TO-DAY** 

by Barry Endicott, Project Manager Gordon Wendover Construction

he Board of Directors in 1990 was Gord Nimmo, Sarnia (pres.), Mark Hagen, West Haven (vice), Neil Acton, Deer Creek (past pres.), Rhod Trainor, Hamilton (editor), Mark Schneider, Beach Grove, Alex La Belle, Carlton, Wayne Rath, Islington, John Taylor, Twenty Valley, Dave Gourlay, Eagle Creek, Ed Farnsworth, Deerhurst, Bruce Burger, Galt and Simon George, Oakville. Simon took over as editor late in the year.

New members: **David Tascone** (F), Wyldewood, **George Wood** (E), Geogard Systems, **Jordan Lucas** (F), Galt, **Ron Legato** (DD), Scenic Woods, **Tory Karlson** (E),TCG Materials, **Perry Beausoleil** (F), Carlton, **Bruce McDonald** (E), Albion Golf Cars, **Michael Patterson** (B), Saw- Whet, **Ray Patterson** (D), Saw-Whet, **Bruce Vollett** (B), Foxwood, **Dean Baker** (B), Glen Abbey, **Geoff Corlett** (E), Turf Drain, **Doug Cherry** (F), Cherry Downs

On the move: **Ryan Beauchamp** took over the job at St. Thomas and **Rhod Trainor** left for Hamilton Golf Club. **John Cherry** moved from Cherry Downs and became superintendent of the National and **Ken Wright** moved to Devil's Pulpit. **Dave Gourlay Jr.** left Beacon Hall and went to Eagle Creek and **Bob Heron** took Dave's place at Beacon Hall. **Rick Serrao** moved from Ingersoll to a new course in St. Catherines called Rockway Glen Golf Club and **Dan Lavis** left Kleinburg and took Rick's position. **John Gall** became the new superintendent at St. George's and his assistant **Gord Somerville** took over at Oshawa. **Bruce Burger** left Galt and moved to a new golf course in Milton. Another assistant, **Jordan Lucas** took over from Bruce at Galt. **Kimmo Salonen** left York Downs for a new golf course called Port Carling and **James Wyllie and Assoc.** took over York Downs with **Al Schwemler** as superintendent.

Green Care Ontario was formed to unite the green industry so we would have one strong voice to address the concerns about the recent changes in the pesticide posting laws brought about by the Ministry of the Environment. **Thom Charters** was instrumental in establishing this new association.

The President, Greenschairman, Superintendent, Club Manager Tournament was held at Westmount on July 23 hosted by **Hugh Kirkpatrick**. First place team was from Westmount, **Hugh Kirkpatrick**, second was from Hidden Lake, **Robbie Robinson** and third place team was from Oakdale, **Paul Dermott**.

The Pro/Superintendent tournament was held at Spring Lakes Golf Club. Winning teams in order were Cedar Brae, **Warren Vout**, Beacon Hall, **Bob Heron** and Oshawa, **Gord Summerville**.

The **OTRF** tournament was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Low gross winners were **Robbie Robinson** (74), **Wayne Rath** (78) and **Richard Downing** (81).

The **CGSA** Annual Conference and Show was held on December 9 - 12 in Montreal. The **GCSAA** Conference and Show was held in Orlando on Feb. 19 - 26.

The Old and the New



Gordon Witteveen, retired superintendent at the Board of Trade CC during a WWII Veterans Tournament. According to Witteween, Sean is doing a fine job and 45 - hole golf course is in great shape.

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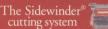
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