

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

February 2006

FEB 14 2006

It's A Hit - The 2006 Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show

William Sansom Distinguished Service Award

Welcome Professor Katerina Jordan

Bob Heron

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COVER PICTURE

photo by Doug Davidson
Glencairn Golf Club

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

President's message

Let me be one of many to wish each of you a belated "Happy New Year"!

I am truly honoured and grateful for the opportunity to lead a dedicated group of directors as your president this year. I will endeavor to fulfill your expectations and pledge to match the commitment of my many distinguished predecessors. I have had the good fortune to serve on many boards over many years, and this group of directors is outstanding. The future indeed looks bright!

I would like to begin by thanking our good friend Rob Ackermann, who retires from the board as outgoing Past President, for his many years of dedicated leadership. We expect and hope that he will continue to provide his wisdom in the future to our association. As well at the January AGM, Rob passed his Past President role onto Paul Scenna. Paul now gets to take a bit of a breather after guiding our association through a truly exciting year of decision making. I welcome to the 2006 board, Mr. Chris Nelson of Markland Wood Country Club, and I appreciate the hard work and enthusiasm shown by all our remaining directors.

Clearly, the Ontario conference in January was a resounding success. The reviews thus far indicate that we are providing a highly desirable venue and program with ample opportunity for fellowship and education. This is truly a team effort, and I want to recognize the many hours of preparation and planning by the conference committee, chaired by Sean DeSilva and Jeff Stauffer. Well done lads! The implementation of such an event is also a team effort, led by our very able Dorothy Hills and her staff with logistical support and event management by our seasoned CGSA headquarters staff. Thanks to all those involved who contributed to its success! We look forward to the 2007 event, January 17th to 19th at Sheraton Centre Toronto.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await us, and encourage you to contact myself or any director, to submit any concerns, questions or suggestions. We are your colleagues who volunteer to help.

Considering the universally challenging growing season of 2005, it's safe to assume that our collective goal is to rest, recuperate, re-group, and re-charge, as we prepare and re-invigorate for 2006. I hope you achieve your goals in this and other parts of your hectic personal and professional life. The OGSA family will be there to do its part!



Robert Burrows, CGCS, MS
Rosedale Golf Club



ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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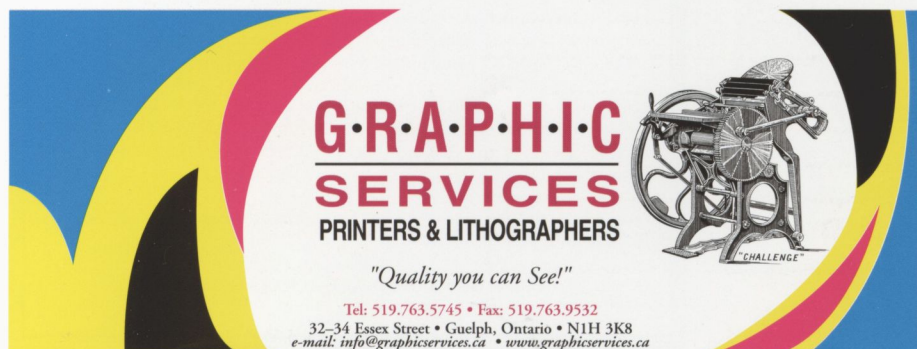
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Green is Beautiful 2006

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Editorial message



by John Bladon

The Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show is now officially in the books and by all accounts, appears to have been a success. *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present a complete conference wrap-up from the floor of the Westin Harbour Castle, in this February issue. We are also pleased to present a submission from the University of Guelph's new turfgrass researcher, Katerina Jordan...welcome Katerina! Pam Charbonneau has provided a look back at 2005 and a look ahead at research priorities in 2006 and Mike Slack provides us some food for thought on grinding, as the winter

maintenance season moves into high gear. Moving forward, we have a new piece entitled, "The way we were". It will feature a photo from the archives of Clayton Switzer. Thanks for the donation Clay, and good luck to all in putting a name to the faces. Finally, our "Member Profile" is of longtime and retiring Superintendent Bob Heron.

On behalf of Chris Nelson and the board, I would like to thank the entire Editorial Committee for their commitment to *Green is Beautiful* and officially welcome both Doug Davidson of Glencairn Golf Club and Tom Brain of Burlington Golf & Country Club as new members of the committee. The magazine will certainly benefit from their infusion of energy.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2006!

Correction to December's 2005 issue - Norm McCollum's Retirement party was hosted by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and held at Victoria Park East Golf Course.

What's new

2006 OGSA Board

We are please to welcome Chris Nelson to the Board of Directors, as Rob Ackermann steps down as past president. The association has prospered over the past eight years, through Rob's dedication, guidance and leadership. I know all of the board members and the staff will miss him.



2006 Board of Directors Sporting OGSA Touques.

Back Row L-R: Rob Gatto, Jarrod Barakett, Doug Breen, Jeff Stauffer, Randy Booker, Trevor Clapperton

Front Row L-R Jeff Alexander, Chris Nelson, Chris Andrejicka, Bob Burrows, Sean DeSilva, Paul Scenna



Incoming President Bob Burrows accepting gavel from Paul Scenna.

Curling Anyone? O.G.S.A. Spring Curling Day

Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club is hosting a curling day for all those interested.

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2006
Time: 12:00 noon sharp - lunch
Host: Randy Booker
Place: Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club
Woodley's Lane
Dundas, Ontario L9H 5G1
Fee: \$25.00 per person (payable on arrival) (Cash Bar)

Agenda:
Noon (sit down lunch of soup and roast beef hoagies)
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm 1st game followed by a refreshment break
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm 2nd game followed by refreshments and prize presentations

Anyone wishing to join in on this fun day of curling, RSVP Dorothy Hills at OGSA by March 20, 2006. Phone (519) 767-3341 or Toll Free 1-877-824-6472 Fax (519) 766-1704, or call Randy Booker at (905) 628-6731 Ext. 217. Please advise if you can be a Skip?

If you do not RSVP, on site walk-in's are welcome, however you will not be guaranteed to play.

PRIZE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Georgian Bay Superintendents Association Scholarship



Brent Siekierzycki, Superintendent, Owen Sound Golf & CC presents scholarship cheque to 2005 recipient Dave Atkinson, who also works at the Owen Sound G&CC.

"I would like to thank Brent Siekierzycki, of the Owen Sound Golf and Country Club for his support and mentorship as well as the GBSA for their recognition and financial support of this Scholarship. I am currently in my final year of the Golf Course Technician Program at Seneca College and the support of both Brent and the GBSA are greatly appreciated."

Dave Atkinson

OGSA Calendar of Events 2006

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
OGSA Curling Day Can/Am Challenge	Dundas Valley Golf &CC Detroit - TBA (alternative date)	Thursday, March 23 rd Monday, May 1st Monday, April 24 th
Pro/Super Challenge	Weston Golf &CC	Monday, May 29 th
Spring Field Day	St. Thomas Golf & CC	Thursday, June 15 th
President's Day	Rosedale Golf Club	Monday, July 24 th
Assistants Tournament	TBA	September Date TBA
Alex McClumpha	TBA	October Date TBA

Note: All events will be posted to our Calendar of Events on our website as details are confirmed. They will also be advertised in our "Clippings" email bulletin. Registration will be available on line, using either Visa or Master Cards.

Attention Students & Interns! OGSA's Green is Beautiful "Above the Hole" Writing Contest!

How would you like to be part of Ontario's leading Golf Course Management Magazine? The Ontario Golf Superintendents Association's official publication, "Green is Beautiful" is pleased to present an opportunity to all turfgrass student interns. The column "Above the Hole", authored by University of Guelph turfgrass intern, Justin Parsons is open to a new intern as of April 2006. The magazine's Editorial Committee will be reviewing submissions from Ontario based turfgrass interns in February 2006. Basic requirements include;

1. You are in the first year of your education.
2. You have a desire to excel in the golf course management business.
3. You have an aptitude for writing.

How do I apply?

We ask that each applicant submit an article entry. The article will be based on your growth and experiences as a student/intern. Each entry should be 550 words in length and electronically submitted to the O.G.S.A. office by February 28th 2006 - at ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca. Please email in with the subject line *Above the Hole*. The successful applicant will receive one year paid student membership to the association as well as a six issue writing opportunity in "Green is Beautiful". This is a great mechanism to express yourself within the industry of your future and differentiate yourself from other interns.

Green is Beautiful looks forward to having you on board!



Welcome!

O.G.S.A. Welcomes our newest members

Jeffrey Amaral	Class F
Markland Wood G & CC	
Stewart Bibb	Class A
Hy Hope Golf Course	
Jason Brooker	Class C
Crosswinds G & CC	
Daniel Brousseau	Class F
Granite Golf Club	
Kevin Clark	Class S
Seneca College	
Greg Coutts	Class C
South Muskoka G & CC	
Alan Dolick	Class S
University of Guelph	
Steven Elliott	Class F
Thornhill Golf Club	
Vesselin Gueorguiev	Class Supt.
Streetsville Glen Golf Club	
Andrew Gyba	Class C
Rattlesnake Point Golf Club	
Ian Hiltz	Class Supt.
Firerock Golf Club	
Ben Ingram	Class F
Rattlesnake Point Golf Club	
Scott Knox	Class C
Credit Valley G & CC	
Bradley MacKay	Class F
Somerhill Golf Club	
Scott Maxwell	Class F
Mississauga Golf & CC	
David May	Class D
Lionhead Golf & CC	
Michael McCarthy	Class D
The Highlands Golf Club	
Gordon Noble	Class D
Chedoke Golf Course	
John O'Brien	Class Supt.
Sault Ste Marie Golf Club	
Richard Perry	Class Supt.
Caledon Woods Golf Club	
Peter Petroff	Class C
Streetsville Glen Golf Club	
Greg Rimmington	Class A
South Muskoka C & GC	
Donald Tollefson	Class F
Black Diamond Golf Club	
Steve Waggott	Class C
Maples of Ballantrae GC	
Aquatrols	Class E
Walter Dea	
Floratine Canada Inc.	Class E
Trevor Parkes	

From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Turf Research Priority Setting 2005

Every fall, a one day meeting is held with University faculty, OMAFRA extension specialists, representatives from industry stakeholders organizations and pesticide manufacturers to decide on research priorities, minor use label expansion priorities and submissions to OMAFRA publications for the upcoming year. The nursery, landscape and turf sectors meet jointly for this meeting. We had good representation from both sectors, as well as good representation from faculty, stakeholders and the pesticide industry. The committee was pleased to welcome the new turf researcher Katerina Jordan to the committee. Anyone who is interested in obtaining the full report from this meeting is welcome to contact me by email at pamela.charbonneau@omafra.gov.on.ca. Below is a summary of the meeting.

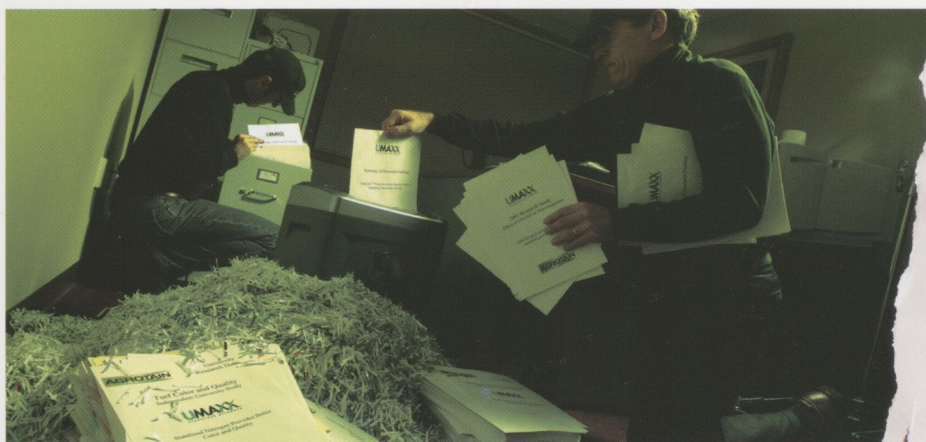
Turf Research and Service Accomplishments 2005

- User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion for cyhalothrin lambda submitted to PMRA for hairy chinch bugs and ants
- Registration of fosetyl-al for anthracnose basal rot sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Biological control of snow moulds – In final stages of formulation and registration of this product - Hsiang
- Biological control of snow moulds with antagonists and plant by-products- Hsiang
- Evaluation of corn processing products on survival of European crane fly larvae-Lyons
- Evaluation of nematodes on survival of European crane fly larvae- Charbonneau
- Evaluation of efficacy of different formulations of post-emergent broadleaf weed herbicides-Lyons
- Evaluation of two sources of beet juice extract on post-emergent broadleaf weed control-Charbonneau
- Final year of the Ontario Pesticide Advisory Committee lawn

- IPM demonstration project – Charbonneau and Fearman
- Overseeding and IPM techniques in sports fields – Elford (M.Sc. student/Lyons)
- Evaluation of edaphic factors leading to moss invasion on golf course putting greens- McGowan (M.Sc. student, Lyons)

Turf Research Priorities 2006

1. The committee on Nursery, Landscape and Turf recommends support of research efforts into the detection, biology and management of emerging pests which have the potential to become economically damaging. The emerging pests which affect turfgrass are bentgrass dead spot and European crane fly.
2. The committee of Nursery, Landscape and Turf recommends continued support for research on the development and registration of new, lower risk, IPM-friendly pesticides (e.g. curative insecticides) for the turf.
3. The committee on Nursery, Landscape and Turf recommends that more information on pest biology in Ontario (with emphasis on action thresholds for pest populations and pest damage) be developed for outdoor ornamentals and turf.
4. The committee of Nursery, Landscape and Turf recommends a concerted effort to support more research on nutrient uptake, N and P content in leachate and have more specific information on the timing of application(s) to minimize leaching of nutrients. The industry is very concerned about water quality and availability and would like to see more research dedicated to the efficient use of irrigation water and reduction in off-site movement of runoff. The industry feels that there should be a reward for being proactive about collecting water for irrigation (reservoirs from roof runoff etc.). Also needed is the transfer of new technology to the industry.
5. The committee on Nursery, Landscape and Turf recommends that current economic industry data specific to nursery production (e.g. value and acreage of crop groups, energy use), assessment of CO₂ credits and the overall value of the turf industry be acquired.



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Turf Minor Use Priorities for 2005

Crop	Pest	Priority	Chemical Name	Trade Name	Manufacturer
Insects					
Turf (home lawn, sod and golf course)	European crane fly	1	cyhalothrin lambda	Demand	Syngenta
			carbaryl	Sevin T & O	Bayer
			imidacloprid	Merit	Bayer
Turf (home lawn, sod and golf course)	Hairy chinch bugs/ants	2	cyhalothrin lambda	Demand	Syngenta
Turf (home lawn, sod and golf course)	Black cutworm	3	spinosad	Success, Entrust	Dow Agro
			cyhalothrin lambda	Demand	Syngenta
Sod	White grub species	4	imidacloprid	Merit	Bayer
Diseases					
Turf (golf course)	Take-all patch	1	myclobutanil	Eagle	Dow Agro
			azoxystrobin	Heritage	Syngenta
			propiconazole	Banner Maxx	Syngenta
	Bentgrass dead spot	2	myclobutanil	Eagle	Dow Agro
			boscalid	Cadence	BASF
			thiophanate-methyl	Senator	Engage Agro
	Gray leaf spot	3	trifloxystrobin	Compass	Bayer
			propiconazole	Banner Maxx	Syngenta
			azoxystrobin	Heritage	Syngenta
Weeds					
Turf (golf course)	Silvery thread moss	1	copper hydroxide	Kocide 2000	Dupont
			quinoclamine	Mogeton	Agro Kinesho
Turf (home lawn, sod and golf course)	Wild violets		triclopyr	Garlon	Dow Agro Sciences
Turf (golf course)	Annual bluegrass	3	ethofumesate	Prograss	Bayer
			bispyribac sodium	Velocity	Valent



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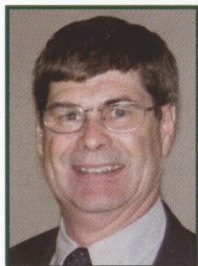
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Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
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Looking Back – Planning Forward

Welcome to the New Year! As tradition has it this is the time of year when we look back at our accomplishments and goals fulfilled and look forward to our goals for the coming year.

Can you look back with pride at your record of safety? Did all your workers meet the standards that you set? Have you established safety goals for the coming year? Will safety improve in your area of responsibility? Looking back at the issues of the last year provides an opportunity to build for the future. As you take stock of the issues or concerns of the past and evaluate them you will find that there are areas where you can improve. This is the time of year when you should establish the changes that you want to make to ensure that you improve on last year's accomplishments.

In the safety field we often measure safety by the number of accidents or lost time injuries. This is a regressive measure of our safety programs. It is much better to measure our safety programs against our goals that we set at the beginning of the year. This is, or generally can be, a positive measurement of how safety is implemented at your club.

Here are some examples of goals that you can establish that can be a measure of your success at the end of 2006.

If you have a Joint Health and Safety Committee why not write down what you expect the committee to accomplish this year. For instance, your committee may not yet have a "terms of reference", so you could set out a goal that says that the "terms of reference" will be in place before the end of June 2006.

Another goal could be to simply say that your committee will meet at least six times this year.

Or you could say that the committee will ensure that ten workplace inspections of the facilities are completed this year. These are positive goals.

Moving from the committee, each department could have a goal that defines that each new worker is provided with a comprehensive recorded orientation appropriate to the job that they do. Suffice to say that this is something that is always required but we often lose sight of the fact that orientations must also be recorded to ensure that each department head has a record of the process. If there is no record then it did not happen. Basically, in this one there are two positive goals. One, to get the orientation completed and the other to ensure that it is properly recorded.

Why not create a process that gently rewards your staff for meeting the Personal Protective Equipment goals that you establish at your club. Get everyone involved in understanding and meeting your goals. If you have goals that are clearly communicated and your staff understands why they are important, there is a greater likelihood that the goals will be met.

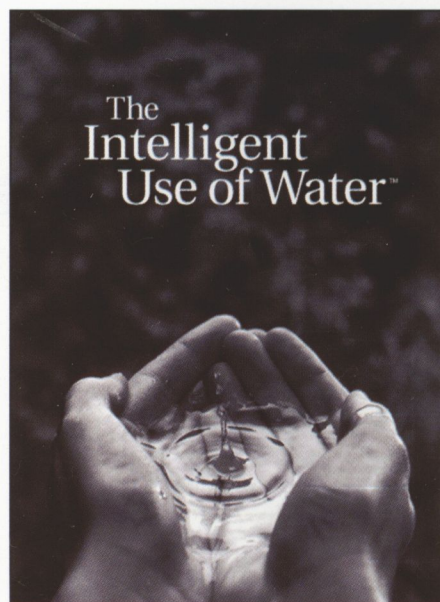
Safety is a process of setting standards and goals and then communicating and implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of the goals.

Have a safe and Happy New Year!

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Annual OSC/Nutrite Fall Seminar

by Dave Schmelefske
Ontario Seed Co.

November 30, 2005 marked the 17th Annual OSC/ Nutrite Fall Seminar at Whistle Bear Golf and Country Club. This year's outstanding attendance of 220 superintendents and assistants enjoyed a fine day of diverse, innovative golf course subject matter. Host, Superintendent, Matt Hallman, welcomed everyone.

The first speaker, Dr. John Cisar, Professor of turfgrass and water management from the University of Florida, spoke about "Factors affecting soil/water repellency and localized dry spot." Dr. Cisar's unique presentation covered the affect of different soil types and soil amendments on water movement in both sand and push-up greens. He also discussed management techniques and the use of surfactants in controlling the progression of localized dry spots.

Bill Nicholson, from Professional Action, discussed "First Aid and Safety on the Golf Course." He showed the importance of an action plan in case of a medical emergency and used case studies as examples.

Jarrold Barakett, superintendent of Deer Ridge Golf Club, and Vito Cirone, Burnside Golf Services, brought the attendees up to date with the latest "IPM" news and information. The number of Ontario golf courses recognized as IPM acreditees is ever on the rise. Vito and Jarrold fielded questions from the audience on various IPM concerns.

A favourite speaker, Dr. Frank Rossi, an Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science, from Cornell University, enlightened everyone with his presentation, "Nutrient Management, Myths and Truths." He mentioned that nitrogen is very prone to leaching, particularly in an older, non - aggressive turf stand. He also discusses the co efficiency of "true" foliar feeding relative to actual nutrient absorption by the leaf. Rossi's research also questioned the validity of high and excessive potassium applications in nutrient management. He even cited the increased incidents of snow mould in very high potassium situations.

Dr. Rossi opened up the afternoon session with a talk on "The Effect of Mower Type and Frequency on Putting Green Performance." His presentation compared walkers and triplex mowers and design difference among the many manufacturers and how they relate to quality of cut. His take

home message was to carefully research a mower's qualities and limitations before selecting the right one for the desired application.

Getting the most out of your employees is every superintendent's challenge. Richard Kinch, Business Leader Coach, offered a wonderful talk on "Creating Connections...Straight forward leadership

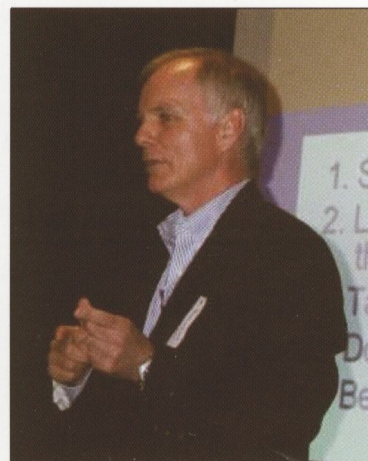
approaches to getting the most from your team." His common sense approach to effective listening and the acknowledgement of employees, associates and family members is worth implementing in our relationships. Richard pointed out that too often we take people for granted. His simple formula was, increased communication equals increased productivity.

Attendees at the OSC/Nutrite seminar received 4.76 IPM accreditation points and GCSAA members in attendance received .50 GCSAA education points.

The successful day was capped off with a well attended social hour. The feedback from the seminar was extremely positive and encourages the hosts to continually discover more innovative and current topics for education and interest.

OSC/ Nutrite would like to recognize the following sponsors, who helped make this day successful.

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The way we were

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To see if you are correct turn to the bottom of page 31.



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and under the trees,
to water the turf we go.**

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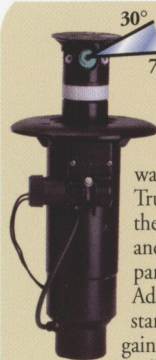
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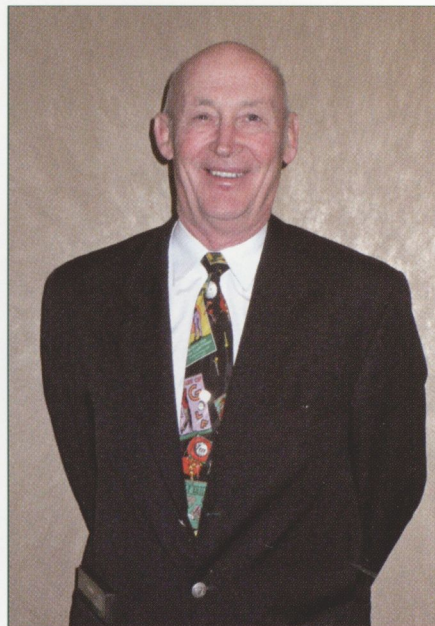
Member profile

Interview with Bob Heron

by John Bladon
Nu-Gro Canada

It's a little slice of Ontario golf maintenance history passing us by. Over the course of his career Bob Heron, 38 year member and former President of the OGSA, has seen many comings and goings in the turfgrass business. Those include people, technologies and golf courses. Irony that after all these years and now preparing for retirement, "R.T." still gets referred to by many as "the coolest guy in the business." Perhaps it is the way he carries himself. Ever present on his face are the makings of a devilish smile just waiting to pop and an inherent eagerness to engage in a discussion on anything to do with golf or turfgrass. No matter how tough the circumstances inwardly, he always had the ability to make it look easy on the outside.

It all began for Bob at the Guelph Country Club. He spent his initial two summers at the nine-hole club on the north end of town, raking bunkers and pushing a rotary mower about the property. After an introduction to then Cutten Club, Superintendent Jim Wyllie, Bob proceeded to spend the following 3 summers accumulating knowledge from Jim prior to his enrollment at Penn State in 1962. Schooled at Penn State by Joe Duich, the man behind Penncross creeping bentgrass, Bob gives credit where credit is due.



"Hands down Joe was the largest single influence on my career. As an educator, 2/3 of my success is directly attributed to him shaping both myself and my career."

The summer of 1963 arrived and seeking a work term at the mid point of his education at Penn State, Bob sought Joe's counsel on an appropriate placement. Bob ended up spending the summer under the tutelage of Warren Bidwell at Olympia Fields in Chicago, Illinois. Warren is thought to have more than 90 former employees in the field as superintendents. Graduation and 1964 arrived and Bob headed back to Canada to work with Howard Watson as a project manager on the construction of a new golf course called the Board of Trade in Woodbridge. Post construction, Bob remained at the Board, as an assistant maintenance superintendent, until January of 1968 when he was offered the superintendent's post at Brampton GC. After a short tenure at Brampton, June of 1969 arrived and Bob shifted to Markland Wood Country Club. Markland was the first course in North America to have Penncross greens, tees and fairways and brought new challenges. Bob stayed at Markland until Mississauga came calling in 1981. He remained there until 1989 arrived and with it, the post that Bob claims was the best he ever had.

"Beacon Hall was the finest project I ever worked on. All the people I was associated with on it, including the membership, were extremely good to me. My affiliation with Beacon Hall is one which I am proud to end my career on."

Bob aptly suggests his career as a superintendent has always been about balancing art, science and business and in his earlier years, the art and science dominated. The business component, he says, is now clearly the dominant of the three. He also relays the pleasure it has given him to work with numerous assistants and to see so many of them, including son Scott become successful superintendents. Finally, Bob also speaks proudly of his marriage to wife Carolyn and their two children. He and Carolyn met as a result of both fathers playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs and their union will be 40 years young as of February 19, 2006. Success in multiple arenas is clearly a story worth telling.

"In the Hot Seat"

- **Favorite Major?** The Masters
- **Favorite Architect?** Bob Cupp
- **Ultimate Foursome...you and what three?** Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods and Paul Dermott (Paul would have to promise to pick up the pace of play to be included though!!!)
- **Favorite memory on the golf course?** Working the Masters as a volunteer for CBS in the 70s. In 1979 we had the opportunity to play the course on Monday after the tournament with Sunday's pins. I shot 79, with a birdie at 18...never forget it!
- **Most important turfgrass based innovation over your career?** Automated Irrigation and Controllers
- **What is in the CD player?** Johnny Cash...just saw the movie "Walk the line".
- **Favorite Meal?** Surf and Turf (What else?)
- **Favorite Movie?** On Golden Pond (That's where Bob claims to be heading!)
- **What would you be doing if you weren't working in the turf business?** I really have no idea...I have never known anything else

Golf course highlight

The Toronto Golf Club

1157 Dixie Road,
Mississauga, ON L5E 2P5
Phone: (905) 274-1767
Fax: (905) 278-5384
Email: greens@torontogolfclub.ca
Website: www.torontogolfclub.ca
Golf Course Superintendent: **Al Schwemler**



Photo by Bill Green, Assistant - Toronto Golf Club

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Region of Peel

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Private with 1200 members

Typical number of rounds
19,000 rounds per year

How long have you been a superintendent?
13 years

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

How many staff?
8 year round, 30 seasonal staff

How many assistants and mechanics?
1 Assistant: Bill Green
2 Mechanics: Bob Shannon & Wes Jorota

How many gardening staff?
Donna Drennan & Volker Kosemetzky

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
27

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
6,549 yards from the back tees and
6,026 yards from the front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?
310 yards and 27,000 ft²

How many bunkers?
114

How many times does water come into play?
1 pond – does not come into play

Who was the original architect?
Harry Colt

What was the year of original construction?
1910

What major tournaments have been held there?
Canadian Open
Canadian Amateur
Shell Wide World of Golf

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
10,000 ft²

What type of irrigation system?
Toro OSMAC (hydraulic heads)

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
250,000 ft² of greens
125,000 ft² of tees
31.5 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Bent - Poa

How many USGA and loam greens?
0 USGA greens & 30 loam greens

What is the predominant soil type?
Sandy loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?

1 Ford F250 pick-up truck
1 GMC dump truck
1 John Deere loader
1 Bobcat
2 3200 Workman utility
4 2110 Workman utility
6 EZGO utility
2 Club Car utility
2 Club Car golf carts
8 3100 Greensmaster triplex
3 Toro 1000 walk behind
1 Toro 1600 walk behind
1 Turfco 1530 widospin topdresser
1 Bannerman topdresser
1 Turfco CR-10 fairway topdresser
1 Toro Reelmaster 2000-D
4 Toro Reelmaster 5400
1 Massey Ferguson tractor
2 John Deere tractor
1 Jacobsen tractor mount blower
2 Jacobsen HR 5111 rough unit
2 Smithco greens roller
1 Groundsmaster Sidewinder
1 Toro outfront rotary
1 Gill
1 300 gal Cushman sprayer
1 150 gal Cushman sprayer
1 Handler 3 (chemical mixer)
1 Tree Sprayer
1 50 gal Hydroseeder
3 John Deere Aerocore
1 Verti-drain – deep tine
1 Verti-drain – fairway

1 Toro Hydroject
1 Ryan sod cutter
1 1820 Ditch Witch
1 Lely fertilizer spreader
5 Lesco fertilizer spreaders
1 Dual Express bedknife grinder
1 Dual Express reel grinder
1 Meyer snow plow

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
We completed construction of a 2.8 million gallon irrigation pond with a new 1800 GPM pump and pump house. We are no longer drawing water from the Etobicoke Creek. The pond is being filled with a transfer pump from Lake Ontario.

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?

New irrigation system and in process of completing a Master Plan by Dr. Martin Hawtree.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

High sodium content in soil due to poor irrigation water. We flush out sodium by applying high amounts of gypsum and potassium in conjunction with injecting acid into irrigation water.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Educating members and committees to complete our tree removal program to increase turf health by reducing shade areas and increasing air circulation. Working with our soil agronomist, Dave Smith, to counteract high sodium levels in our soil by executing the proper fertilizer program.

Please list any innovative cultural practices you may perform.

Keep it simple.

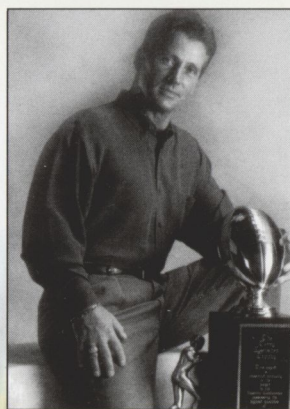
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show - 2006

by Dorothy Hills

All reports indicate that the 2006 conference and show was a tremendous success. Despite the change in venue and the early date, on the heels of the Christmas and New Year festivities, we had an outstanding turnout. Many of the delegates brought their families with them to enjoy some of the Toronto attractions, while they were taking in the education seminars and the trade show. You wouldn't want to miss any of the seminars, as they were all first rate. The pre-conference seminar, Developing a Turf Management Program, led by Dr. Thomas L. Watschke, from Penn State University, attracted more than 200 participants.



Sean DeSilva, our 2006 Conference Chairman, officially opened the conference, thanking all delegates, exhibitors, speakers and especially our sponsors. He introduced President Paul Scenna, who extended a warm welcome to all, encouraging participants to attend as many seminars as possible and use this opportunity to networks with their colleagues.



I was absolutely spellbound, listening to keynote speaker, Terry Evanshen, who gave an energetic account of his tragic accident in 1988 when his jeep was T-boned by a van running a red light, and how he and his family struggled each day to build a new life. His story reminds us that genuine healing resides as much in the acceptance of our weaknesses as it does in overcoming them.

The overall message to us was to seize each day...the future is now! Following his presentation, Terry answered questions from the audience, then made himself available to autograph copies of his absorbing and inspirational book, "The Man Who Lost Himself", written by June Callwood.

The opening ceremonies were followed by our Awards Luncheon where OGSA recipients were acknowledged with plaques and congratulations.

Honorary Member

President Paul Scenna started the awards presentation by announcing that Glenn Goodwin, had graciously accepted our invitation to be an OGSA Honorary Member. Glenn "Goodie" Goodwin is the most important man in Toronto Amateur golf. He has been giving back to the game for almost 20 years and



continues to contribute in many ways. He is regarded as "Mr. Amateur Golf" in the GTA, since founding both the Greater Toronto Area Golf Association in 1998 and the Toronto Star Amateur men's and women's championships. Glenn is about to unveil a national junior tournament, the Kern Cup in 2006, and has created the Greens and Dreams Charitable Foundation which will support children's hospitals and junior golfers across Canada.

Glenn has been noted as saying "Charity is going to be the most important thing I ever do. Where it goes, I do not know".

Unfortunately, Glenn was unable to attend the Awards Luncheon but asked to pass along his sincere regrets, and that he is truly honoured to receive this recognition and will do his very best to do all that he can to promote the most underrated golf body in the industry – the OGSA – today and for many years to come.

William Sansom Distinguished Service Award

Mr. David S. Gourlay, Sr. was announced as being the recipient of the 2nd William Sansom Distinguished Service Award. The award has been named in honour of our first president, William Sansom, who held that position from 1924 through 1932.

This award is presented to a person who the association members feel has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. This contribution must be significant in both substance, and may be, or have been national or regional in nature. Jim Wyllie, long standing friend of David's was asked to present the award. Jim commented on David's history in the following address.



Jim Wyllie presenting award to David Gourlay



David with the Gourlay Girls

"Congratulations David, this honour is well deserved. I have had the privilege of knowing David Gourlay for almost 50 years. Dave started his turf career in Hamilton at Chedoke Golf Course in 1950. From there he moved to Kapuskasing where he met his bride to be Frances, Frankie to all of us. Dave has 2 families the first one and the most important is Frankie and their children, Ian, David, Jimmy, Beth, Jean and Sheila. Dave has always been proud of his family, as I am sure they are of him today. The second family was all the young superintendents, golf superintendent associations and anyone who needed a hand or a little help. David was and is the eternal helper, whether it was a young assistant or an older superintendent that needed some advice or a little direction, Dave was always there. When the Canadian Association got in trouble with the *Green Master* Dave stepped in and kept the magazine going until paid help was able to take it over. During that period you could always find Dave in the Tim Horton's in Thornhill between 4:00 and 5:30 AM working on something pertaining to the *Green Master*, or maybe his budget from Thornhill Golf Club.

David was instrumental along with Bob Heron, Sid Puddicombe and myself in taking over the turf conference from the RCGA and forming what is now the Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show.

David has been honoured by GCSAA with the Distinguished Service Award. He received the John B. Steele award from CGSA and the Score magazine award for Superintendent Of The Year. He was President of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association and President of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association. David is active in his local Lion's Club as well as PROBUS.

When Dave retired from Thornhill he was approached by the Summerlea Club in Montreal and asked, could he come down and help them out. He drove back and forth every week for 2 years and turned the course around. Dave's son David Junior then took over and became the superintendent. Dave then went to work at Beacon Hall for Bob Heron changing cups and tee markers. All the young workers would ask Dave what he thought of the particular job they were doing and could he help them

with additional instruction or a little tip.

I traveled with Dave for years to conferences throughout United States and Canada. We always had a great time. One night we were in Palm Springs out walking and David started to behave like he was wacky, falling over and losing his balance. He said, "I need an ice cream cone.", which we got for him and immediately he was fine. Apparently his sugar went out of balance. After that little episode we gave him the nickname of "nutsie" and that private little nick-name has stuck, through to today.

Now let me tell you, David is always a nice person, but if you ever played a trick or prank on him he would get you back in spades. You have all heard of the wrath of God, and of Wayne Rath, but God help you if you ever ran into the wrath of Gourlay; it was nasty. I am sure it came from some ancient Scottish tribe way up in the Highlands. In this one instance we were staying in a nice hotel in New Orleans in the French Quarter and I was a little late coming back to the room. Everyone was asleep and I proceeded to wake up David, needless to say he was not as happy as I was. We all went to bed and at 4:00 AM, 5:00 AM and 6:00 AM I was woken with a wake-up call from the front desk, the wrath of Gourlay.

David was an avid golfer but, a wee bit of a sand-bagger we would all show up to play and ask what the handicaps were and David would always say, "Oh, about 16." and would proceed to shoot 80, and collect all the money.

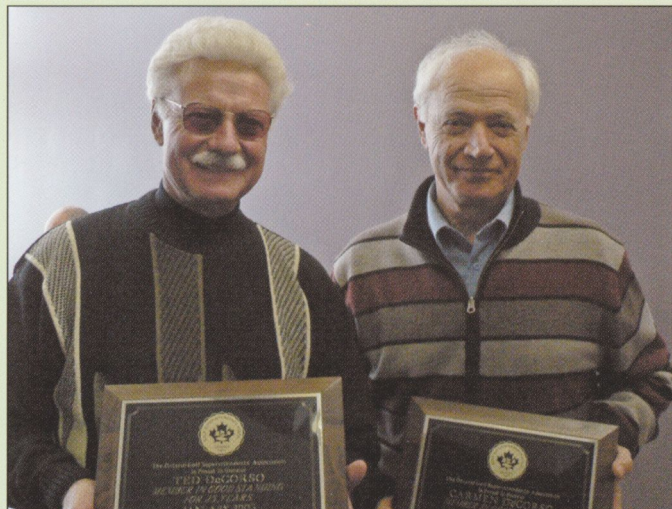
On a more serious note, I congratulate the selection committee on their choice for the Distinguished Service Award this year. David we all wish you and Frankie continued good health and Happiness."

25 Year Members

Membership director, Rob Gatto presented plaques to our 25 year members.



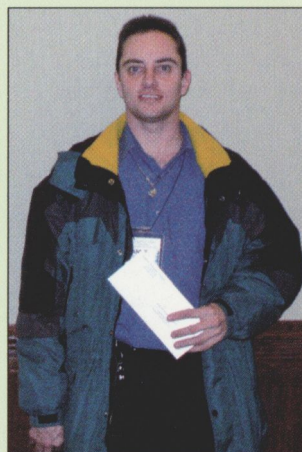
Tim Clarridge, John Cunningham and Ed Farnsworth



Ted and Carmen DeCorso received their plaques in December at the GTI

The following are also 25 year members, but were not available to receive their plaques: Greg Aljo, Sid Witteveen and Randal Hooper.

Annual Membership Draw



Every year the OGSA does a random draw from all our new members who have applied for membership during the past year. This year our lucky new member is Danny Beacock, Assistant Superintendent at Pheasant Run Golf Club. Danny received a complimentary registration package for the 2007 Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show.

The following awards were presented by our director of scholarships, Jeff Alexander.

Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

The OGSA, in conjunction with the Kirkpatrick family has developed this bursary program to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishments of assistant superintendent members of the OGSA. This bursary is named after Hugh Kirkpatrick, who was very active in our association and held the position of president in 1985.

The 2005 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary was awarded to Chelsea Stroud. At the time of application Chelsea was the assistant superintendent at The Rock. We are happy to announce that she is following her dream and has just recently accepted the superintendent's position at Muskoka Highlands Golf Club.



Congratulations Chelsea!

Chelsea says that her future goals are simple. She wants to become a superintendent at a golf course that has an active plan for improvement. She would like to be known as the superintendent who comes into a struggling course, makes incredible changes and improves golfer satisfaction across the board. Being more involved within the industry in

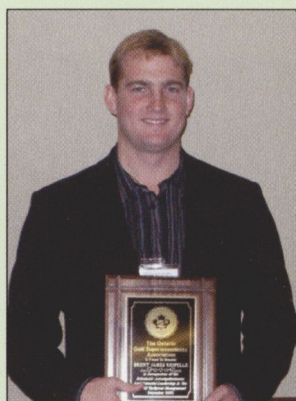
terms of networking and bettering turf research is high on her priority list.

As part of Chelsea's application for this scholarship, she wrote an essay "*The Importance of the Mentor/Protégé Relationship*", which has been reprinted on page 23 for your enjoyment.

Turf Managers Short Course Education Award

An annual award is given to the golf course related student, who upon completion of the program, received the highest overall mark in the course. This year's award winner is Jamie Downton, with the highest overall average of 95%. At the time of completing the course Jamie was employed as the assistant superintendent at Huron Oaks Golf Club in Bright's Grove. Jamie was not available to accept his plaque, as he was on his honeymoon. Our congratulations go out to Jamie, both on his recent marriage and on his academic achievements.

Turfgrass Diploma Scholarship



The OGSA has developed this scholarship to recognize scholastic accomplishments and potential leadership in the field of turfgrass management. Students who are Ontario residents and have a career goal in being employed in the golf industry are eligible to apply.

This year's Turfgrass Scholarship was awarded to Brent Riopelle. Brent is attending the Golf Course

Technician program at Seneca College and was employed as a golf course technician for The Club at Bond Head. Brent's goals include becoming a highly visible and active member of the OGSA and CGSA and to become a certified IPM agent. He intends to make his mark in the industry.

The scholarship presentations were followed by our *Green is Beautiful* awards, presented by Assistant Editor Doug Breen. *Green is Beautiful* is our association's main vehicle of information to our members, on a bi-monthly basis. This publication is run on a cost recovery basis with articles and photos being submitted by volunteers. Doug encouraged all of us to explore the possibility of putting pen to paper and submitting an article, or a photo.

"Barry Endicott Article of the Year" Award

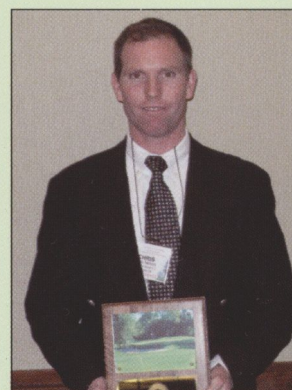
The criteria for awarding the "Barry Endicott Article of the Year" Award is based on a point system consisting of originality, relevance, clarity, depth, style, illustrations, and readability. The recipient is judged by the Editorial Committee in November and approved by the Board.



The recipient this year is Colin White, Assistant Superintendent, Mississauga Golf and Country Club for his article in the February 2005 issue of *Green is Beautiful*, entitled "Credit River Realignment".

"Photo of the Year" Award

The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The recipient's photo is judged by the Editorial Committee. The recipient this year is Chris Nelson for his photo of "12th Green from the Willows" at Markland Wood Country Club, appearing in October 2005 issue of *Green is Beautiful*.



Donation to Turf Research by Vanden Bussche & Rain Bird

In addition to the *Green is Beautiful* awards, Doug announced that Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Limited and Rain Bird have generously donated a total of \$500.00 in the names of our two *Green is Beautiful* Award winners to the OGSA Turf Research Fund, which will go towards furthering research in the golf industry in Ontario.

Integrated Pest Management

The OGSA promotes IPM Accreditation and particularly wanted to recognize those courses that had attained Level II. Jarrod Barakett, Director of Environment for IPM presented plaques to representatives of the following 15 courses, in grateful appreciation for the excellent contribution to the environmental success of the game of golf through achieving full IPM accreditation.



- Bay of Quinte Golf & Country Club
- The Briars Golf Club
- Credit Valley Golf & Country Club
- Dalewood Golf & Curling Club
- Deer Ridge Golf Club
- Hamilton Golf & Country Club
- Mayfield Golf Club
- Oakdale Golf & Country Club
- Oxford Golf & Country Club
- Port Colborne Country Club
- Rosedale Golf Club
- St. Thomas Golf & Country Club
- Sarnia Golf & Curling Club
- Springfield Golf & Country Club
- Victoria Park East Golf Club



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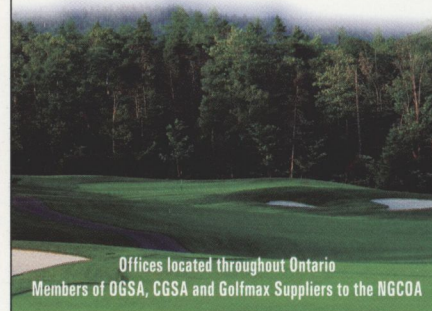


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The Importance of the Mentor/Protégé Relationship

Reprint from Chelsea Stroud's application for the Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

There are many reasons people choose careers. Some choose a path that will make them prosper financially. Some choose their careers based on having summers off or the flexibility of hours. Other careers are chosen based on social status. Those who choose the avenue to become golf course superintendents have obviously not considered any of these reasons.

It's true that superintendents don't have summers off, and they certainly don't do it for the money, but there is some certainty...most have chosen it because someone significant in their life has paved a path that made the fight well worth it. I am talking about the 'mentor' that all of us have regardless of the stage we are in our careers. The mentor is someone who has taught us to learn and to use our knowledge to make the best conditions possible regardless of financial budget or club expectations. The mentor is someone at the end of the day who can easily remind you why you chose to work with turfgrass, the environment and golfers. He will always remind you that it is about passion and how you dream about grass whether you want to or not!

I have a mentor who has branded the industry on me for life! I don't imagine I would have chosen this career without the encouragement of my first boss, Ian Bowen. He hired me as a 16-year-old high school student at the Oshawa Golf Club and eventually sent me off to the University of Guelph to study turfgrass. Ian encouraged me to work for other established

superintendents at golf courses such as Glen Abbey, and Westmount when I had learned all I could from him at that stage in my career. He pushed me to broaden my knowledge by working as a research assistant and to learn more about the environmental side of golf course management. And finally...he hired me as his assistant once I had completed all stages of his TEST! This is the perfect example of a 'mentor'.

The importance is not in having a mentor however. The substance lies within making sure that we all become a mentor to at least one prospective turf enthusiast.

As assistant superintendents we must take the opportunity now to create some kind of program that will allow young turf students to learn as much as they can outside of the classroom. Building a strong turfgrass intern program at your course will allow these students to use their knowledge they have learned in the classroom and combine it with their new found skills developed at your club, to become great turf managers. It's true that you will in turn lose these students to other golf courses down the road, but the result will be a developing intern program at your own club that will continue to turn over strong crews each year.

The hope in the end is that one of your many interns will turn to you some day and give thanks for all that you have done for him. I would imagine that being considered someone's 'mentor' would be the ultimate career accomplishment.



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INSECTICIDE

University of Guelph update



by Katerina Jordan
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant
Agriculture, U of G

How May I Help You?

I am a newly appointed faculty in the Department of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph and am writing to introduce myself and give you an idea of what I am hoping to accomplish for the Ontario turfgrass industry. I am originally from the United States and was born in Maryland where I attended both undergraduate and graduate school for my master's degree. Although I was trained as an agricultural plant pathologist both in school and at the United States Department of Agriculture, I have had an interest in turfgrass and turf management for over a decade. I recently attended the University

of Rhode Island, where I completed my doctorate research on plant-parasitic nematodes of golf course greens turf. I am an avid golfer and enjoy sports of all kinds and like the idea of being able to combine my career with my personal interests. Most importantly, I am fascinated with the performance that today's turfgrass cultivars are able to give turfgrass managers, and am excited about researching management methods of these resilient plants.

One of the major problems I see for turf managers today is maintaining turfgrass at the especially high level necessary to meet the increasing demands of the end users. Without an excessive reliance on chemical inputs, it is often difficult for many superintendents to meet these needs while keeping their turf alive. My research focus in Guelph will be to develop and test turfgrass management methods aimed at reducing chemical inputs while maintaining high quality turf. With the proper combination of targeted breeding and a willingness to focus on cultural practices for pest reduction and general maintenance, I believe that it is possible to reduce the total amount of chemical inputs on turf. This would eventually lead to cost reduction for turf maintenance, and would reduce any negative environmental impacts that managing turf may have. My specific plan of action is to look at a variety of organic amendments and potential biological controls to improve overall plant and soil health, and to evaluate different turfgrass species and cultivars than those principally used today. My graduate student, John Watson, will be conducting a study on establishment and management of velvet bentgrass beginning this spring.

My second priority is to continue some of my nematode research on turfgrass in Ontario. The results I obtained in New England lead me to believe that plant-parasitic nematodes may be more problematic on highly maintained turf than might be expected in this area, especially considering the similarity in climate between the two regions. Understanding the potential threats that lie beneath the soil's surface may allow turfgrass managers to more effectively manage their turf. Specifically, I hope to evaluate potential threats from nematodes through extensive soil surveys throughout the province, and to assess various factors that may influence population

levels of plant-parasitic nematodes. I am also interested in evaluating various cultural and biological control measures aimed at decreasing both nematode population levels and the symptoms they can cause on highly maintained turfgrasses.

Finally, I will be overseeing the turfgrass diagnostic clinic housed at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Working with Erica Gunn, the technician who has been operating the clinic, I hope to continue the excellent service that has been offered to superintendents and other turf managers in the past while making some improvements that will hopefully better serve the industry. We are adding nematode screening to our list of services in the hope that we may be able to answer some questions when fungal diseases are not the cause of visible symptoms. We will have specific instructions for submitting samples for nematode counts on the website this coming spring. We are also going to include management program recommendations for your specific problem at the time of diagnosis, making sure to include a combination of cultural and chemical methods that are available for treatment of your turf. Finally, if we are unable to determine the cause of your problems in the lab, I will do my best to make myself available for on-site visits to evaluate ongoing issues you may have. We hope that these improvements will help us at the GTI better serve your needs as we enter the 2006 season.

Ultimately, my goal in this position is to aid the turfgrass industry in solving whatever problems arise with each season. There is no doubt that being a turfgrass manager is never a boring job, as once you think you have one problem solved, another one is sure to pop up. Weather, wear, and the demands of the end users all affect how turf will thrive through a growing season. As each of these parameters is extremely dynamic, it is difficult to predict what problems will be encountered each year. That combined with increased pressure to reduce chemical inputs makes the job of a golf, sports, or sod turf manager extremely challenging. In order to best address the needs of the turfgrass industry in Ontario, it is important to talk to the people who are directly involved. Therefore I plan to try to meet or at least speak with as many of the turfgrass managers in the area as possible before really starting my research program. I hope that those of you reading this article will be willing to share your concerns with me and that together we can work to make your lives just a little bit easier. I have included my contact information below and welcome your calls or visits should you have a problem that needs to be addressed. Before I close, I would like to thank the department of Plant Agriculture in their commitment to turfgrass research by supporting my position and my technician, Alex Porter. I would also like to express my great appreciation to the OGSA and the OTRF (Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation) for providing me with research funding in the form of start-up monies.

I look forward to meeting with many of you and to continuing to foster the positive relationship that already exists between the University of Guelph turf program and the Ontario turfgrass industry. I can be reached at (519) 824-4120 X 56615 or via e-mail at kjordan@uoguelph.ca, and have an office on the Guelph campus in 1237 Bovey Building.



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On the REEL side of things

by Mike Slack
Slack Reel Service



How do you spell "R-E-L-I-E-F"?

It is that same question that has been asked of me for more than twenty years. Spin or Relief? It is certainly one of the more controversial topics and it has sparked many a debate amongst both superintendents and equipment technicians.

Sharpening equipment today is more sophisticated than ever and capable of supporting any practice you desire. There are many ways to utilize the spin/relief grinding processes and through experiences, I have become a staunch believer in relief grinding, mainly because most reel manufacturers advocate it. From that point, the key becomes knowing which process best suits your needs at various times throughout the maintenance cycle.

A number of years ago, a study was conducted by one of the 3 major reel manufacturers. The purpose of the study was to look more closely at the effects of sharpening practices on equipment running efficiencies. The end result of the study was if you elected to spin grind exclusively, your equipment would run, at a minimum, with 16% more stress on the working systems 100% of the time. Further findings were as follows; If your setup were to have a .002" to .005" gap between your reel and bedknife, the required horsepower would be .75 hp/cutting unit with relief, and .87 hp/cutting unit without relief. Here is where the study findings get interesting. When reels are adjusted with minimal contact and have relief, it requires .88 hp/cutting unit. That same situation without relief required 2.59 hp/cutting unit. Without question, relief grinding will minimize stresses on both engines and traction hydraulic systems.

Consider that when you grind relief into your reels, it not only provides benefits mechanically, but it also presents the operation

with an alternative option when the reel begins to lose its cutting edge. This option is known as backlapping. While backlapping is not sharpening, it can provide an effective way to maintain an edge on your reel. Goodness knows, we all can use an edge!!! When spin grinding was born into this world, it seemed to be promoted under the "no backlapping required" umbrella. This meant that rather than backlapping, you removed the cutting unit from the machine and sharpened it. Does this sound like a more efficient process than backlapping? NOT!!! The claims suggested that it was next to impossible to successfully backlap a spun ground reel because of the large amount of landing area on the reel blade thus requiring the removal of an excessive amount of material to produce a sharp cutting edge. Alternatively, relief on the back edge of the reel leaves very little contact area on the blade thus requiring less material to be removed to produce a sharp leading edge.

In the end, every operation has its own subtleties. In my estimation, the ability of an operation to spell R-E-L-I-E-F will most certainly contribute to more efficiencies and productivity being realized.

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



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Above the hole

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

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "Science never solves a problem without creating ten more". I have never been more mindful of this quote than during this year's annual conference and trade show. I was fortunate enough to attend almost every seminar and had the pleasure of listening to some very accomplished speakers. Most of the talks highlighted current research and trends in the industry as well as touched upon traditional beliefs and practices.

Although I found the talks very informative and worthwhile, I can't help but feel slightly bewildered when looking back on the event. Who am I kidding? I feel like K.J. Choi at a tractor-pull; confused and scared. On the surface it would appear that the science of growing grass has changed very little in the past few decades. After all, a plant has basic requirements and when they are not met, the result is a decline in health, but the truth is we like to complicate things. There is an inherent need to know more and to improve upon the past. The end result is science creating ten more questions.

How much phosphorous should a plant receive on an annual basis? What's the best form to apply nitrogen in? Should potassium levels be equal to nitrogen levels? Should we water turf with the sole intention of replacing the day's ET Rate? Will Tom Kite finally get laser eye surgery?

These are basic questions regarding fundamental requirements of a plant. You would think that I would have been able to answer these questions after first semester. As you can imagine, I felt somewhat inadequate when I left the talks with

these queries rattling around in my brain. But in talking with established superintendents since then, I am somewhat comforted to know that these are questions that never really disappear. It's not that the science changes, it's that our knowledge of the science changes... kind of like 'beer goggles' except that science is much more attractive in the morning. Nevertheless, the end result is that even the most basic cultural practices are constantly evolving as is the technology that governs the industry.

Further complicating the issue is the fact that there is often a disconnect between the research and what is practical. Also, there are several ways to interpret research and often times the way a superintendent prioritizes the data can lead to varying practices from club to club. We must also remember that what works at one course may be ineffective at another. The end result is that essential plant requirements can be interpreted and applied in a variety of ways. I suppose as students we are taught the basics and from there we can fend for ourselves.

These seminars are extremely beneficial since they provide new perspectives on established practices. At the same time, they can be rather overwhelming. The bottom line is, it's impossible for a superintendent to be an expert in all areas of turfgrass management. I suppose the key then is to know who to call when there is a query you need help with. If science is creating questions ten times as fast as it is answering them, then it's time to beef up the old rolodex.

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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

The Winter Garden Season

As a gardener, I never think that the winter is a time to snooze and ignore the garden. Instead, winter is a time for reflective thinking and exploration in a garden, and this includes some special areas of golf courses. Winter conditions can emphasize some interesting and beautiful aspects of a garden, and they also allow you to think about transition zones that separate the playing surface and the natural areas.

In the winter months the cultivated garden should have some showy plants that offer seasonal interest. Evergreens are an obvious choice for the winter garden and I especially like the look of white pine (*Pinus strobus*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) and cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). Boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) too is a great asset in the winter garden. Deciduous woody shrubs are another group of plants that add to the winter garden. Native American Hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*) is an excellent choice for a showy specimen, year round. The mature shrub grows to over 8 feet in height and 5 feet in diameter. It is multi-stemmed and is covered with drooping catkins from the fall until the spring. In the fall the leaves are brilliant yellow. Edible hazelnuts are commonly produced and greedily sought after by blue jays. Alternate-leaf or pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) is another super choice for a shady spot that needs a showy specimen.

Amongst the showiest plants I have enjoyed this winter have been ornamental grasses. There are two that stand out the most and the first one is Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). It forms a 4-5 foot clump, lead by a bouquet of copper-coloured flower spikes. It is not invasive and looks well with just about any companion plant in the perennial border. Another favourite is

Molinia (*Molinia* sp.). This forms a similar sized clump only with more delicate flowers, and a thick skirt of golden leaves. Good for the birds, good for the garden.

Winter is a perfect time to get to know the natural and transition areas on the golf course. Natural areas include wooded and non-wooded regions and low use areas that border the property. With the leaves off you can more easily see the forest floor and determine what woody species are living there. Deciduous shrubs are more distinct and often more showy when their twigs are exposed. You can observe how various plants are colonizing the area and this can give you clues about drainage patterns or micro-climates. In non-wooded areas, snow cover accentuates the shape of the landscape and again indicates drainage and growth patterns.

The edges of these natural areas are transition zones, from cultivated into un-cultivated land and are rather like the collar around a green, a swath of land, 8-15 feet wide, that separates two distinct habitats. Two examples are the transition between roughs and woods or cart paths and creeks. What you allow to grow in those transition zones will make a big impact on the aesthetics and health of the landscape.

Transition zones are at high risk of invasion from alien weeds and undesirable growth, because they have usually been disrupted in some way. Excavation nearby, tree removal, fertilization or foot traffic will impact adjacent areas, and may shift the living conditions in favour of a weed. Weeds tend to win in the early stages of change because they have adapted to follow human disturbance better than indigenous plants. Some examples of problematic weeds you might find in transition zones are buckthorn, raspberries, burdock, coltsfoot, wild grape and dog-strangling vine. These plants are not considered assets to the landscape (with the exception of the raspberries, in the right place) so it is important to take stock of what you have and make a game plan to get rid of them. Some species will vanish by supply cutting off the seed source for a couple of years (burdock) until the seed source dies out, others will need to be dug up (raspberries) and the more persistent types will need the help of a herbicide (dog strangling vine). Once the undesirables are removed a more desirable mix of plants, including what used to live there can be planted to expand the aesthetics of the property.

Daisy Moore is a horticulturist and garden designer. She builds gardens throughout Ontario and specializing in plant selection.

Listen to The Gardening Show on 570news (www.570news.com) Saturday mornings 7-8

Visit her site www.daisymoore.com for more tips on gardening.

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

My Dog

In my office there is a calendar with pictures of golf superintendents and their dogs. The dogs are all well-behaved, calm, and would be welcome additions to any grounds staff. Now I love my dog, but he'll never be on such a calendar. My dog will never be calm, well-behaved, or a welcome addition to anything. This calendar is an annual reminder of what a complete failure I have been as a dog trainer. In my defense, my dog exhibits that special kind of mental deficiency that only expresses itself after copious generations of line breeding. His father was his grandfather and his great grandfather, and mom was his aunt as well as his grandmother. You do this with people, and you get the Appalachians. You do this with dogs, and you get Grover.

Grover was named after one of my all time favorite football players, and the Muppet from Sesame Street. Grover Covington was a rush end for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, who still holds many team and CFL records. He was strong, fast, intelligent, and athletic. My dog has none of those qualities. He's more like the Muppet – only way bigger. He's an Old English Sheepdog, so he's about the size of a small car covered with shag carpet, and he has no idea where his body parts are most of the time. It's like having a goat in your house that thinks it's a lap dog, only a goat with hair in its eyes and the accompanying visual impairment. He eats like a goat too. I'm actually more than a little concerned that Grover Covington will come to my house and sack me for allowing his name to be affiliated with such a project.

We got him as a puppy nine years ago. We were celebrating the recent death of our cat. I apologize to cat lovers, but it was the happiest day of my married life. Sure, the kids being born were pretty cool, but I really hated that cat. Krista's family had been the proud owners of two Old English Sheepdogs who were the best dogs I'd ever met, but I found out later that my wife was in no way whatsoever involved, in whole or in part, with the training of those two dogs. Her family actually looked into getting a restraining order to limit her access to them. I understand why; she managed to teach a puppy *bad* habits. In her defense she was enjoying morning sickness while doing the house training, but everything that dog knows about manners, obedience, and not eating out of the pots on the stove, he learned before we picked him up from the breeder.

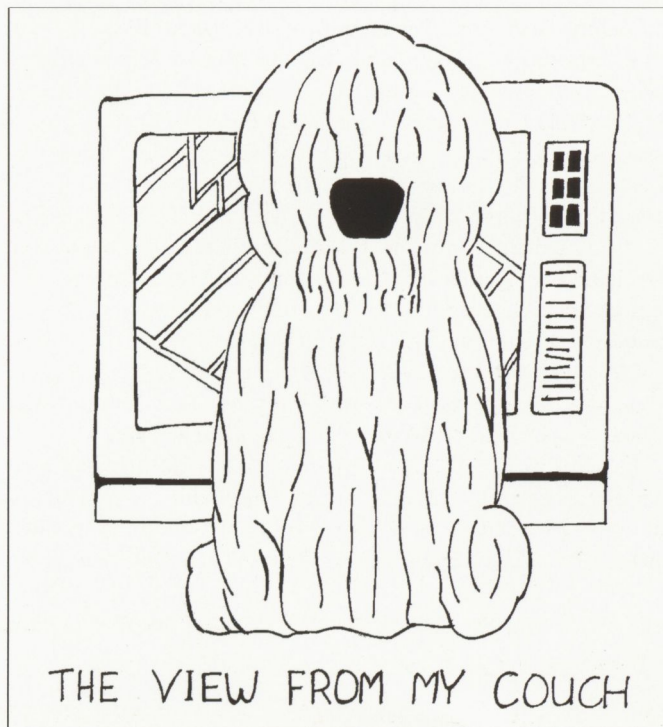
He ate my son's first Advent Calendar, and every one since - it's part of our annual Yuletide traditions. Last Easter, we found out that he's big enough to get a chocolate rabbit off the top of the fridge. My daughter (who's the victim of similar training) left our fridge door open one day last week, and the dog ate a whole pot of pasta. Imagine coming home to Mr. Mugs, covered with red sauce, sitting on top of the clean laundry that somebody left on the couch.

Now he's a very happy, friendly dog. I just get a little



embarrassed when I see the other dogs in the park catching Frisbees or fetching balls, and not running into trees or tearing some stranger's backpack apart to get the gum inside. It's like at a Christmas concert where the neighbour's kid is playing Mozart sonatas on the piano while your kid is playing the wood block for the little drummer boy – badly. I wish I'd taken him for some obedience training when he was a puppy, but I honestly thought that we knew what we were doing. In retrospect, I grew up on a farm where the life expectancy of our dogs was generally about a year before we'd all be bawling because someone had run over it with a tractor, so I never really got to see the long-term results of the "Breen Canine Training Regiment" until now. Now that I think about it, my childhood consisted primarily of taking in stray dogs, overfeeding them for six months, burying them, crying a bit, and then repeating the process. We never bought a dog, they'd just show up one day and hang around until they died, like some kind of canine 'elephant graveyard'. Some would argue that Grover's lack of training is tied to the fact that my upbringing has left me emotionally incapable of attachment to any dog.

So he's never going to be in the Super's Best Friend calendar, but that's OK because it's pretty much our own fault, the kids love him, he'll never bite anyone, and you can always count on him to clean up the spilled milk. And it's not like they're knocking down the door to put *me* in any calendars either.



Looking back

5 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott, Project Manager
Gordon Wendover Construction

In 2001 the Board of Directors were **John Gravett** (pres), **Keith Bartlett** (past pres), **Jim Flett** (vice), **Mark Piccolo**, **Rob Ackermann**, **Dean Baker**, **Jeff Burgess**, **Bob Burrows**, **Mike Courneya**, **Dave Cours**, **Sean DeSilva** and **Paul Scenna**. **Jeff Stauffer** was the editor of "Green Is Beautiful". **Pat Thomas** was welcomed as a new staff member of the OGSA.

New members: **Jonathan Atkinson** (C), Craigowan GC, **Joe England** (B), Bridgewater C C, **Steve Gomme** (F), Greystone GC, **Patrick Greenman** (C), Oakdale GC, **Jason Hanna** (F), St. Georges GC, **Derrick Hawley** (B), Sleepy Hollow C C, **Mary Beth Kelly** (D), Club Link, **Ken Nelski** (F), Maple Downs GC, **Patrick O'Brien** (C), The Kirkland C C, **Ryan Scott** (F), North Halton GC, **Peter Sojak** (C), Blue Springs GC, **Bill Willeart** (A), Woodside Greens GC, **Chris Armatage** (F), Glen Abbey GC, **Robert Baker** (A), Seven Lakes GC, **Wade Beaudoin** (C), St. Thomas GC, **Robert Hendricks** (A), Timber Ridge GC, **Louis Lieff** (C), Diamond Back GC, **Tanya McIvor** (C), Glen Abbey, **Daniel McNeil** (A), Riverbend GC, **Mike Pellerin** (C), Rosedale, **Dennis Piccolo** (C), St. Catherines GC, **Ryan Scully** (F), Muskoka Lakes GC, **Ed Sealy** (A), Mahoning Valley GC, **Brad Sizer** (B), Brier Fox GC, **Norbert Szabo** (F), Thornhill C C, **Deni Terenzio** (S), Glen Abbey GC, **Gary Terris** (C), Port Royal GC, **Tom Winger** (F), Willow Valley GC, **Roseann Winters** (B), Frog's Breath GC, **Doug Brooks** (E), Envirolinks, **Scott Maue** (B), Walkerton GC, **Mitchell Guest** (C), Merry Hill GC, **Stefen Schlotthauer** (C), Hamilton GC, **Gordon Trotter** (C), Deer Creek GC, **Chad Vibert** (C), Mad River GC, **Fred Weening** (E), Earth Power Tractors and Equipment, **Rob Snyder** (E), Eastern Farm Machinery Ltd, **Kameron Fordyce** (E), Engage Agro, **Joe Pillitteri** (E), Golf and Turf Canada, **Marlene Oilgisser** (E), HH Holdings, **Alan Firth** (B), Ashton Meadows, **Troy Humphries** (F), Jaspur Ridge Stables, **Mark Pickering** (C), Crosswinds GC, **Ed Wagner** (A), Hawthorn Valley GC, **James Woloszanski** (C), Wyldewood GC, **Rick Ziegel** (E), Burnside Irrigation Services, **Terry Perossa** (E), More Trees Please, **Graham Butler** (C), Brantford GC, **Brian Carver** (A), International C C, **Greg Moore** (S), Cherry Downs GC, **Jamie Spencer** (C), Echo Valley GC, **Fred Stockwell** (F), Kings Riding GC, **Doug Leitch** (E), Armtech Ltd., **Jim Firth** (E) Penguin Golf Associates, **Louis Gonzales** (C), Kleinburg GC, **Stacy Reardon** (C) Deer Creek GC, **Darryl Shaw** (B), Deer Creek GC and **Chelsea Stroud** (F), Westmount GC.

On the move: **Sean DeSilva** from Diamond in the Rough to Taboo. **Dean Baker** moved from Glen Abbey Golf Club to North Halton Golf Club after the retirement of **Allan Beeny**.

In Memoriam: **Hugh Kirkpatrick** 1941 - 2001 passed away after a quiet game of golf. Hugh started out building golf courses but later remained on as superintendent at Conestoga GC after construction. Hugh spent the last 23 years as superintendent at

Westmount Golf and Country Club. **John Stoughton** 1910 - 2001 passed away at the age of 91 in Orillia. John spent the last 25 years of his career at the old and new Barrie Golf and Country Club. **Jim Boyce** passed away on August 29th. Jim developed correspondence courses for the University of Guelph and was the Executive Director of the CGSA from 1970-1973 and the editor of "The Greenmaster" magazine.

Keith Nisbet received the CGSA's John B. Steel Award for Distinguished Service. The CGSA Conference and Show was held in Vancouver.

"A Century of Greenskeeping", written by **Gord Witteveen** was published and distributed by the OGSA. Gord wrote his last article titled "The Back Page" for CGSA Green Master publication.

The Supreme Court made a decision to uphold a bylaw in the town of Hudson, Quebec where municipalities had the power to ban the use of pesticides. It was feared that such powers could move into the province of Ontario.

The GTI announced the appointment of **Dr. Julie Dionne** to the position of Turf Management Faculty with the department of Plant Agriculture.

The GCSAA celebrated its 75th Anniversary with conference being held in Dallas. "Green Is Beautiful" won the Most Improved Publication for the second year in a row.

The "Spring Field Day" was held at Guelph Lakes Golf Club hosted by **John Bladon**. **Dave Swab** (76), Victoria Park West and **Chris Dew** (76) The National were low gross winners and **Ken Wright** (65) Devils Pulpit and **Dave DeCorso** (70) Victoria Park East were low net winners. The Sarnia Golf and Country Club was the host of the Border City Challenge hosted by **Paul Brown**. The Pro Super challenge was held at Angus Glen hosted by **Ernie Amsler** and **Doug Taylor**. There was a 3 way tie at 65 and **Kelly Barnett**, Fox Glen GC and pro **Kevin Corriveau** were crowned the winners.

The Presidents Day tournament was held at Beacon Hall hosted by **Bob Heron** on July 16th. The winners were as follows: 1st The Briars Golf Club, **Paul White**, 2nd Ballantrae Golf Club, **Kurt Rasmus**, 3rd St. Georges Golf Club, **John Gall**, 4th Beacon Hall, **Bob Heron** and 5th Lowville Golf Club, **John Dimitriw**.

The Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was held at The Briars Golf Club hosted by **Paul White**. The low gross winner was **Ted Ellis** from Blue Springs GC and the George Darou Trophy was won by **Bruce Burger**, Lakeview GC.

The Plant Products 2001 Annual Slow Pitch Tournament was held with a total of 39 teams on July 14th at Turner Park in Hamilton. The winning team from Toronto Golf Club defeated the team from Oakdale GC.

The way we where... answers from page 12. L-R Pelino Scenna, Paul Scenna & Dennis McCracken



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