

DEC 0 6 2006

December 2006

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

OGSAA
ARCHIVES

Piper's Heath Golf Club - New Course on the Block

Conference Update
This Year in Diagnostics
Integrated Pest Management



CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL
PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT No. 40027105

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ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

Sheraton Centre

EDUCATION POINTS

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Points

Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses in Canada	65
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – day 1	40
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – day 2	45

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Points

Wednesday January 17th, 2007

Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses in Canada	7
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Thursday January 18th, 2007

Creative Leadership – The Competitive Edge	1
Proving the Value of Technology to a Superintendent.	1
Team Building/Team Management/Human Resources.	1
Water Regulations	1
Hole In One...Every Time! Issues and Ethics For The Golf Course Superintendent	1

Friday January 19th, 2007

Health & Safety.....	1
Getting the Most Out of a USGA Visit	1
Pest Management – Pathology Root Diseases Prevention, Diagnosis, Management	1
Water Quality and Management At The Toronto Golf Club.....	1
Velvet Bentgrass Capping, Materials and Methods	1
Winning Against the Odds.....	1

Integrated Pest Management - Points

Pre-conference seminar: Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses in Canada.. 8:30-4:30..with an hour for lunch	9
Attend morning or afternoon only	4.5

The following would be worth 1.3 each

- * Value of Technology
- * Water Regulations
- * Issues and Ethics
- * USGA Visit
- * Pest management-root diseases
- * Water quality
- * Velvet Bentgrass

45 minutes of seminar time = 1 cec.

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR

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Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses in Canada
Wednesday, January 17th 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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Thursday, January 18th & Friday January 19th

OGSA AWARDS LUNCHEON

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Thursday, January 18th at 11:30 am

Come out and congratulate those who have earned special
awards this year

TRADE SHOW SOCIAL HOUR

SPONSORED BY BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Thursday, January 18th 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

On The Trade Show Floor

OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 18th, 2007 5:30 PM

Grand Ballroom West

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Thursday, January 18th, 2007

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Top Floor - Sheraton Club Lounge

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time

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ntre Toronto

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN and HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

The education component of the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show for golf course equipment technicians and horticulturists has now been finalized. Scheduled for Friday, January 19th beginning at 8:00 am, these programs will provide four hours of class time specifically designed for these two disciplines. In addition to these topics, each program registrant will have access to the trade show on both Thursday (after 1:00 pm) and Friday, lunch in the trade show on Friday and the opportunity to hear the keynote address by Michael "Pinball" Clemons on Friday afternoon at 2:30 pm.

The details related to each of the programs are noted below. Please go to page 16 for the registration form or go to www.golfsupers.on.ca for further details and a downloadable registration form.

Equipment Technician Program

AGRONOMY FOR EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS

Sean Jordan has worked in the turfgrass industry for over ten years. After working on the construction of an Arnold Palmer signature golf course, Mr. Jordan attended Penn State's Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program. Sean has worked as an assistant superintendent and a superintendent/general manager. He is currently the Assistant Production Manager for Compact Sod Farm and teaches a course in turfgrass equipment management each fall at the University of Guelph.

This presentation will give individuals a fundamental understanding of turfgrass growth cycles, habits and morphology. There will also be a discussion of how maintenance equipment affects turf growth, water usage, and pest incidence.

ORGANIZING YOUR SHOP

Participants in this panel include Warren Wybenga, Equipment Manager, Donalds Club; Mark Atkins, Equipment Manager, Thornhill Golf and Country Club and Brad Ciemins,

Equipment Manager, Eagle's Nest Golf Club.

The panel will discuss their recent experience in designing or redesigning the repair and maintenance "shop" facility at their respective golf courses and provide tips on what considerations should come into play from both a productivity and health and safety standpoint. Participants are encouraged to bring their ideas and their questions to this "listen and learn" session.

LUBRICATION BASICS

Mario Tammaro is a Senior Technical Advisor with Petro Canada. Mario began his career with BP Canada in Montreal and has worked in the lab, tech services and sales components of the business. His primary role currently with Petro Canada is to help customers choose the best product for their application and to help them problem solve. Mr. Tammaro is familiar with both fuels and lubricants.

This session will look at why we lubricate and how lubricants are formulated. Participants will then examine the functions and types of greases, hydraulic oils and fluids available and how to choose the right one for the conditions and application. The session will also deal with proper storage and disposal.

Horticulture Program

GOLF COURSE GARDENS

This session will examine a number of aspects of the horticulturist's responsibilities on a golf course, including:

- Soil preparation for flower beds;
- Bed composition;
- Plant selection;
- Using colour;
- Matching the beds with the course style, and;
- Flower bed renovation to reduce maintenance.

The session facilitator will be Claire Bélisle. Ms. Bélisle is the editor of Quebec-based "Vert" Magazine. Claire also writes articles for the Quebec Golf Superintendents Association magazine, "Herbomaine".

HE CONFERENCE

President's message

Sense of Renewed Excitement

Superintendents are eternal optimists. We look at the weather radar forecast, and plan our staff's day for the best scenario possible, despite the high probability of another outcome. During planning we expect the best, yet are always prepared for the worst. I suspect the same sentiment goes for our career and our industry. I get excited whenever we triumph over adversity or successfully cope with whatever Mother Nature dishes out. In my frequent travels as President this year, I also got the sense that we are all excited about the future. Whatever that future might look like, it probably means a healthy industry and a fulfilling career and a happy home.

I also get excited at the approach of conference season. To me that means gearing-up for travels to familiar places to see familiar and not-so-familiar faces, and learn about the unfamiliar. It's a time to ask yourself what worked and didn't work well at your home club this season; determine if you have any great degree of control over that problem; and identify where to seek information about a potential solution. This will clearly help both you and your club. I want to congratulate Jeff Stauffer and his conference organizing committee for bringing together outstanding conference education and course management solutions at our January conference and show. It promises to be another great event, which just keeps on getting bigger and better!

Success breeds success, and in my slightly biased opinion, I believe the OGSA is the most responsive and sophisticated and member driven regional association in Canada. I say that knowing our competition well, and many of our colleagues from coast-to-coast. From an award-winning magazine; a large conference/show; growing membership roster; to Board strategic planning sessions; relevant advocacy of our IPM and environmental positions; to prudent office procedures/management/staffing and sound fiscal investments; to first-class camaraderie/golf events – the OGSA is well positioned for the times! Credit must go to all those involved – from current and past directors and staff to the supportive and visionary membership. We have guided our association through some exciting times and witnessed our credibility improve remarkably to where superintendents are regarded as key members of their facility's management team. The future indeed looks bright! Let's always pledge to renew our collective excitement each winter conference season. What better way to kick-off the next growing season.

This is my last message to the membership as OGSA President. That's a bittersweet feeling for me. I've thoroughly enjoyed representing you at various functions this year, and I'm in no particular hurry for the January AGM to arrive. I would like to sincerely thank the membership, staff, and directors for their support and encouragement as OGSA President. I would also like to thank Rosedale Golf Club and my assistants for allowing me the opportunity to serve and volunteer these many years.

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



Robert Burrows, OGSA, MS
Rosedale Golf Club



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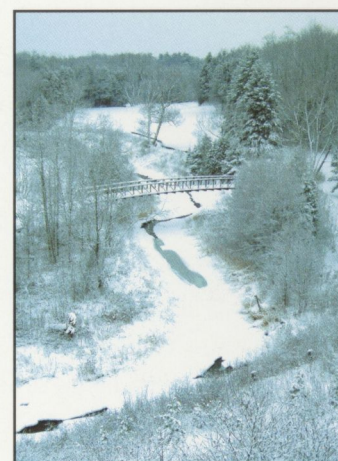
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Whitevale Golf Club

Photo by Blair Rennie

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Editorial message



by Chris Nelson
Co-Editor

Let it snow...let it snow. No, wait a minute! Is there time to apply winter snow mold protection? This fall has been interesting. The middle of October felt like it was time to pull the pins and close shop for the year. I feel for anyone who was trying to complete any course renovation this fall; the wet weather was

less than ideal. Now that the fall is past, we look forward to the holiday season. We also think about the OGSA conference scheduled January 17th-19th. A fabulous conference agenda is set up and ready for members to enjoy.

This month's issue has a summary from Pam Charbonneau on all the environmental challenges we faced this past season. The OTRF has provided us an update about an important potential change for the foundation and their relationship with supporting

associations. The president of OGSA has provided an update on his visit to the GCSAA delegate's meeting. Our golf course highlight comes from Blair Rennie, Superintendent at Whitevale Golf Club, which you see on the cover of this month's magazine. Doug Davidson introduces us to a new golf club in Hornby, Ontario by the name of Piper's Heath Golf Club, that is nearing completion. Finally, Katrina Jordan summarizes this year's interesting findings in diagnostics.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all members who contributed to the magazine this year. The quality of the content is due in part to the efforts put forth by you, the contributors. A group of people also to mention is the editorial committee who work hard behind the scenes to co-ordinate with office staff at the OGSA to ensure you are provided a quality publication. Thank you so much and on that note, we hope to see everyone at the conference.



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March.....	19 - 23, 2007
March (Ottawa).....	26 - 30, 2007
April.....	16 - 20, 2007
December.....	3 - 7, 2007

All above courses in North York except where noted. Government exam held on Monday following each course.

TURF WEED ID

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June.....	19 or 26, 2007
August.....	21 or 28, 2007

*One day workshops held in Scarborough

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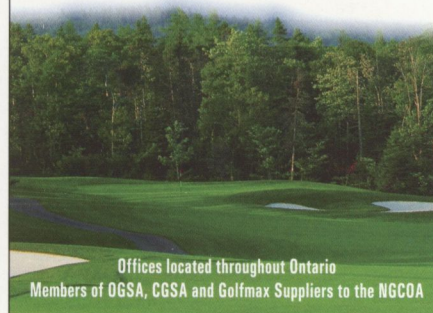
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What's new

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Class A and Superintendent members of the Association, who are normally employed but not currently working, or have come upon unexpected difficult financial circumstances, have the opportunity to attend the OGSA Conference. Communicate, in writing, to the OGSA office your circumstances and interest to attend the conference. Any member indicating interest to attend the conference will be kept confidential. This is available for members as a benefit of the association. Complimentary registration to the conference will be provided at the discretion of the OGSA board of directors. Take advantage of this opportunity and you will be keeping yourself connected to your profession.

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2005-2006 REPORTS

The following is a list of the OGSA reports, required for the Annual General Meeting on January 18th, 2007.

Meeting to be held at January 18, 2007 in the Grand Ballroom West
at 5:30 p.m.

- Director Election Notice
- Election Nomination Form
- End of Year Audited Financial Statements
- End of Year Director Portfolio Reports
- Minutes from AGM January 5, 2006

According to our by-law these reports can be accessed, as soon as they are available, 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, R.R. 2, Guelph, Ontario

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

Perry Beausoleil Class F
Hyland Golf Club

Nicholas Bell Class C
The Club at Bond Head

Greg Brown Class S
University of Guelph

Kevin Eugene Hynes Class F
Coppinwood Golf Club

Matthew Legg Class S
University of Guelph

Kendall Lindsay Class F
Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay

Scott MacKay Class F
Springfield Golf & CC

David Meyer Class C
Brantford Golf & CC

Jessie Nichols Class S
Seneca College

Rick Pero Class D
Tillsonburg Golf & CC

Michael Sturrock Class C
King Valley Golf Club

Mark Trudell Class A
Maple Ridge Golf Club

Sittler Environmental Inc. Class E
Steven Sittler

From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

A Recap of the 2006 Season Weather

It all began with warm, dry conditions in early spring. Many superintendents had to rush to get irrigation up and running. As a result of the dry conditions in most areas, there was slow growth in the spring. Once summer arrived, it arrived with a vengeance and there was oppressive heat in mid-July, which lasted into early August. That hot spell was accompanied by torrential rains in many areas. The rains have just not abated and this fall in Ontario was one of the wettest on record so far and there are still a few weeks of fall left. At the moment soils are saturated and we could really use some dry weather to help drain soils before winter sets in. One interesting phenomenon this fall is the lack of Fusarium patch. We certainly appear to be having weather conducive to Fusarium patch infection and development, but so far I have only seen a tiny bit of it. It could make for a good discussion over a beer at one of the turf conferences over the winter.

Insects

In mid-spring we had a week of warm weather that brought out the black turfgrass ateenius. Then it cooled down for a couple of weeks, virtually halting the BTA flights. This resulted in two peaks of black turfgrass ateenius about a month later. As a result you could find all stages of grubs and adults at one time in the late spring. Luckily, with imidacloprid (Merit) being registered for BTA the timing relative to the BTA lifecycle is less critical than it was with the older curative products. European chafer grubs were a big problem in the spring of 2006. The same was true for annual bluegrass weevil where multiple stages of this pest could be found during a one month period this summer.

Leatherjackets were quite a big problem in the late spring. They are also more wide spread than we previously thought. It turns out that they have already arrived on many Muskoka golf courses. Often superintendents would see a few when mowing early in the morning. They would then treat with insecticide only to find that they had drastically underestimated the populations when thousands of dead leatherjackets were found on the surface of the greens after treating. Our fall conditions have been conducive to European crane fly egg hatch, so it is conceivable that there will be high

leatherjacket populations again this spring.

Ants have been a continual problem over the past few years. This year was no exception. The mounds usually occur within a metre of the edge of sand based greens. Mound building activity usually begins at the end of May to the beginning of June. Insecticides offer short term control – (2-6) weeks. Because the mounds are usually limited to the perimeter of greens, an IPM approach is to treat only the perimeters. There are three products labeled for ant control, chlorpyrifos (Dursban T), cabaryl (Sevin T&O) and a new pyrethroid product called Demand. On the subject of Demand, I have just been notified that the turf ant control is being moved to the Scimitar label, which is the same active ingredient cyhalothrin-lambda as (Demand).

Crabgrass

Crabgrass germination was very late this summer. In most cases, soil temperatures were high enough in late May but moisture was limiting. When the monsoon like conditions came on in late June/early July, there was thin turf because of the dry weather and the tropical heat and moisture combined to cause an absolute explosion of crabgrass. Many turf areas appeared to be almost entirely composed of crabgrass. It is possible too that some of the pre-emergence crabgrass products did not go the distance this year.

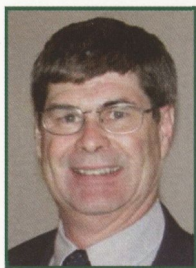
Turf Roots

It was generally not a good year for turf root growth. The very hot, wet spell in mid-July to early August caused very high soil temperatures that were well above the optimum for turf roots survival. There was a double whammy when poor root survival was combined with pressure from the root disease summer patch.

All the rain this fall will be hard on root growth on poorly drained soils. Turf roots need air to grow and function and some waterlogged rootzones probably don't have any air pores left that aren't filled with water. The saturated soils also do not bode well for good annual bluegrass turf winter survival. What we need in December is some dry weather before going into winter. All that being said, if you have good drainage, it is possible that your turf has never looked so good.

Best of luck over the winter. Let's hope it is a good one for turf survival. Take advantage of the conference season to get up to speed on the latest turf research results and I wish all of you time to have some rest and relaxation after a very gruelling season.

Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
SAFETAID - Health and
Safety Consulting

Take the Time to Reflect and Prepare

Welcome to winter. I trust that your summer season was great!

Now is a time to sit back and reflect on the past season. What went right what went wrong?

I know that I have written quite a bit about various aspects of safety and the things that you should be doing to ensure that your workplace is safe. I started writing these articles for Green is Beautiful in 1999. A lot of water under the bridge, so to speak. Many of you have worked hard to comply with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the Act) and Regulations.

Many workplaces in Ontario are doing a much better job in creating safe work environments; however, it is interesting to note that since 1999 the number of deaths in Ontario has stayed about the same. And it may be hard to believe but approximately one (1) person dies every day in Ontario from a work related accident or illness. In 2005 there were 350 workers killed in Ontario. And there were 277,000 lost time accidents. These stats are courtesy of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

The accidents and deaths are as varied as the jobs that are done. Workers are killed while climbing, in machine operation accidents, electrocutions, getting hit in the head and getting caught in machinery, just to name a few.

Oh yes, and just so you realize what has been happening with charges under the Act, I have gone to the Ontario Ministry of Labour web site and looked at a number of convictions that have occurred. One

supervisor was put in jail for 30 days. In the last month, October 2006 there were fifteen (15) major fines levied against companies and supervisors in Ontario. The fines ranged from \$15,000 to 200,000. And remember that every fine in Ontario now has another 25% tacked on to go towards the victim impact fund. Take a moment and go to <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/index.html>. By looking at the court news you will understand some of the thinking that happens in the courts these days.

As superintendents, as I have stated many times, you have an obligation to ensure that your workplace is safe. Over the winter months take the time to look at your safety program and get the program up to date so that you are ready with a set of clear rules that will **control or eliminate potential accidents** in your workplace. Talk to some of the other superintendents and find out what the Ontario Ministry of Labour has asked them to do at their golf courses. Some of the inspectors are being very strict; others are not quite so stringent. I have no way of knowing how the inspectors in your area will enforce the rules, but if you take the time to review your rules this winter you will be in a much better position when next season starts to get all your staff properly oriented and trained before they get out onto the greens and fairways.

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ONTARIO TURF RESEARCH FOUNDATION UPDATE

Despite a rainy day in October for an outside tour, the OTRF hosted an information session and visit of the turf plots at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Invited guests to the roundtable forum, included representatives from turf related associations such as Landscape Ontario, National Golf Course Owners, Sports Turf, Ontario Golf Superintendents' and the Golf Association of Ontario. Dr. Rene Van Acker, recently appointed Chair of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph, joined the discussions to learn of the history of OTRF and its mandate.

Ron Schiedel, President of OTRF explained the OTRF mission statement which is *to direct and promote turf research for the benefit of the turfgrass industry and the general public*. University of Guelph turf researchers, Dr. Tom Hsiang, Dr. Eric Lyons

and Dr. Katerina Jordan were on hand to showcase their research. These expert turf specialists provided a united voice that spoke volumes of enthusiasm to the future of not only turf research but research at Canada's top turf research facility, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Following the presentations, association leaders and the OTRF Board during a roundtable dialogue, exchanged ideas on how to take the OTRF to the next level. With a long term goal in place, the OTRF can be instrumental in making the GTI a world class turf research facility in the next five years. Subsequently, with both industry and end user financial support, the OTRF would continue to fund cutting edge research at one of North America's largest turf research institutes.

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Canadian Golf Superintendents Association news



by Robert Burrows, CGCS, MS
Rosedale Golf Club

This is old news by now, but the Fall Field Day tournament at Mont Tremblant Le Giant GC, Quebec, on September 18th, was an absolutely outstanding event. Our thanks go 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 Pemberton, BC - Big Sky Golf, with exact details to follow for this September, 2007 event.

The Score "Superintendent of the Year" award will be given to Mr. Mike De Young of the Glen Arbour GC, NS, and the John B. Steele Award will be given to Mr. Gerry Lettner of Olds College, of Alberta. The Toro Future Superintendent of the Year Award will be given to Mr. John Kachmarski of Glencoe G & CC and a recent graduate of the University of Guelph. The Toro Environmental Achievement award is as yet undeclared. Congratulations to all the recipients! The ninth annual salary and benefits survey was sent out in November, and the fifth IPM/BMP survey will be conducted in the spring of 2008. The newly updated "Environmental Management Resources Manual" is available for purchase on CD. This document 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 Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent 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. The mandatory education component was unveiled in July 2006. This process is a continuation of the approach begun by the National Occupation Standards principles. As reported over

the past few years when adopted, the program would certainly have some degree of impact on our profession and is a grass-roots member-driven approach. You are encouraged to become familiar with the proposal and plan your career and education accordingly.

The CGSA will be hosting various regional seminars in Ontario in the near future. Specifically, November 28th at the Toronto Congress Centre in Mississauga was well attended with Dr. Brandenburg and Dr. Yelverton from North Carolina State University on "IPM: Putting Together an Effective Plan". Another spring seminar is in the planning stages for Western Ontario. Details will be announced soon. Plan now to attend a seminar in your region.

The upcoming joint CGSA/QGSA conference is being held in Montreal from March 2-6, 2007 with keynote speakers Pat Jones of Flagstick LLC and Dick Irvin, sports broadcaster. There will also be ten excellent pre-conference seminars, a series of concurrent sessions, a closing keynote speaker, awards luncheon and great local hospitality. This conference promises to be a great success. The CGSA Board is equally excited about forging closer ties with the OGSA as they both continue with their joint management venture of the Ontario show at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, January 2007.

This will be my last address to the membership as CGSA Ontario Director, as I will presumably be moving-up to the position of Vice President at the Montreal AGM. After a month's-long "call for nominations", the OGSA Board considered any/all candidates for Ontario Director, and I am pleased to announce that Mr. Keith Bartlett of Thornhill CC is the nominee put forth to CGSA to complete my term. I know Keith will receive your full support, as I have over the years. He will be a great ambassador for Ontario members.

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

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The way we were

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Golf course highlight

Whitevale Golf Club

2985 Golf Club Road, Whitevale ON
Ph: 905 294-2512 Fax: 905 294-5115
Website: www.whitevalegolfclub.com
Email: greens@whitevalegolfclub.com
Golf Course Superintendent: Blair Rennie



New 12th hole - Fall 2006, photo by Blair Rennie

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Durham Region

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Private (Equity share)

Size of membership and typical number of rounds
531 members with 33,000 rounds

Typical opening and closing date
Mid-April to Mid-November

How long have you been a superintendent?
16 years

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

Accomplishments?
Audubon certification in 2004, Host Superintendent to the 2001, 2002 and 2003 Canadian PGA Championships

How many staff?
3 year round and 20 seasonal staff

Who are your assistants and mechanics?
*Assistant: Glenn Major
Equipment Manager: Scott Mackenzie*

How many gardening staff?
1 - Judy Duncan

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
*6,742 yards from the back tees and
5,216 yards from the front tees*

What is the size of driving range and tee range?
*Driving Range - 320 yards long, 9.5 acres
Practice Tee: 28,000 ft²*

How many bunkers?
49 bunkers

How many times does water come into play?
2 ponds in play on 3 holes, West Dufferins' Creek in play on 3 other holes

Who was the original architect?
Jack Boyce

What was the year of original construction?
1957 opened in 1958

By whom and when was the course remodeled?

Thomas McBroom in 2004/2005

What major tournaments have been held?
*Canadian PGA Assistants Championship
1999 and Ontario Ladies Amateur 2003*

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
Three separate buildings totaling 4,250 ft²

What type of irrigation system?
Toro Osmac with site pro

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
*2.2 acres of greens, 2 acres of
tees and 23 acres of Fairways*

What is your predominant grass?
Poa/Bent

How many USGA and loam greens?
6 modified USGA, 13 push up

What is the predominant soil type?
Sandy Loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

*3-Toro GM-1000
1-Toro Flex 21
2-Toro GM-1600
1-Toro GM-3000
1-Toro GM-3050
2-Toro 5400-D's
1-Toro Sidewinder
1-Jacobsen 5111
1-Jacobsen Tri-king
1-Toro Sand Pro
9-EZ Go Workhorses
1-John Deere Gator
1-4 wheel Cushman Truckster
2-3 wheel Cushman Trucksters
1-John Deere 40HP 4x4 tractor with loader
1-New Holland 40HP tractor
2-Massy Ferguson 25HP tractors
1-GMC ½ ton pick up
1-175 gallon Spraytech sprayer on Cushman
1-Jacobsen slit seeder
1-Lely fertilizer spreader
1-Salsco roller
1-300 gallon water tanker
1-Bergal 800 vacuum
1-Bergal PTO drive blower
1-Toro PTO drive blower
1-Toro Greens aerator*

*1-Cushman GA-60
1-Cushman Core Destroyer
1-Cushman TD1500 belt topdresser
1-Turfco SP-1530 topdresser
1-Greens Groomer drag brush
1-6 foot PTO drive sweepster
1-Supertilt
1-Ryan Sod Cutter
2-Stihl Chainsaws
1-Stihl Quick Cut Saw
1-Stihl Pole Pruner
2-Stihl Back Pack Blowers
4-Stihl Line Trimmers
2-Fly-mows
1-Foley Reel Grinder
1-Foley Bedknife Grinder*

COURSE PROJECTS AND PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?
Three million dollar redesign including 6 new greens, 4 enlarged greens, all bunkers and most tees completely rebuilt, major drain lines, cart paths, two ponds, complete irrigation system including pump station and an 11 million gallon reservoir.

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?
New clubhouse, major tree planting program and cart path edge treatment.

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Keeping consistency between old and new greens. Small tees suffer badly from high traffic.

Do you have any success stories?
Keeping the \$3 million renovation project within 2% of budget.

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?
Applications of Ferrous Sulfate to moss negatively impact the moss's ability to flourish allowing surrounding turf to be more competitive.

Piper's Heath Golf Club New Course on the Block

by Doug Davidson, Superintendent
Glencairn Golf Club

A new golf course is in the latter stages of construction at the corner of Britannia and Trafalgar Roads in Hornby, Ontario. Piper's Heath Golf Club is the new neighbour of Wyldewood Golf & Country Club and Royal Ontario Golf Club. Piper's Heath is located just a short distance from the 401, 407 and 403 and is at the edge of the western development of Mississauga, the eastern development of Milton and the northern development of Oakville. These combined communities have a population of close to 1 million residents. Milton alone has seen its population almost double in the last 5 years and will see it double again by 2021. Presumably, this gives Piper's Heath access to a large number of potential golfers. The golf course should be well positioned to take advantage of the growing population of all three communities and the easy access by major highways. Piper's Heath will open as a daily fee public golf course with green fees in the \$80.00 range and will offer tremendous value to the local "golf nuts" who have been eagerly discussing the opening dates on a number of web sites.

I recently visited the construction site where Tim Muys, Golf Course Superintendent, showed off the project like a proud father. With the golf course 80% complete and with the footprint for the clubhouse, halfway house and parking lot currently being graded and drained Tim is extremely busy. However, he was able to provide me with a tour of the course and we spoke at length about the challenges and successes that have come with the project. The following talking points are what we discussed:

Arriving at Piper's Heath

Tim graduated from the University of Guelph in 1997. Upon graduation he worked with Mike Burton, Superintendent, Heron Point Golf Links as his assistant. He subsequently left Heron Point in 2002 to tackle the construction and grow-in of Copetown Woods Golf Club. On April 1, 2006, having satisfied his ambitions with the

Copetown property he moved to his current position at Piper's Heath. Tim indicated that he has gained more confidence with this second construction effort (asked if he would tackle another construction project Tim jokingly replied that it would be at the expense of his marriage...he was married September of 2005). This confidence was evident as we toured the property. There is not a facet of the operation that escapes Tim's scrutiny. The work schedule is sun-up until sundown and once the seed is in the ground there is no time for days off.

Site History

The project comprises a total 300 acres of what was previously farmland. Two neighbours, York Trafalgar Corp., a land developer and Moses Comarin, a garden supply store owner, came together with the idea of building a championship golf club. The idea of constructing a golf course at the site had been in the works for close to a decade as the bulk of the property (200 acres) was purchased over 20 years ago. A relatively flat site has been transformed by importing topsoil and local cut / fill scraper operation by Hamilton Construction. The golf course will open as an 18 hole facility but there is a long term plan to add an additional 9 hole facility.



The Course

The golf course was designed by Graham Cooke. It is a links style golf club with wide fairways and great vistas. The course will have large expanses of fescue. The rough and fescue mounding is quite severe in places and has some unique concave depressions that Cooke refers to as "bear caves". The bunkers are meant to resemble sod walled bunkers and are "steep and deep". They are, however, longer and more sprawling than traditional links pot bunkers and will contain white sand. There are several ponds on the property and water will come into play on 6 holes. The course also features a number of extremely large oak trees that are remnants of the old farm fence rows. These stately trees reveal the prevailing winds in their twisted branches. Trees do not appear to play a large strategic roll in the routing of the golf course.

The length will range from 5200 to 7000 + yards. Greens are on average 6000 ft² and have a great variety of shapes and elevations. The course will also feature a sprawling double green that will serve both the 10th and 17th holes.

The greens have been constructed to USGA specifications. The challenge at Copetown with "home made" non perched style greens, constant probing for moisture and more frequent irrigation scheduling convinced Tim of the value of constructing to USGA specifications.

Tees have been constructed with sandy topsoil found on site. The tee decks are square to suit the links themed golf course.

The course also features an extensive practice facility comprised of a 12 acre driving range and a one acre practice tee.

The golf course will open with a sizeable halfway house that will accommodate the pro shop, washroom facilities and a small food and beverage operation. Construction of the main clubhouse will follow at some point in the future.

The tentative open date of the golf course is June 2007.

State of the Project, Challenges, Successes

At the time of my visit, 16 holes had been seeded. Seeding commenced August 1, 2006 and most of the holes that were seeded early look ready for play. The wet weather that has affected southern Ontario since the Labour Day weekend has definitely presented challenges to shaping and topsoil spreading. Additionally, southern Ontario has been considerably colder than normal with temperatures 4-6 degrees below seasonal. Tim anticipates that they will start to sod (roughs and surrounds) the remaining unseeded portions of the golf course because establishing seed at this time of the year is difficult.

Construction of the maintenance facility is set to commence in November. It will also house the electric cart storage and offer 11000 square feet for cold storage, offices and staff rooms.



There are several creek channels that are protected from the earth moving. These corridors provide challenge as forced carries, offer variety to the landscape and are a habitat for wildlife. Tim and his crew are currently constructing the bridges that will cross these protected areas. A total of 8 bridges will be constructed through these environmentally sensitive areas.

The trucking in of fill has also been challenging. Coordinating and directing truck traffic on the 200 acres site has been a full time job. On occasion shapers have been forced to wait for fill. On the other hand, the resulting mounds are spectacular.

In spite of the large population close to the course, Tim expressed that he has had difficulty hiring and retaining staff. Golf course construction is not easy work. Convincing suburban kids to spend the summer in the summer dust and fall mud is never easy. The staff he has retained have been involved in grubbing and clearing, shaping and filling bunkers, building the pump house, mowing and constructing bridges.

Tim has had great success with hydro seeding. There is a dramatic difference in the maturity of the stands of turf that have been hydro seeded and those that have been seeded conventionally. "If it were my money I would hydro seed everything." Having seen the results it is hard to argue. Additionally, several greens that were seeded recently (within the last 3 weeks) have been fibre mulched. Establishment under the mulch has been very good. The fibre mulch will substitute for greens covers over the winter.

Oats have been used extensively as nurse grass for the bluegrass and fescue. The oats have helped stabilize the soil, control erosion and I suspect shielded the fescues and bluegrasses from the howling winds on the site. Tim indicated he was responsible for much of the grassing lines and personally seeded most of the oats. The oats will expire over the winter as the plant is an annual.

Tim and his crew have their work cut out for them between now and the opening date. I wish them good luck as they bring to completion what I'm sure will be a tremendous golf course and a great addition to the now burgeoning number of golf courses within Ontario's latest golf destination, the Region of Halton. Welcome to the neighbourhood. Web site coming soon. www.pipersheath.com

The Ontario Golf Course Management Conference And Trade Show Registration Form

MEMBERSHIP: ☐ OGSA Member ☐ Non-member

TITLE

☐ Superintendent ☐ Assistant ☐ Owner ☐ Manager ☐ Technician
☐ Student ☐ Industry Associate ☐ Other

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☐ \$385

All Inclusive, 2 Day – Until December 1, 2006

☐ \$300

☐ \$340

One Day

Thursday or Friday includes education program, keynote, trade show, Awards Lunch (Thursday),
trade show social hour (Thursday), trade show lunch (Friday), Presidents Reception (Thursday),
refreshment breaks.

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ \$250

☐ \$300

One Day – until December 1, 2006

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ \$210

☐ \$250

Class AA – Retired members Only – All Inclusive, 2 Day

☐ \$100

Student 2 Day Package

Includes keynote speakers, education program, Awards Luncheon, trade show,
trade show social hour (Thursday), refreshment breaks, trade show lunch (Friday).

☐ \$70

☐ \$70

Student 1 Day Package

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ \$40

☐ \$40

Trade Show Only (Per Day)

Thursday includes trade show and trade show social hour.

Friday includes trade show and trade show lunch.

☐ Thursday

☐ Friday

☐ \$80

☐ \$80

Mechanics Program

Includes special education program (Friday), trade show (Thursday and Friday),
lunch (Friday), refreshment breaks, and closing keynote speaker.

☐ \$140

☐ \$140

Horticulture Program

Includes special education program (Friday), trade show (Thursday and Friday),
lunch (Friday), refreshment breaks, and closing keynote speaker.

☐ \$140

☐ \$140

I will be attending the President's Reception on Thursday

☐ Yes

I will be attending the Awards Luncheon on Thursday

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TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE & SHOW

10. Attend the pre-conference seminar, Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses in Canada, presented by John McGuire & Mark Flock of Brookside Laboratories. The price is unbeatable.
9. Gear up for the conference by attending the opening ceremonies and listening to keynote speaker, Jimmy Westrick talk about Creative Leadership — The Competitive Edge. We can all take home the message, Winning Against the Odds, from Michael "Pinball" Clemons, who will be our closing keynote speaker
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, for all registered delegates.
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.
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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA - DELEGATES MEETING SUMMARY

by Bob Burrows, CGCS, MS
OGSA Chapter Delegate



Chapter Delegates Look to the Future

The 2006 Chapter Delegates meeting was held at the Kansas City Marriott, October 13-15, 2006. There were 104 delegates in attendance representing all the GCSAA chapters.

Noting the association and its members have made significant gains on several fronts, the GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting in October took a strategic approach in discussing how GCSAA could sustain that momentum in achieving its mission, vision and goals.

"I commend and appreciate the Delegates for the energy they displayed during the meeting," said Ricky Heine, CGCS meeting chairman and GCSAA vice-president.

"They were focused and well-prepared in giving the board of directors and staff their perspectives on how we achieve our long-term vision. They took ownership of their association and in their responsibility as delegates. It is obvious they engaged their members in talks before the meeting."

The exchange of ideas and comments focused primarily on three items:

- a.) the development of long-term revenue streams to fund programs and services;
- b.) growing the GCSAA membership;
- c.) and positioning GCSAA and its membership classes in the marketplace (primarily to employers and influential golfers).

The financial conversations centered on the establishment of a long-term dues pricing strategy. At the request of the Delegates, the board and staff presented a proposal that would tie the establishment of membership dues to an index (such as the Consumer Price Index). Historically, the association has enacted a dues increase in larger increments on average every five to seven years. The result has been a loss of members. There was widespread agreement at the meeting that smaller dues increases would be more easily absorbed at the facility level and less likely to result in membership declines. Directors further discussed the issue at their fall meeting, October 20 - 21, in New Orleans.

Tied to the discussion of revenues was an examination of GCSAA membership numbers. From a high of more than 22,000 in 2001, the association's membership has declined approximately 10 percent to just over 20,000 today. There was agreement that the situation has been created in large part by a struggling golf economy and the implementation of member standards. Staff presented a seven-phased membership growth and recruitment campaign enacted late last year. Delegates supported the efforts, realizing such an initiative will take time to yield results and must be long-term in nature. They were especially supportive of

the GCSAA field staff pilot program and encouraged strong consideration for expanding it in the near future.

The liveliest debate was on GCSAA's philosophy regarding the positioning of the association and its membership classes. Delegates shared a variety of opinions, but ultimately agreed that for membership standards to have value in the marketplace, they must be promoted externally. There was unanimous support that greater resources be dedicated to marketing the association, with a focus on Class A as being the preferred membership class. It was noted, however, that promoting Class A does not mean that marketing other membership classes should not be part of the program.

Noting that chapters will be integral to the success of revenue generation, membership growth and retention, and marketing efforts, discussion also included an examination of chapter effectiveness. Specifically, the delegates were charged with providing the board and staff direction as to how the association could best invest resources to enhance chapter operations. The top three items were:

- a.) membership recruitment and retention;
- b.) chapter executive development and support;
- c.) chapter meeting effectiveness
(attendance, timing, satisfaction, value, etc.).

It was the consensus that many of the issues were interrelated and thus could be addressed if programs and services are developed and coordinated appropriately. Once again, support for expanding the field staff pilot program was communicated, and suggested as a means to implement effectiveness programs.

Delegates also expressed interest in providing support to GCSAA's advocacy efforts. They were briefed on the process the association follows for commenting to the EPA on product re-registration. The process includes an element for member input to GCSAA actions, plus the opportunity for chapters and members to become directly engaged as well.

All candidates were met who are running for the 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors. They are as follows:

- Ricky Heine - President
- David Downing - Vice President
- James Fitzroy - Secretary/Treasurer
- Mark Kuhns - Secretary/Treasurer
- Robert Randquist - Director
- Keith Ihms - Director
- John Miller - Director
- Roger Ruff - Director

More information will be obtained during the next few months regarding the direction of the OGSA vote. I look forward to your comments and feedback on the suitability of these gentlemen. I was honoured to represent the OGSA membership in Kansas. Let's never forget that we are a founding chapter of this national group.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

by Jarrod Barakett, Superintendent
Deer Ridge Golf Club

Three years in, the IPM Accreditation Program continues to grow strong. Each year the number of Level 2 Accredited golf courses has doubled. Now, at the end of 2006, there are 31 fully IPM accredited golf courses in Ontario. Each of the 31 golf courses deserves both a congratulations and a thank you from all OGSA members. It is their hard work and dedication to the industry that helps to reinforce that we stand behind the responsible use of pesticides.

As professional turf managers I don't need to explain the fundamentals of Integrated Pest Management however, I believe it is important to understand the difference between practicing IPM and being involved in an organization that monitors your IPM practices. As an outsider looking in or a golf industry skeptic, the simple notion that you practice IPM likely would not prove your level of competency. As a certified IPM Agent by the IPM Council of Canada, you possess the credentials to prove that you are capable of using pesticides responsibly. You also have an organization that is working very hard to educate the public on your behalf.

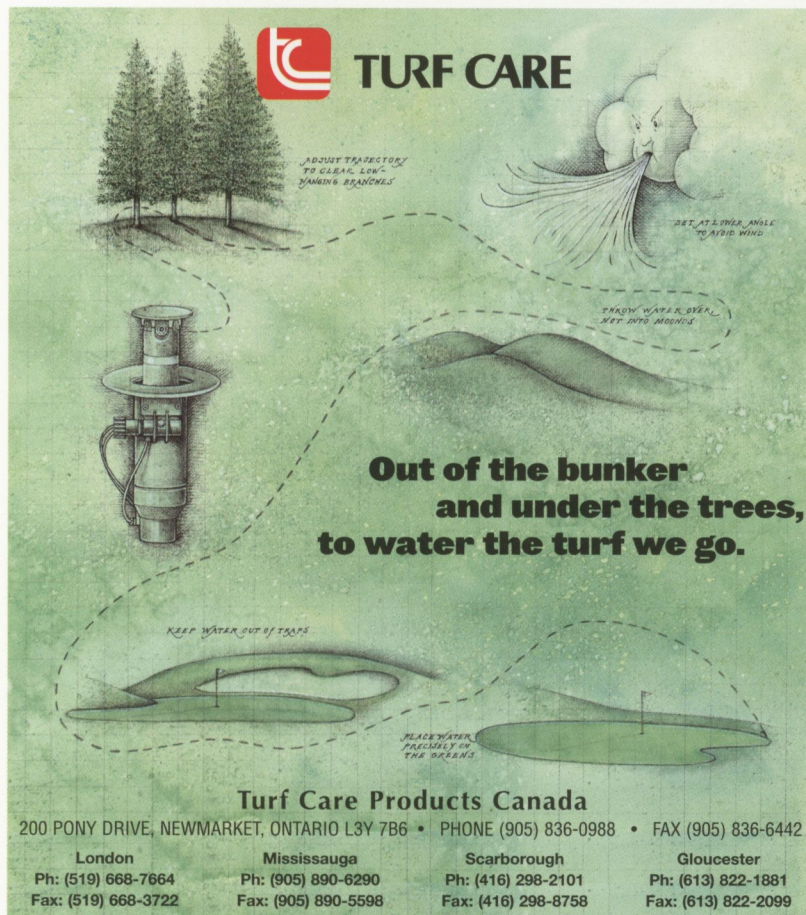
As you work through the accreditation process you are

having third party Certified Environmental Auditors accrediting your work. These simple steps eliminate the ability of anyone being able to discredit you as a professional pesticide applicator. As the number of accredited golf courses grow throughout Ontario, we as an industry will be able to stand as a united front and definitively prove to our skeptics that we are not an environmental concern, we are a benefit.

Once again congratulations to those golf courses who have received Level II Accreditation during the 2006 season. They are as follows:

Lakeview GC
Islington GC
Bayview CC
Markham Green GC
Kawartha G&CC
Stonebridge
Ottawa Hunt G&CC
Greensmere G&CC
Madawaska GC

Cutten Club
Victoria Park GC West
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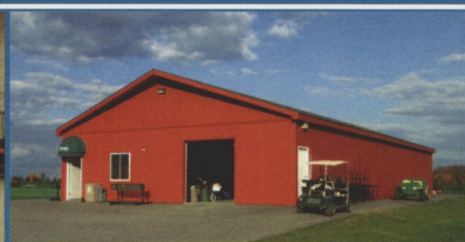
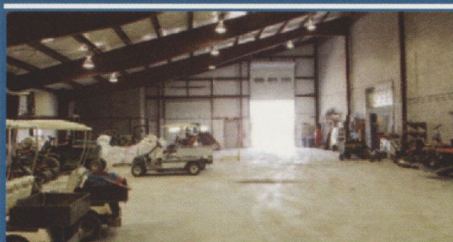


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Above the hole

by Ian Boyd, Student & Intern
Carruther's Creek Golf & Country Club

The Value of Having a Mentor

Vince Lombardi once said *"The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work."* Hard work is the price we must pay for success. In any aspect of life there are people who push you to strive for more whether they are teachers, coaches, parents, or coworkers. Almost everyone has had an impact made on their lives by this type of person. However, quite often it goes unnoticed or unsaid the value of having a mentor. It is astounding how much more you can learn with someone pushing, challenging and testing you in every situation. The turf industry is especially rich in this sort of individual, willing to pass on the knowledge and experience it takes to be successful. Some, like myself, would not be on our current paths without that relationship while others have never had the benefit of such a relationship.

I have been fortunate enough to work for someone who has helped advance my knowledge in a very short period of time. When I walked onto the golf course still wet behind the ears we sat down and planned out a path of goals and accomplishments I would have to achieve to be successful. It started out by getting the necessary licenses and certificates, I was told that if I am serious about this whole thing that is the first step. Next it was a year of advancing my practical knowledge by giving me every opportunity to do so and introducing me to the finer points of managing a golf course. The next logical step was getting an education. My mentor

informed me of the programs available, the advantages of the different programs and his opinion of all of them. So OK we've got the education underway, now what? In my situation it was to let the leash out, give some space to see what can happen with some independent thought, all the while keeping an eye and throwing out those little quizzes to make me think. However this is a two way street. There is mutuality in this situation where the student takes what the mentor says to heart, and the mentor is willing to teach because they see some sort of potential that if nurtured could grow.

It has been said that the goal of a mentor is to see their student surpass them. It is because of this sharing of ideas and encouraging experience that our industry is so strong. There are an incredible number of you who have acted as proponents for the industry and helped a budding career start and seen many excellent superintendents move on. It is important that those who have had the privilege of a mentor and even those who have not continue this trend of passing on to the new generation and growing the industry. To those of you who have played this part in someone's career I for one would like to say thank you and that the effort you show is very much appreciated! I can only hope that one day I will be this kind of mentor, the kind that I have had and continue this invaluable tradition within the industry.

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University of Guelph update



This Year in Diagnostics

by Katerina Jordan,
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant
Agriculture
1237 E. C. Bovey Building

I have finished my first growing season here at the GTI Turfgrass Diagnostic Laboratory, and I have to say that it has been a wonderful experience. I got to know a number of local and not so local superintendents, sod farmers, lawn care specialists and even some sports turf managers. It is unfortunate that I end up meeting most of you when there is a problem, but at the same time, I have really enjoyed being able to work out those problems together. Just to keep you all informed, here is a quick re-cap of the diseases that came through our laboratory this year:

As I wrote in an article earlier this year, we started out with the usual snow molds, winter injury, and yellow patch, and were then amazed at the number of take-all patch samples we received. Be on the lookout this spring for an article about the disease and how to try to prevent it with cultural practices. We then had a few pythium root dysfunction samples, some Microdochium patch (aka Fusarium patch), and more yellow patch. On some of the taller grass, especially on lawns and roughs, we also saw a good bit of necrotic ring spot. As we got into summer, the early drought led to a number of abiotic stresses, especially localized dry spot. We saw only a few samples of dollar spot, but that was likely because you are all pretty good at recognizing that one on your own. As the temperatures heated up, we started seeing a fair amount of summer patch, and as many of you who battled that disease this season know, it was a pretty bad year for it. We did start

getting some anthracnose samples, but it was mainly the foliar stage until later in the summer. We also got some brown patch and a couple of cases of pythium blight. Toward the end of the summer, the rain brought on more summer patch, a number of samples covered in algae, a bit of black layer, and a pretty high number of basal rot anthracnose samples. Finally, throughout the summer and especially in early fall, we also saw a few courses with plant-parasitic nematodes on their greens. We are expecting to see a bit more Microdochium patch as we head into winter, but then hopefully your snow mold preventives will hold and we won't see too much of that come spring.

So, there in a nutshell was our season in diagnostics. Not too bad of a year for diseases, but enough to keep Erica Gunn and myself busy for the summer. Thank you to all of you for your support and your trust in our lab. We both enjoyed meeting so many of you and I am most certainly looking forward to another season of getting to know many of you. You won't get to see Erica's smiling face in the lab next year as she is expecting her own little bundle of joy and will be quite busy diagnosing a slew of other problems. We will miss her terribly in the lab, but please join me in wishing her the best in the next year with her new baby.

On that note, I leave you with my contact information, and at the risk of sounding like a broken record, stressing that you can call me, e-mail me, or drop in anytime if you have any questions or concerns. 519-824-4120 ext. 56615 (Bovey Building) • kjordan@uoguelph.ca Have a great winter and rest up!



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On the REEL side of things

by Mike Slack
Slack Reel Service



Tighten Your Belts!

It sounds like something that might come out of a green chairman or an owners' mouth. Ironically, I'm not talking about the budget, were talking about those pieces of shaped rubber that drive components of your mowing equipment and other implements. Here are a few thoughts on what to look for to maximize performance with regards to belt driven components.

1. Removing old belts: Remove your drive guard, loosen the take-up, and shorten the distance between the sheaves or pulleys. By doing this, old belts can be removed easily and the new belts can be installed without damage.

2. Inspect service drive elements: Bearings and shafts are heavily worked components and should be inspected. Worn bearings and bent shafts are most common.

3. Inspect and clean sheaves: Worn or dirty sheave grooves are the most common causes of premature belt failure. In order to get your money's worth from your new set of belts, thoroughly clean dirty, dusty, or rusty sheaves. Next, feel the sheave grooves for nicks or burrs and file them smooth. Missing these steps will impair the drive's efficiency and wear out the belt covering. Finally, belts should ride in the sheave grooves so that the top of the belt is just above the highest point of the sheave. If the grooves are worn to a point where the belt bottoms out, and belts are periodically slipping or burning, check the sheave groove for lack of paint or "shinyness". This is a clear sign that belts have been slipping.

4. Check for correct sheave alignment: Misaligned sheaves will accelerate wear of belt sidewalls, which will shorten belt and sheave life. Misalignment can also cause belt rollover or throw the load to one side of the belt... breaking or stretching the tensile cord.

5. Don't mix old and new belts on a drive: Used belts ride lower in the sheave groove due to sidewall wear and normal stretch. New belts ride higher, travel faster, and operate at higher tension and running them together will damage the new belts. Mixing and matching manufacturers is also a big pitfall as belt length and codes may vary.

6. Belt tension: The key to long, efficient, trouble free belt life is proper tension. If belts are too loose, the result is slippage, rapid belt and sheave wear, and loss of productivity. If the belt is too tight, excess strain on the belts, bearings and pulleys will result. A balance is required here and I recommend following tensioning guidelines. The proper tension of any V-belt is the lowest tension at which the belt won't slip or squeal at peak load. As another check and balance, measure the span length (centre to centre on pulleys). For every 1" of span length there should be 1/64" inch of deflection on your belt.

Hopefully this gives you a little help when checking or replacing your belts. And remember your comments are always welcome on TURF TALK.



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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

Giving Back to the Garden

When we look back over the 2006 gardening season most people would agree that it has been a good year. Bountiful growth, floriferous bloom and a demonstration of what plants can look like when conditions are

right. The garden has given us a lot this year and when it looks good there is a tendency to leave it alone. But we need now to give back to the garden and re-energize the soil and thus the plants in order to keep the momentum going.

Soil is the foundation for plant growth. Minerals, air and water are provided to plants as a gift from the soil. Good quality soil will promote strong plant growth, substantial vegetables, robust blooms and healthy turf. Ensuring that your soil is nutritious and has a good texture will make your goal of a beautiful garden that much easier.

In most cases, the ideal soil for the plants we'd like to grow is a rich loamy soil that drains well. Loam is a soil classification or textural type meaning that the soil has a moderate amount of sand, silt and clay. Of these three components, sand has the largest particle size and will therefore provide drainage and air spaces to the soil. Clay is the smallest particle size and will consequently hold more water and tend to pack and form clumps. Silt is midway between these two sizes.

Humus is another term that is often used to describe soil components. Humus is the term for the stable fraction of the soil organic matter that remains after the added plant and animal residues have decomposed. A high percentage of humus would classify the soil as "rich".

Enriching the garden with compost and/or manure on a yearly basis is a critical part of maintaining a healthy soil. I like to add organic

matter to the beds every fall, as nature does when the leaves fall. The added humus is highly nutritious to all sorts of beneficial soil creatures that play a vital role in aerating the soil and making the soil nutrients available for the plants to use. If your garden is struggling with weed invasion, insects and disease, it is time to take the steps towards improving your soil.

Testing your soil is an excellent way to find out about its nutritional status. The test will tell you the pH, the percentage of organic matter and the content of many of the essential elements. Usually a fertilizer recommendation will accompany the soil test report. The soil may be deficient in phosphorous, potassium, magnesium or calcium. Each deficiency can be easily remedied by adding these fertilizer products in early spring or the fall. In addition, an all-purpose fertilizer can be used through the growing season to supply a well balanced diet of nutrients which will replace those which are taken up by the plant.

As we tuck our gardens in for the winter we should remember that this was a good season for not only our plants, but for many species as well. Pest populations are high so we need to be vigilant with monitoring for over-wintering bugs (i.e. gypsy moth). We should protect our trees and shrubs from rodents by wrapping the trees at the base and painting the bark of deciduous shrubs with Skoot.

In the meantime gardeners can take a well deserved rest from the physical aspects of gardening and spend the winter re-energizing with new ideas, new information and fresh inspiration for another great gardening year. Remember that gardens make an enormous difference in the pleasure we glean from outdoor activities.

Daisy Moore P.Ag., is a horticulturist. She operates a garden design and consulting business from her home in Elora. She is the host of the radio program, "The Gardening Show" Saturdays 1-2:00 pm on am570.

The way we were... answer from page 12, Dr. Robert W. Sheard, Professor of Agriculture, U of G (retired)

Looking back

20 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors of the OGSA in 1986 were as follows: **Barry Endicott** (pres.), Caledon, **Robert Kennedy** (vice.), Garden City, **Hugh Kirkpatrick** (past pres.) Westmount, **Rhod Trainor**, St. Thomas, **Neil Acton** (editor), Brooklea, **Ron Heesen**, Beachgrove, **Gordon Nimmo**, Sarnia, **Scott Dodson**, Chedoke, **Thom Charters**, Islington, **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst, **Mark Hagen**, Wyldewood and **Dave Gourlay Jr.**, Toronto Ladies. The office secretary was **Cindi Charters**.

The following members received their 25 year OGSA member plaques: **Jim Wyllie**, **Bernie MacDonald**, **Doug Suter** and **John Grighmire**. **Bill Bluett**, OGSA President in 1961 & 1962 and longtime superintendent of Mississauga G&CC, passed away in April.

The GCSAA Conference and Show was held in San Francisco from January 27th to February 4th and once again "Green Is Beautiful" was selected as one of the top ten newsletters out of 49 others. The newsletter won the category for Best Format and Readability.

The CGSA Conference and Show was held in Ottawa from March 1st to 5th. **Gord Witteveen**, Board of Trade, **Cecil Hoekstra**, Cherry Hill, and **Bill Hynd**, St. Georges, presented talks at the conference.

About 200 attendees were pleased with the new 2 day format and content of the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium held at the University of Guelph. **Al Draper** was the chairman and the speakers list consisted of **Dr. Switzer**, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, **Dr. Lee Burpee**, **Dr. Jack Eggens**, **Dr. Joe Vargas**, **Ted Woehrl**, **Barry Britton**, **Alex LaBelle**, **Thom Charters**, **Don McFaul** and **Bruce Clark**.

New members were **Graham Wilkinson** (e), Acrow

Canada, **David Cherry** (f), Cherry Downs, **John Cherry** (b), Cherry Downs.

The OTRF Fundraising Tournament was held again at The National, raising about \$17,000. The low net winner was **Dick Gordon**.

Alex LaBelle, superintendent at the Midland G&CC hosted the Ontario Amateur Championship.

The Spring Field Day was held at the Victoria Park Golf Club hosted by **Carman, Ted** and **Angelo DeCorso**. The winners for the day were: Low Gross - **Ted Ellis** (74), **Warren Vout** (75), **Hugh Kirkpatrick**; Low Net - **Kelly Barnett** (65) and the Clay Switzer Trophy Winners - **Ted Ellis** and **Kelly Barnett** - 133 combined score (region 1).

The Georgian Bay Superintendents Association had another busy and successful season with meetings at Brooklea, **Neil Acton**, Midland, **Alex LaBelle**, Circle Pine, **Ray Richards** and Horseshoe Valley, **John Hughes**.


The McClumpha Tournament was held at Maple Downs hosted by **Paul Brown**. **Jack Austin**, Turf Care, presented the trophy to winner **Bill Hynd**, St. Georges.

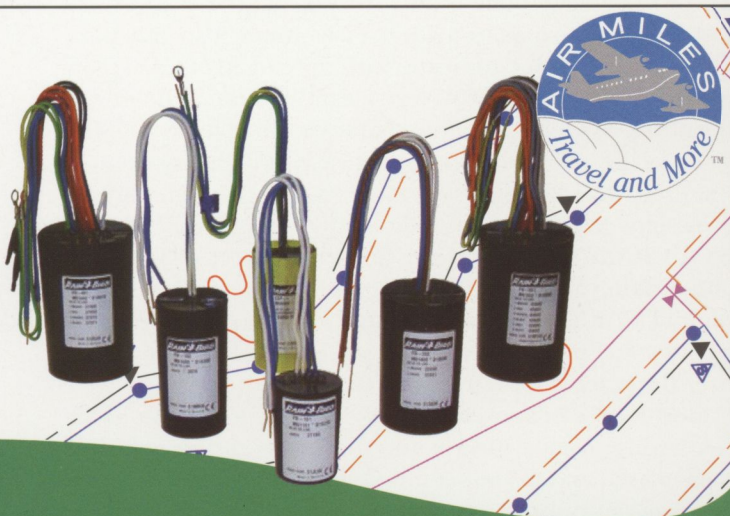
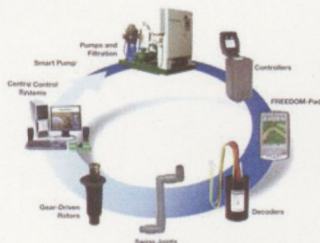
Hugh Kirkpatrick, Westmount, was presented with the OGSA Low Gross Trophy for accumulating the lowest gross average in the 1986 OGSA golf events.

The OGSA Bestball Tournament was held at Uplands GC. **Ted Tom**, with the team of **Gordon Witteveen**, Board of Trade, and **Ken Wright**, National, winning.

The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association held the Taylor Barnes Tournament at the Brantford G&CC hosted by **Vince** and **Rick Piccolo**. The winners were: low gross - **Don Blatchely** (75), Sawmill and low net **David Wray** (70), Nanticoke.

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by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

Vote for Doug

I'm running for Council again. That's right, I'm giving an entire community the opportunity to reject me all at once. Running for a small town council is sort of like taking that long walk across the gym floor to ask the prettiest girl in grade seven to dance. Of course there are more people watching you at a grade seven dance, but the turnaround feels about the same. You put your best foot forward, present yourself as best you can, wear a tie, and in the end, she's just as likely to opt for the guy who beats you up for your lunch money everyday. I'm asking thousands of people to dance all at the same time, knowing full well that seventy percent of them will ignore me and not even bother to answer the question, and that just over half of the remaining thirty percent told me to get lost just three years ago.

It's not for the faint of heart. Your neighbours will call into question your integrity, honesty, appearance, how your wife dresses, how your kids behave, what church you attend, how quickly you rake your leaves; essentially anything is openly discussed in the local coffee shop except your actual ability to do the job. Everyone in town will know about the time your kid went to school with two left boots on, and what year you last replaced your shingles, but if you happen to have an MBA or twenty years experience, it's not likely to come up in conversation.

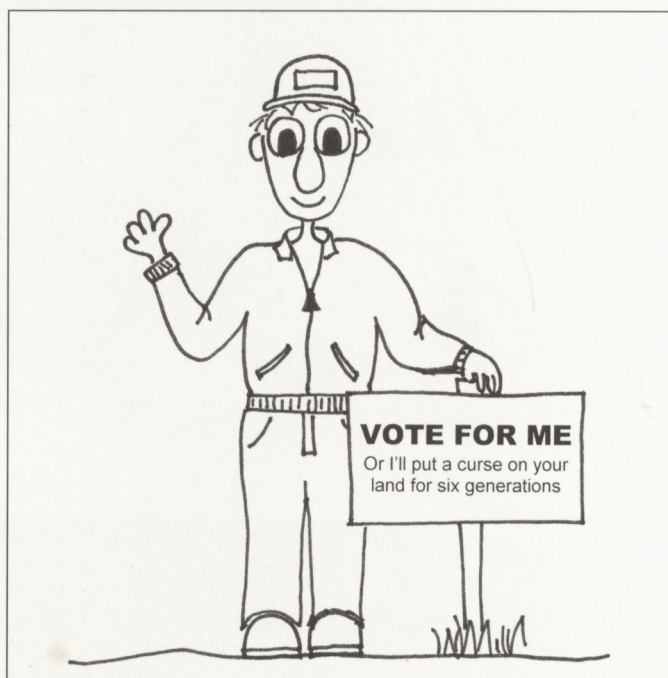
Last time around, the electorate decided to dance with someone other than me. I've been calling it my sabbatical. I've missed being on council, especially the part where people would call me five times a week to tell me who was illegally parked in front of their houses, or to complain about their neighbour's wind chimes. Three years ago, I lost by twenty votes to a local malcontent who put pink signs up all over the township with the slogan "I CARE" on them. The insinuation was clear. I was a heartless, uncaring, Snidely Whiplash character, who would tie Miss Belle to the railroad tracks at my earliest convenience. At the time, my wife suggested that I should counter with my own signs that said, "I CARE MORE" or "I CARE & I'M NOT CRAZY". I didn't. Signs are actually pretty expensive, and I didn't think that people would take someone with pink "I CARE" signs too seriously. I was wrong. People would vote for that guy "YARD SALE" who has signs up all over the place if his name was on the ballot.

Most local elections are won by banging on doors. This is amazing to me. One would think that in this world of mass media and instant communication, that some schlep banging on your door and handing you the same flyer that you already got in the mail wouldn't be likely to swing their vote. But it does. My mom is one of these people. She says




that if a candidate comes and knocks on her door, that it means *they care* (there's that slogan again). The truth is, it merely means that *they have time*, and are probably *unemployed*. You could be planning to put a toxic waste dump beside the well in their back yard, but they'd still vote for you because you knocked on their door. Folks will also generally support a candidate who promises the impossible combination of lower taxes and expanded services. When confronted with the challenge that this is a mathematical impossibility, the candidate will mumble something about stamping out the "many inefficiencies" that they assume are there, and thank you for your vote. Otherwise intelligent people will fall for this one nine times out of ten. Bill Clinton got elected by playing the saxophone. There are lots of pundits out there who believe that G. Dubya Bush actually pretends to be stupid because it gets him votes. He went to prep schools in New England, has a degree from Yale, but draws like a cowboy and butchers the English language once a week because people from Indiana love that about him.

So this time around, I threw out the well-penned speeches, slept in my suit before the candidates' night, brushed my hair with a toque, and told a lot of stories about baling hay with my dad. I also knocked on a whack of doors and pretended that I was talking to my mom. By the time this goes to print, either I'll be back in my seat again, or the pink *I CARE* signs will have prevailed again. I'll let you know how it went.





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*From the directors
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