

# Green is Beautiful

OCT 31 2006

October 2006

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

OGSAA  
ARCHIVES

## Golf In Sweden

**61<sup>st</sup> Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament  
Assistants Tournament  
Working the Open**

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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



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*Photo by Robert Kains*

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# President's message

## Ideas are free

Ever wonder where you'd be, or what you would be doing in life if you had taken a different fork-in-the-road? While we may have very few regrets in the decisions we have made, it can be said "we make our own fortune". Twenty years ago, I never would have imagined that I would have the opportunity to write this address to this membership. Likewise, who could have ever predicted that the use of turf growth regulators would have such a profound influence on turf management or resulting playing conditions?

In my eight year tenure on your OGSA Board of Directors, I have seen our complement of office staff increase by 150%; our membership roster increase by 90%; our conference/show grow/evolve substantially; member services adding more value; with associated greater respect and recognition for our profession. All positive outcomes clearly, yet who could have foreseen such growth – except the visionaries among us.

To be able to fore-tell the future, takes some luck mixed with considerable talent. I can tell you, your board and staff are always asking "what's brought us here, what's worked well, and where do we want to go?" It's that view from the bridge which will occupy your directors for a full day in late October with a professional facilitator to again re-visit our strategic planning document. We want to maintain momentum from the document produced about two years ago, where we met for a hectic two days and developed some attainable goals for your association and our profession. The major pitfall in that exercise, is leading the organization in a direction which may not always reveal a desirable outcome, and in that risk I suggest the attempt is usually well worth the effort. Who among us can say with any great degree of certainty that once an initiative is started, we will always see an improvement over current conditions - even though these predictions are made with the best of intentions and the best information available at the time. We instinctively know that from our turf management viewpoint, where taking calculated risks through practical approaches is usually met with improved playing conditions or healthier turf or lower budgets or happier staff – certainly happier golfing memberships.

Your board and staff are keenly aware of your desires and challenges, and feel that by remaining sufficiently grounded in the future, we preserve the successes developed by our predecessors. So, when we gaze into the proverbial crystal ball during the strategic planning exercise, the best reflected view which can be seen is an improved profession. That's our expectation, and we are always polishing up our goals to those ends.



Robert Burrows, CGCS, MS  
Rosedale Golf Club



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## Editorial message



by John Bladon  
Co-Editor

Well, we have finally reached that time of the year! Trust all of you are looking forward to having your courses put to bed and to the coming conference season, which will be gearing up before we all know it.


*Green is Beautiful* has experienced another successful season and on behalf of both the Board of Directors and the Editorial Committee, I want to thank all of our associate members for their continued advertising support throughout the 2006 season. I also want to thank all those who contributed articles and photographs during this season. Your efforts are indeed appreciated!

Upcoming in November, the editorial committee will convene to begin the planning process for 2007 and to select the article and photo of the year to be awarded at

the OGSA's annual conference in January. In the coming weeks and months, I encourage you to consider what you might be able to contribute in terms of either an article or a photograph for next year. Not matter how trivial you may deem an issue going on or at your golf course, the membership can always benefit from reading about the experiences of a peer.


This October issue features a unique submission from OGSA member and Alberta based golf course architect, Robert Kains. Bob has been busy working overseas and brings us some insight on the growing golf landscape in Sweden. Tracy Fowler, Assistant Superintendent at Hamilton Golf and Country Club, supplies us with an account of "Working the Open" as the club closes the books on being host to a second successful national championship.

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## What's new

### Complimentary Conference Registration for Special Circumstances

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.

### Toronto Superintendent Receives Professional Certification

Keith A. Bartlett, GCSAA golf course superintendent at Thornhill Country Club, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Congratulations Keith!

GCSAA was among the first association to institute a professional certification program, establishing its program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. In 2005, GCSAA completed a restructuring of its certification program in order to raise the level of documented professionalism through comprehensive continuing education. The restructured program was recognized by the National Certification Commission as one of the most extensive and comprehensive certification programs of any profession. For more information visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

### Ontario Archaeological Society 2006 Heritage Conservation Award

OslerBrook Golf and Country Club has been honoured with The Ontario Archaeological Society's 2006 Heritage Conservation Award. This award is based on five criteria-significance of the site impacted, active participation of the nominee, field contributions by the nominee, financial contributions above that required by law, setting an example of conservation awareness in the community and long term conservation planning.

OslerBrook is built on the land of the old Rockbottom Farm on which was once located an early-seventeenth century Tionnantate (Wyandot) village and cemetery. The village was approximately 2.5 hectares in area and likely

contained the remains of a number of longhouses which may have been encircled by a palisade, a fence of pointed wooden stakes.

Referred to by Champlain as "Nation du Petun" (Tobacco Nation) following his visit in 1616, the Tionnantate were horticulturalists, and their village would have been surrounded by hundreds of hectares of corn. But the Tionnantate were also traders: European trade goods recovered from the site indicate that the inhabitants were trading with their Wendat (Huron) neighbours as well as with the French. Both the village and its cemetery have been preserved by OslerBrook.

Appreciating this rich history and the reverential nature of these ancient grounds, OslerBrook has created a cairn sited at the top of the ridge. This monument, visible from the 10<sup>th</sup> tee, acknowledges the original inhabitants of the site and their history and stands about 20 yards from the clubhouse.

The cairn includes a plaque with text contributed by local archeologist and Petun history expert Charles Garrad and will contain three time capsules: one capsule will contain information describing the history of OslerBrook, one will be contributed by local youth, and one will contain items donated by descendants of the original Petun people, these being the Wyandote tribe now resident in Kansas and Oklahoma (how they got there is a long story, indeed!). OslerBrook plans to invite representatives of the Wyandote tribe to visit on National Aboriginal Day 2007 when the cairn will be dedicated, and the time capsules inserted.

The landscaping in the area of the cairn will permit its use as an outdoor classroom for conducting history and archeology sessions for school children. The site of the ossuary has been planted with native sweetgrass from the Brantford reserve and the perimeter surrounded with large stones native to the site. This project is in keeping with our community outreach and Audubon initiatives and has been made possible by voluntary donations from individual members to the "Ossuary Fund" which has been created to ensure that the legacy and history of the site's original inhabitants is preserved. One idea, in the formative stage, is exploratory/educational digs by students of local schools. With the cooperation of the Petun Institute, the club would like to place Petun artifacts found on the site in an interpretive display in the OslerBrook clubhouse.

The OGSA would like to extend our congratulations to Jason Honeyball, Superintendent, OslerBrook Golf and Country Club and his staff for the major role they played in working towards achieving The Ontario Archaeological Society's 2006 Heritage Conservation Award.

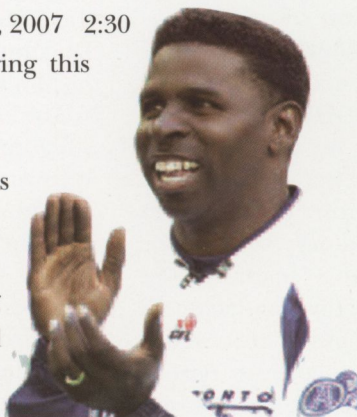


# ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Mark your calendars now for Friday, January 19, 2007 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. You won't want to miss hearing this dynamic speaker.

Closing keynote speaker Michael "Pinball" Clemons speaks on, **"Winning Against the Odds"**.

Renowned as one of pro football's most electrifying players, Toronto Argonauts running back Michael "Pinball" Clemons is the CFL's all time, all purpose yardage leader. However, it is his exceptional character, in addition to his outstanding athletic ability, which has made him the remarkable fan favourite he is through-out Canada. Michael's tireless community involvement and participation in countless charitable causes exemplify the qualities he possesses, which are so rarely found in today's professional athletes. His presentations are at once captivating and empowering, and clearly demonstrate the capabilities of teamwork. At only 5 feet 6 inches and 170 pounds, he also inspires his audiences by illustrating what is possible and what it means to beat the odds. Pinball communicates his heartfelt stories with a passionate spirit and his patented, contagious smile. Organizations respond to his presentations with rave reviews and overwhelming enthusiasm.



## The way we were

### How observant are you?

Congratulations to Tim Fredericks of Fredericks McGuire Consulting, who reported that the photo in the August issue, on page 5 of "The way we were" was backwards. Did you notice that the steering wheel was on the wrong side of the cart?

Tim was the first to report this anomaly to a member of our editorial committee, and is the winner of an OGSA golf shirt. Tim, please phone the office (877-824-6472) to claim your prize.



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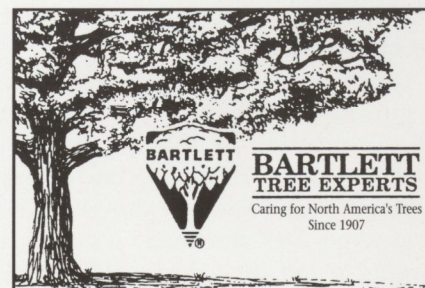
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| <b>Greg Louth</b>           | Class A |
| Lake St George Golf Club    |         |
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# From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau  
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

## U RMULE addition of leatherjackets to Merit Label

Bayer Environmental Sciences, in cooperation with the OMAFRA Minor Use Coordinator, is preparing a submission of a User Requested Minor Use Label Expansion to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency for the addition of leatherjacket suppression to the active Imidacloprid (Merit). The hope is to not only have a new active ingredient for leatherjacket control, but to also have a product that can be used on home lawns by licensed applicators.

## New B.Sc. (Agr.) Major in Crop, Horticulture and Turfgrass Science

A new Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) major in Crop, Horticulture and Turfgrass Science has been announced at the University of Guelph, Ontario Agricultural College and it will begin in September 2007. This major will focus on the science of plants for food, fibre production or for urban landscapes. This new major combines previous majors in agronomy and horticulture and adds a component focused on urban agriculture.

## USEPA Re-registration Eligibility Document for PCNB (Quintozone)

In May this year, the USEPA announced its re-registration eligibility document for PCNB (quintozone). In this process, the EPA assessed the human health and environmental risks associated with this product. In addition, they assessed the benefits associated with the registered uses and made a comparison with alternative products and their costs. They had insufficient data to alleviate their concerns about toxicological and environmental fate characteristics of quintozone. The USEPA also determined that there was a low benefit to maintaining the turf uses from an efficacy and economic standpoint.

The manufacturer of the quintozone products for turf in Canada, Chemtura Canada (formerly Crompton Co.), believes that there would be a substantial cost increase in golf course pesticides as a result of the loss of quintozone for the turf market and that it would impact the economic viability of golf courses.

The USEPA, as part of the re-registration process provided stakeholders with a 60 day comment period which was up on Oct. 2, 2006. During this time comments challenging the agencies regulatory decision could be made based on the technical and or benefits assessment used in making the regulatory decision. The manufacturer had solicited comments from members of

the golf course industry. The full re-registration Eligibility Document can be found on the USEPA web site at [http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/pcnb\\_red.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/pcnb_red.pdf)

The above information pertains to the regulatory situation of quintozone in the United States. There is no information available on the regulatory status of quintozone products with the PMRA in Canada. The current information on the PMRA website states a registration end date for PCNB as 2007/12/31. In addition, the Chemtura Company has confirmed that the quintozone products will be available for the 2006/2007 and the 2007/2008 snow mould season. In addition, as information on the regulatory decision of the PMRA becomes available, I will attempt to keep you updated on its progress.

## Proposed Acceptability for Continuing Registration of Lawn and Turf Uses of 2,4-D

In 2005 the Pest Management Regulatory Agency released its Proposed Acceptability for Continuing Registration (PACR) for lawn and turf uses of 2,4-D. There was a 60 day comment period on the PACR document and the turf industry, through Landscape Ontario, Nursery Sod Growers Association and the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association provided comments. On Aug. 16, 2006 the PMRA released a re-evaluation note on the PACR for lawn and turf uses of 2,4-D and has announced the results of the comments and some interim measures. This document can be found at <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/rev/rev2006-11-e.pdf>. To summarize, the interim measures, PMRA had originally requested a phase out of 2,4-D products containing diethanolamine (DEA). Additional toxicological information on DEA has been submitted and is being evaluated. The agency could pose mitigation measures for the 2,4-D products containing DEA once the outcome of the review of the additional data is complete. PMRA has also modified the proposed label changes that were in the original PACR document. A summary of the label changes is below:

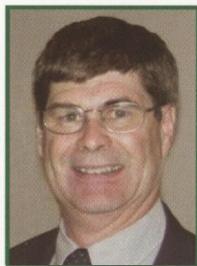
- Statements indicating the most effective timing of application are now required on product labels.
- Environmental precaution statements have been modified to increase their relevance to all products.
- The proposed buffer zones for commercial products have been altered.

The recommended buffer zones for 2,4-D applied with a field sprayer (using a coarse droplet size (350-450 µm)) are now between 3-4 metres. If a shrouded sprayer is used the buffer zones range from 1-2 metres.

The re-evaluation note also summarizes all of the 600 comments received during the comment period and provided the PMRA's response to them.



# Health & safety



by Doug Johnson  
SAFETAID - Health and  
Safety Consulting

## Confined Spaces

I first wrote about confined spaces in 2004. Since that time some of the rules have changed and by the time you are reading this the new rules are expected to be in force. The Ontario Ministry of Labour will be enforcing this new legislation.

- Have you got a confined space at your club?
- Do you know how to identify a confined space?
- Are you aware of the requirements for entering a confined space?

You should be able to answer these questions.

In this short article I cannot get into all the requirements of confined space identification or entry but here are a few issues that you should consider. Confined spaces have limited openings for entry and exit. Some of the areas you should consider are areas such as manholes, silos, pump houses, wells, pits, holding tanks, sewers, tunnels, large pipelines, open trenches and other such spaces that a worker could enter to perform work.

The Industrial Regulation 851 defines a confined space as a fully or partially enclosed space,

|   |   |
|---|---|
| a | that is not both designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy, and   |
| b | in which atmospheric hazards may occur because of its construction, location or contents or because of the work that is done in it. |

This means that your workers, working in a confined space, may be exposed to hazards such as poor air quality, chemical exposure, fire hazards, biological hazards, electric shock and noise to name a few.

If you identify a confined space at your facility then it is imperative, and it is the law, that you ensure that there is a defined written and communicated Confined Space Entry procedure for the specific types of confined spaces identified at your facility. This means that each time that you enter the confined space you will be required to follow very specific rules. These rules will include an amount of paperwork that must be available and retained for specific periods of time. You must ensure that those involved with the entry are properly trained to complete the entry in a safe manner. This means ensuring that the person entering (the entrant) and the person attending at the entry point (the attendant) are trained in the air testing procedure, the entrant and site condition monitoring procedure, and in the rescue or recovery procedures.

When monitoring the air the entrant and the attendant must ensure that the oxygen content is within safe limits - not too little and not too much; that a hazardous atmosphere (toxic gases, flammable atmosphere) is not present and that all ventilation equipment is operating properly. Air quality may have to be maintained through the use of ventilation equipment such as fans.

You must ensure that energy sources are controlled through the use of proper lockout procedures and you must ensure that they are communicated, understood and followed.

An incident in a confined space is often fatal. **DO NOT TAKE THIS CHANCE.** For more information on Confined spaces go to [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca) or [www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/2006/06-86b.html](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/2006/06-86b.html)

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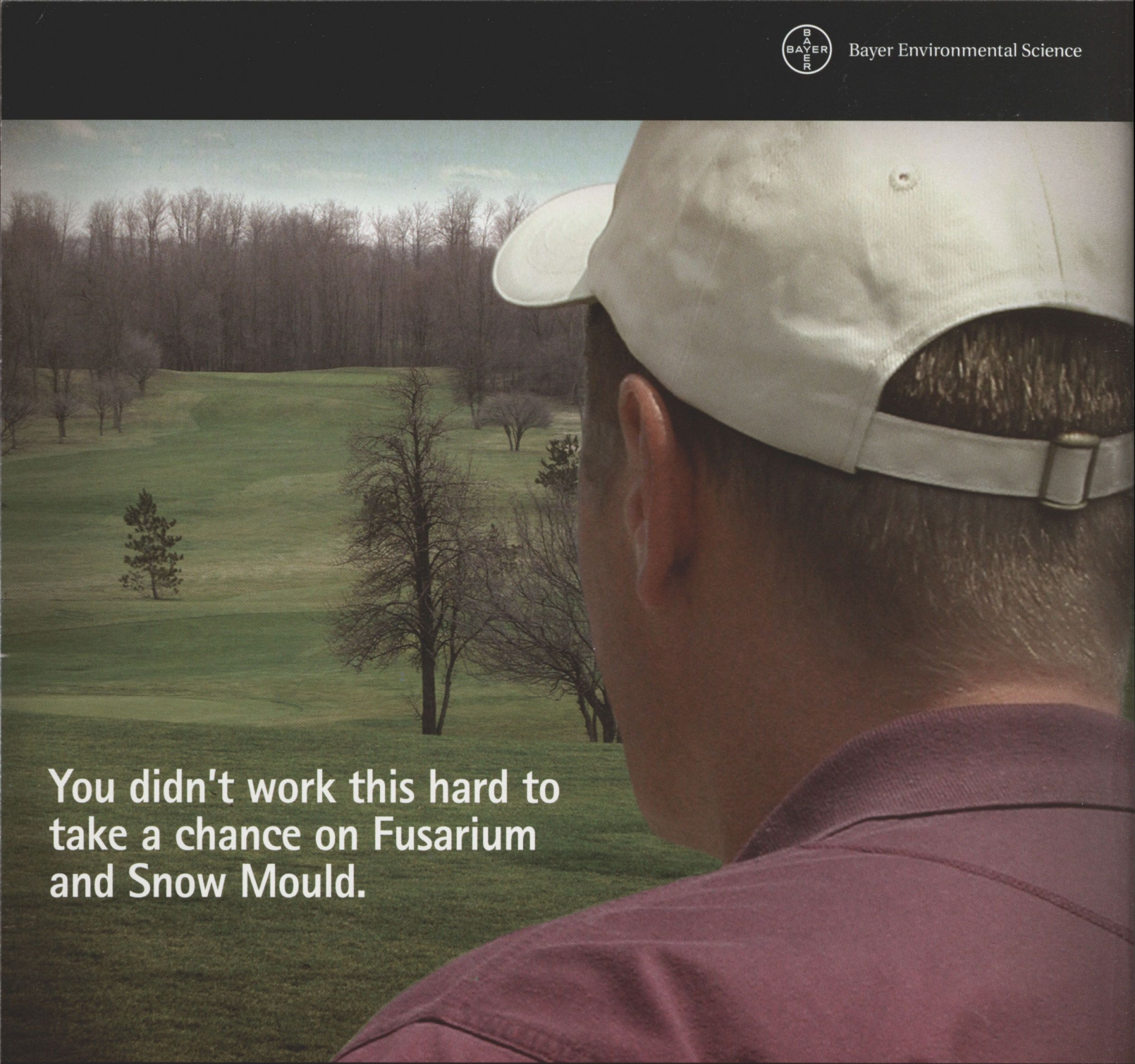
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# OTRF ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Chris Dew, Superintendent  
The National



ClubLink's King Valley Golf Club was a spectacular setting for the 2006 Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's annual fundraising golf tournament. Aptly named, King Valley majestically combines spectacularly beautiful terrain and design genius, creating one of Canada's most respected courses. The course was in spectacular shape, and to say the least very challenging.

The hospitality was superb, and the camaraderie amongst all participants including golf superintendents,



Scott Knox and Jeff Stauffer

suppliers, sod growers, golf course owners, sports turf managers, golf associations, turf related industry associates and university researchers was fun, and very entertaining.

Thanks go out to ClubLink and the staff at King Valley for being a very generous host.

The OTRF would also like to thank Bayer Environmental Science, the Platinum sponsor for the day, and all of the other sponsors for your continued support, and adding so much to the success of the day.



par 3 - photo by Pam Charbonneau

"We Sell & Transplant Large Trees"



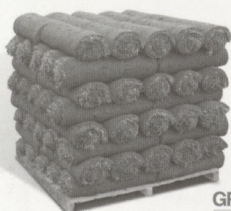
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# ASSISTANTS TOURNAMENT

by Tom Brain, Assistant Superintendent  
Burlington Golf & Country Club

On Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> annual OGSA Assistants Tournament was held at the Briars Golf Club in Jackson's Point. The weather was somewhat cool but the sun came out enough so that a very pleasant round of golf was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Master Superintendent Paul White, Assistant Superintendent Ron Biggs and their crew had the course in terrific shape with the greens rolling quick and true. Neil Tandan of Weston Golf Club, and his committee organized a fabulous event that went off without a hitch. Assistants gathered from around the province to enjoy a BBQ lunch, a great round of golf on a great Stanley Thompson golf course and a fine steak dinner.

The support of our sponsors and donated prizes by Engage Agro Corporation, Nu-Gro Ltd., Ontario Seed, Plant Products, Turf Care Products and Vanden Bussche Irrigation made for a great day with some unbelievable prizes. Many worthy assistants walked away with booty from the pro shop for gross and net scores or one of the numerous proximity prizes. A draw was conducted to distribute the remaining prizes from a loaded prize table and those lucky enough to make a couple of good strokes and a putt walked away with cash from the skins game.

The tournament is a great opportunity for all the hard working assistant superintendents to gather and share the highs and lows of the summer, re-establish relationships in the industry and make new friends. This is one of the events to mark in your calendar for next year. It is one of the best events of the year in recognition of the dedication and hard work of the many up and coming stars in our industry.

## Thanks!

*For your generous support of the Assistant's Tournament*

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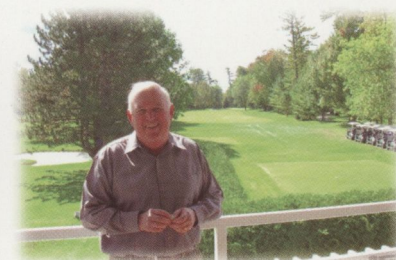
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*LR James Darryl of Islington GC won 1<sup>st</sup> low gross  
Keith Lefebvre of Nu-Gro presented the trophy*





# SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

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

This program has been very well

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

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

*All photos are left to right...*



*Bob Burrows & Chris Nelson*



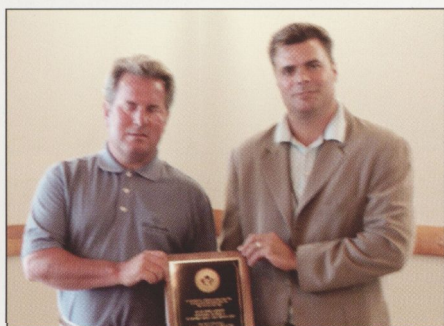
*Harry Daniel, GAO President with Dennis Piccolo & Rob Gatto*



*Trevor Clapperton, Steve Hallard & Assistant Tyler Ruest*



*Rob Gatto & Wray Barrett*



*Jeff Parker & GAO rep Dave Colling*



*Al Schwemler & Chris Nelson*



*David Kuypers & Jarrod Barakett*

The following superintendents were plaque recipients in 2006

| <u>Championship Tournaments</u>                     | <u>Host Supt.</u> | <u>Golf Course</u>                       | <u>Presenter</u>     |
|---|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur        | Robert Burrows    | Rosedale Golf Club, Toronto              | Chris Nelson         |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Women's Amateur          | Dennis Piccolo    | St. Catharines Golf & CC, St. Catharines | Rob Gatto            |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Amateur                  | Steve Hallard     | Oshawa Golf Club, Oshawa                 | Trevor Clapperton    |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Junior & Juvenile Girls' | Wray Barrett      | Willow Valley Golf Course, Mount Hope    | Rob Gatto            |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Junior & Juvenile Boys'  | Jeff Parker       | Whitewater Golf Club, Thunder Bay        | GAO Rep Dave Colling |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Senior Women's Amateur   | Al Schwemler      | Toronto Golf Club, Mississauga           | Chris Nelson         |
| Investors Group<br>Ontario Senior Men's Amateur     | David Kuypers     | The Cutten Club, Guelph                  | Jarrod Barakett      |



## Member profile

### Interview with Vito Cirone, Executive Director Golf Services RJ BurnsideGolf Services

by Angelo Capannelli  
Hutcheson Sand & Mixes



RJ Burnside has now been involved in the golf industry as engineers and environmental consultants, for almost 15 years. The need for these services has increased as the “public eye” has focused on golf, and the issues surrounding golf and the environment have become front and center. The responsibilities at Burnside and their ties to the golf business, sit squarely on the shoulders of Vito Cirone. Vito joined Burnside in 1996 as an Environmental Planner and has graduated to the post of Executive Director of Golf Services. A graduate of York University with a B.A. and a Masters in Environmental Studies, Vito and the team at Burnside have responded to industry demand and slowly developed a specialized multi-disciplinary engineering and environmental consulting practice to assist golf course superintendents, owners and general managers in understanding and dealing with the day-to-day issues as they relate to engineering and the environment.

*“It is certainly an interesting period for golf. Increased competition from new golf course developments, irrigation water restrictions, pesticide bans and increased regulatory control are all issues that are front and centre in operating a golf course in today’s environment. These are today’s issues and although some may fade away and others may creep to the forefront, there are many that, in my view, will remain a constant part of a golf course operation.”*

Water will continue to be at the forefront of issues both current and future, suggests Vito. He believes the regulatory permitting of irrigation water sources to become a much more onerous task, and the on-going monitoring and reporting of these sources to be more of a normal operating condition rather than a “special condition”. Additionally, securing multi-source irrigation water strategies will be key for operators and superintendents alike to resolve long-term irrigation water concerns. With quantity addressed, quality will rank equal on the agenda as finding a “clean” source of irrigation water, one that is low in sodium, chloride and bi-carbonates, and that will not have a long-term negative impact on turf conditions, will be critical.

*“As urban development encroaches on existing golf course facilities, we are seeing more and more examples of deteriorating water quality and the resulting impact on turf conditions and landscape features. This will not bode well for many facilities that will suffer with poor turf conditions during a time when the public is more demanding of playing conditions.”*

Finally, with Burnside’s ties to new developments, I asked Vito for his thoughts on what our business might expect over the next number of years.

*“I believe that in most market areas the “boom” in new golf course development has slowed down, and the industry will be moving sideways for awhile as the supply versus demand relationship settles out.”*

Vito lives with wife Diana and his three children Nicklaus, Emily and Natalie. Wait a minute...Nicklaus? This guy must be a golf nut...

### “In the Hot Seat”

- Favourite Major?
- What is in the CD or DVD player?
- Favourite Meal?
- Favourite Movie?
- Occupation outside of the golf industry?
- Ultimate Foursome?
- Best memory on the golf course?

Masters  
Dora the Explorer. It’s all about the kids!  
Lasagna  
The Perfect Storm  
Host of an outdoor fishing show  
Me, Tiger Woods, Ben Crenshaw, Phil Mickelson  
2 holes in 1, 2 weeks apart with the same golfing partner. One at Parkview GC and the other at Glen Cedars GC.



# 61<sup>ST</sup> ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

by Dorothy Hills, Executive Manager  
OGSA

This was no ordinary day on the links. Those fortunate enough to play in the 61<sup>ST</sup> McClumpha tournament, were treated to a glorious autumn day of golf with a clear sky and lots of sunshine.

Truly exceptional, it's what best describes the atmosphere at The Club at Bond Head. The day was thoroughly enjoyed at the traditional North American parkland style of the North Course.

The day started with a BBQ lunch, folowed by a 11:45am shotgun. The troops re-grouped at the clubhouse after a rigorous game to enjoy a cocktail, a steak dinner and to share their glory stories. Some, more glorious than others, but a great time was had by all. We would like to express our thanks to Tom Arnott and his proshop crew, Lisa Monett and the catering staff and especially to Ian McQueen and his grounds crew, for providing us with such an excellent course.

This event would not be the success it was withouth the support and generosity of our Associate members. Numerous items were donated for which we are very grateful. In particular I would like to recognize the following donors for their contributions:

**Ron Craig, Turf Care**  
**Lawn mower for recipient of the George Darou Trophy**

**Bill Searle, NGF Golf, Division of Northgate Farms**  
**Two front row gold seats for Maple Leaf opening game**

**Bruce Stanley, AllTurf Limited**  
**Texas Mickey**

**Kory Kopko, Vanden Bussche**  
**4 Tickets to a Buffalo Bills NFL football game**

## Winners

### *Flight A – Superintendents & Assistants*

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Low Gross | David May      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Low Net   | David Caldwell |
| Closest to Pin            | Bill Fach      |
| Longest Drive             | Scott Heron    |
| Low Gross -               |                |
| Supt. over 50 yrs.        | Bill Fach      |

### *Flight B – Associate Members & Guests*

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Low Gross | Kevin Holmes  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Low Net   | Bruce Stanley |
| Closest to the Pin        | Trevor Parks  |
| Longest Drive             | Paul Brown    |



*Ian McQueen is presented the Host Superintendent Plaque by Bob Burrows*



*Ron Craig presents Bill Fach with the George Darou Trophy Superintendent over 50 with low gross (Bill had an 82)*





# Golf course highlight

## The Club at Bond Head 4805 7<sup>th</sup> Line, Beeton ON L0G 1A0 Golf Course Superintendent: Ian McQueen



Photo by Dorothy Hills

### COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?  
*Bond Head*

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?  
*Public*

Typical number of rounds  
*20,000 rounds with the 2<sup>nd</sup> course only open 3 months*

Typical opening and closing date  
*April 24<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>*

How long have you been a superintendent?  
*4 years*

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

How many staff?  
*5 year round and 45 seasonal staff*

Who are your assistants and mechanics?  
*Assistants: Nic Bell, Jordan Hill  
Equipment Manager: Jamie Mercer  
Asst Mechanic: Ben Van Meggelen*

How many gardening staff?  
*2*

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?  
*36*

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?  
*South par 72: 7,477 yards from the back tees and 5,248 yards from the front tees  
North par 71: 7,085 yards from the back tees and 4,667 yards from the front tees*

What is the size of driving range and tee range?  
*Driving Range – 320 yards long, 12 acres  
Range Tee: 1 acre*

How many bunkers?  
*South Course has 126 bunkers  
North Course has 86 bunkers*

How many times does water come into play?  
*South Course: 1 pond, 4 times  
North Course: Creek, 4 times*

Who was the original architect?  
*Jason Straka from Hurdzan/Fry*

What was the year of original construction?  
*South Course: constructed 2003/2004  
North Course: constructed 2005*

What is the size of your maintenance shop?  
*Maintenance building to be constructed in fall of 2006 and will be 15,500 ft<sup>2</sup>*

What type of irrigation system?  
*Rain Bird*

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?  
*South Course: 5 acres of greens, 6 acres of tees and 55 acres of Fairways  
North Course: 4 acres of greens, 5 acres of tees and 29 acres of Fairways*

What is your predominant grass?  
*South Course: Greens – A4 Bentgrass, Tees, Fairways, Roughs – Fine Fescue  
North Course: Greens – A4 Bentgrass, Tees and Fairways – Dominant Extreme Bentgrass, Roughs – Bluegrass*

How many USGA and loam greens?  
*All 36 green are constructed to California Greens specifications*

What is the predominant soil type?  
*Heavy clay topsoil*

What equipment do you have in inventory?  
*9 – Jacobsen TC22 greens walkers  
6 – Jacobsen 526 tee walkers  
13 – Toro single unit trailers  
2 – Toro double unit trailers  
3 – Diesel GKVI triplex mowers  
5 – Jacobsen 3400 turbo fairway mowers  
1 – 626 Outfront rotary mower  
1 – AR5 rough mower  
1 – Toro rotary sidewinder  
3 – Eastman push mowers  
5 – Flymows  
2 – Jacobsen sand trap rakes  
1 – Jacobsen 150 gallon sprayer  
2 – Jacobsen 300 gallon sprayer  
4 – Cushman trucksters  
3 – Vicons  
1 – 1530 Turfco topdresser  
1 – CR10 fairway topdresser  
2 – GA24 aerators  
1 – Toro 648 Procore aerator  
1 – Aerway  
2 – Smithco P48 sweepers  
1 – Buffalo turbine blower  
1 – Foley reel grinder  
1 – Foley bedknife grinder  
24 – Ezgo maintenance vehicles  
2 – Ezgo electric carts  
1 – Kubota 4610 tractor*

*1 – Kubota 5030 tractor  
2 – Super tilts dump trailers  
1 – JCB 212 backhoe*

### COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?  
*Finished construction and grow-in of the north course 18 holes in June 2006  
Complete landscape renovation of the club's B&B*

### LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?  
*5 year tree program to plant over 2000 trees on the new north course.  
Bunker renovation on the south course, remove Brome grass from bunker edges and re-sod to a more appropriate turf species.  
Adding approximately 200 new irrigation heads to the south course. This will allow us to water the perimeter roughs surrounding the fairways around all 18 holes.  
Expansion of reservoir pond from 30 million gallons to over 50 million.*

### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?  
*The constant challenge on both courses is the soil structure the turf is growing in. We are on a regular heavy topdressing program to promote sand into the heavy clay topsoil. This will help with compaction, air and water movement through the soil promoting a healthier turf.*

### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?  
*The completion and grow-in of all 36 holes was a great success for the whole team at The Club at Bond Head.*



# Golf In Sweden

by Robert Kains

Robert Kains Golf Course Design Ltd

Sweden is well known to Canadians through hockey players such as Mats Sundin, Peter Forsberg and perhaps the one to make the largest impact, Borje Salming. Although the star system is very subdued, these players are held in high regard in their own country and are spoken about with great respect. Golf also has its own personalities. Jespar Pernevik is perhaps the best known on the men's side, but the best woman golfer in the world, Annika Sorenstam, is Swedish. She has had an enormous effect on the game everywhere, and this is very evident in her native country where Annika is one of very few athletes to be known simply by her first name.

I first met members of the Swedish Golf Federation at the CGSA Conference and Trade Show in 1997. They attended our show then and continue to do so, as the climatic conditions and plant materials in Sweden are very similar to those in various parts of Canada. The challenges with snow and ice are experienced there, as they are here, on a regular basis. Information on mowing practices, diseases and their control, fertilizing, and irrigation is all relevant for implementing in the Scandinavian country. Since that time, representatives from the Swedish Golf Federation have been to Canada each year to study turfgrass maintenance in our country. In 1999 Rob Witherspoon from the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Serge Gauthier from Rainbird, and I were invited to tour Sweden and speak at their turfgrass conference (Elmia Park and Golf). We were given a very thorough insight into the golf industry, with visits to several golf courses, three days at the conference, and an introduction to Swedish culture. Not everyone is blonde, but enough to justify the perception. Volvos, Saabs, IKEA, smörgasbord, schnapps, and pickled herring were in abundance.

The Conference was excellent and informative with several variations to the CGSA and OGSA conferences.

The Trade Show was at least three times the size as that of the CGSA and, being held in September, a large outdoor display and demonstration section was included. The speaker programme was composed entirely of pre-sold seminars, which permitted the organizers to ensure audiences filled the appropriate sized rooms. Held every second year at the same location, the event was highly anticipated and extremely well attended. Organizing committees were able to provide a consistency to the trade show, speaker program and social events.



*Low sun angles create challenges in finding sunny locations for greens*

A return visit to the conference in 2001 was combined with commencing the design for a new 27-hole project outside of Stockholm at a place called Mauritzberg. After five years of delays in securing permits and approvals, construction has begun, with the opening projected for the spring of 2009. The 400 Ha. Property on a fiord of the Baltic Sea includes an 18<sup>th</sup> century estate house meticulously restored and converted into a 16 room luxury hotel, restaurant and conference centre. When completed, the facility will also have a marina, 125 homes, and an additional 75 room hotel.





*Superb green site incorporating trees, rock and the Baltic Sea*

Two renovation projects have been completed in the past four years. The emphasis on both was to convert older soil-based greens into new complexes following the USGA method for greens construction. The challenges for this type of construction in Sweden are numerous. USGA greens construction is a very recent procedure in this country with the resultant lack of experience by designers, contractors, superintendents and suppliers.

#### *Challenges:*

Although Sweden is approximately the same size as Ontario, it has virtually the same geographical regions as the whole country of Canada. Climatic, topographical and agronomic conditions in various parts of the country compare favourably to the west coast of British Columbia, the mountains of Alberta, the northern reaches of the prairie provinces, the tundra of the Territories, rock and lakes of the Canadian Shield, and the coastal conditions of Atlantic Canada.

### **1. Maintenance**

Stockholm is located at 59.5° N latitude, which places it north of the entire province of Ontario. This has a dramatic effect on the growing conditions for turfgrass. Day length is much longer in the summer months, which encourages growth and results in healthy plants. However, sun angles are much lower due to the northern location, resulting in a decrease of sun quality. This is especially apparent in the fall when the grass is unable to store as much energy for the winter. In addition, large trees such as oak, beech, spruce and pine are instrumental in creating excessive shade when the sun is low in the sky. As a consequence, greens are forced to survive the winter with less than acceptable energy levels.



*Use of excavators permits shaping in less than ideal conditions*

Not only is the fall in Sweden dark from the shorter day length, but also from the long periods of cloud and rain during October and November. Constant wet conditions with little opportunity for drying create an optimal environment for the establishment of diseases. Aerifying of greens in the late fall is helpful. Fertilizer programs must be carefully monitored to provide plants with the essential elements and establish sufficient carbohydrate levels. Fungicides are limited but their use is still permitted in Sweden. Winter covers are utilized extensively and have proven to be a useful tool in protecting greens.

Maintenance crews consist of six to ten individuals, approximately half the number as those in Canada. Much of the reason for the small number compared with Canadian courses is the high wage paid to staff. This includes a benefits package of up to 40%. In addition, a work week of 40 hours is the norm. Although the number of staff is generally sufficient to carry out the regular practices of mowing, irrigation, fertilizing and spraying, many of the extra duties can sometimes be neglected. Verticutting, topdressing, spot watering, divot repair on tees, bunker raking and cup changing are often performed less frequently than desired. Contributing to the small crew are the extended holidays enjoyed during July and August. Everyone, including the superintendent, has a minimum of two weeks of vacation in the middle of the golf season. For a seven week period the crew is short by at least two.

With fewer available for the necessary maintenance practices, there is a greater use of larger equipment that can result in compaction and wear problems. This also contributes to a change in design philosophy.



*Exposed bedrock utilized as feature within a greenside bunker*

### **2. Design**

Sweden has a variety of landscapes that provide the designer with exciting opportunities for the creation of exceptional layouts and features. Forests of large deciduous and evergreen trees, rolling farmland, bedrock outcroppings and extensive shorelines of both salt and fresh water are present separately or in combination



throughout the country.

The common rules for green design apply in Sweden but are perhaps even more important to implement here than in some other locations. Drainage, sun exposure and maintenance considerations are critical. Bedrock, clay soils and wet weather in the fall play havoc with drainage. Greens must be designed so that underground water is not trapped by the rock, thus creating boggy areas. Green complexes must therefore be raised well above the rock, or the rock must be removed by blasting. Since the Swedes invented dynamite there is ample expertise in this area but costs are high. Clay is the predominant soil type in much of the country, contributing to very slow internal drainage. Greens constructed with this material as their base must be designed with substantial slopes both on and surrounding the putting surfaces. A minimum slope of 1% on the green and 2% on the surrounds must be adhered to with an extra per cent providing even better results. Lateral lines on the green surface are spaced a maximum 4.0m apart as there is little or no percolation through the hard subgrade. Drain pipe in all surrounding swales graveled to the surface and catch basins placed every 10 m. along the pipe removes most excess water before it becomes a problem.



*Blasting bedrock to prepare green site for shaping*

Larger equipment and fewer staff necessitate a philosophy of softer slopes, wider turn areas, smaller greens, and moderate bunker shapes. Designs requiring hand mowing must be avoided. One person is generally responsible for mowing greens and changing cups on weekends so the putting surface must accommodate triplex mowers for efficiency. Triplexes require a wider turning radius thereby forcing bunkers to be positioned at least 2.25 m. from green edges. Slopes both inside and outside bunkers are designed to be maintained with power rakes and riding mowers. Fingers of turf extending into the sand are uncommon to avoid excessive flymowing. Steep faces of sand are difficult to maintain with the limited staff and are used infrequently. There are only a handful of courses in Sweden with bentgrass tees or fairways.

The northern location of Sweden has a definite effect on design. Sun angles are very low in the sky and this has at least two effects on design. Large trees including oak, pine and spruce cast long shadows. This is particularly evident in the spring and fall when the turfgrass requires sunlight to warm the soils and for maximum photosynthesis. It is therefore essential that greens and tees are located where they can take advantage of the limited duration of sun. The sun angles also play a role in the routing of the course. It is common practice to consider the early and late holes to be directed away from the rising and setting sun respectively. In addition, use of driving ranges can be unpleasant for the golfer if they face east or west. In Sweden these conditions are accentuated and care must be taken to minimize the negative effects.



*Surveying and shaping with GPS*

Nature plays an important role in the lives of the Swedish population and it is essential to retain this element in the design of their golf courses. Tree retention, establishment of native plant materials, incorporation of existing contours and the preservation of naturally occurring water features must be utilized in the layouts.

Until recently, a small group of Swedish architects was responsible for designing almost all of the country's golf courses. With few outside influences the style became quite consistent and a distinctive "Swedish" look developed. In the last five years an international element has been introduced with designers from Great Britain, the United States and Canada bringing new ideas to Scandinavia. In addition, a new generation of Swedish architects has entered the profession and these individuals will soon have their work displayed to the local golfers. As a result there is a growing variety to bunker shapes, fairway contouring, positioning of tees, construction of retaining walls and the use of rock.





*Typical herringbone drainage system and gravel layer on USGA green*

### **3. Construction**

Development of USGA greens has arrived in Sweden just in the last few years. Contractors have little or no experience with this type of construction. The Swedish Golf Federation would like to see the use of the USGA method of golf green construction become the standard for the country. In this way similar experience will be gained throughout Sweden not only in construction but also maintenance so contractors and superintendents will build a network among their peers to share knowledge and improve quality.



*Crushing rock from green site after blasting for use on transportation roads*

Many of the best sites in Sweden are composed of either clay or bedrock or often a combination of both. The clay is a result of the subsidence of the Baltic Sea, which left this material as a deposit. Often, the water table is within two metres of the surface so the creation of water features necessitates the removal of saturated soil. Blasting of bedrock to create better drainage conditions or to take advantage of interesting greens sites also contributes to inflated costs. This material is not wasted, however, as the unstable saturated clay requires the construction of a network of construction roads to navigate the site and the blast rock is ideal for this purpose.

Typically, contractors use excavators for each procedure

when constructing greens. Bulldozers are rare and buggies almost non-existent. Tractor mounted landscaping equipment is a new feature to the repertoire. Often the intermediate steps using these tools are bypassed and the preparation of the topsoil, gravel and rootzone is carried out only by excavators and bunker rakes. Accuracy of the subgrade and subsequent layers can be lacking. The most obvious result from this is the creation of small depressions in the subgrade and on the surface where drainage is compromised. The smaller equipment has now been introduced to the contractors and we should be seeing an improvement in this aspect of the construction process.



*Spreading gravel layer with excavator*

Where Sweden shines in golf course development is in heavy equipment technology. Excavator accessories, including bucket mulchers, 360° knuckles and GPS are standard with some of the contractors. Equipment operators are extremely accomplished and compare favourably with the best in the business. Educating themselves to the expert operation of the smaller landscaping implements will occur in a very short time.

Costs of construction can be a little more than those to which we have become accustomed. Wage and benefit packages are generally higher in Sweden. Taxes on all aggregates raise the costs on rootzone mixes, gravel, sand, and topsoil. A limited number of suppliers for all products reduces competition, which is reflected in prices. Finally, a tax similar to our Canadian GST adds 25% to all goods and services.

### **Conclusion:**

Sweden shares many similarities with Canada but the differences contribute to interesting and intriguing opportunities for new experiences. Challenges in the golf industry are often unique in Sweden but the game remains the same. Golfers want flat tees, firm fairways, fast greens and well maintained conditions throughout the golf course wherever they play the game. Sweden has a passion for golf and providing their players with excellence in design, construction and maintenance has the same importance and satisfaction there as it does for the architects, contractors and superintendents in Canada.



# WORKING THE OPEN

by Tracy Fowler, Assistant Superintendent  
Hamilton Golf & Country Club

The 2006 Canadian Open is an experience we won't soon forget. From the heavy rain in the days leading up to the competition, to the downpours after the tournament that made it impossible to get bleachers and tents off the course, the Canadian Open was an event that challenged our Hamilton Golf and Country Club grounds crew.

Thankfully, the months leading up to the Open were made easier since all major construction, including new back tee decks, fairway narrowing, and a new driving range had been completed for the 2003 Open.

Our "Open" adventure began in early August when the first truck drove into our yard to drop off a load of bleacher parts. From that point on, the back of our yard was ours no more. It was full of stuff to go out onto the golf course. Next came the takeover of our main driving range. Corporate tents, caterers, office trailers, washrooms, garbage bins, trailers full of food and drinks – you name it, it was out there. Then came the rain. Several high traffic areas turned into ankle-deep mud and needed to be mulched. Trucks and cars got stuck and needed to be towed out. Some spectator walks were too slippery to walk on, so mulch was thrown down in several spots.



*Mechanics Tom Fowler & Wayne Shaw*

With more than 60 staff and volunteers, managing "people power" became a little hectic at times. A 4 X 8 ft. job board in the lunchroom was the best way to organize everyone with a.m. and p.m. assignments as well as which cart or machine to use. A lot of extra equipment is necessary for a tournament this large. Triplexes, green mowers, tee mowers, carts, blowers and even water pumps in case of heavy rain were all lined up and ready to go. Thanks to our generous suppliers and friends at some local golf courses, we had everything we needed — and then some.



*Green Mowers*

Our management practices were focused on keeping green speeds at around 10 feet. We double cut each morning with 8 mowers and added an evening cut during the tournament. Rolling wasn't necessary – only once during the practice rounds, but we had to be ready to roll each night if needed.

All fairways were cut every evening with 10 triplexes, and collars were also cut with a walk behind mower. The dew was dragged off every morning and the squeegee crew rolled the dew off the collars and approaches where the fairway drag line couldn't reach.



*Divot Squad*

Divots were filled behind play in the evenings. Only filling them half full prevented smearing during the morning dew drag. The tees were all cut by hand with 5 mowers and dew was squeegeed off all tees every morning.





*Bunker Crew*

A crew of 10 raked every bunker each morning and smoothed each one every evening. Blowing debris, pulling out weeds and rocks was also done when necessary.

Blowers were needed each morning to blow off debris and clippings from inside the ropes. Hand blowers followed behind the greens mowers in the morning to blow off any clippings from the mow, and also blew off tees behind the squeegee gang. Each night, the blowers had to blow the sand from bunker shots off the greens so that the mowers didn't push the sand into the green.



*Pin Changers Stu Bradshaw & Jason Chanasyk*

The pins were changed each morning after the mowers with 2 guys on the front 9, and 2 on the back 9. A final inspection on each hole – from tee through to fairway, green and pin – was completed before play could start to ensure everything was perfect.

With plenty of rain, the rough was very lush. A target height of 4" during tournament week meant we had to mow the rough inside the ropes twice during advance week. All tee, bunker and green surrounds were cut by hand with rotary mowers and the in-betweens with riding rotary mowers. The intermediate cut around the green was cut every evening with a rear bagging rotary mower. To avoid long rough immediately adjacent to the collar, a transition cut was made the day before the pro am. One beveled rotary cut once around the green with a rear bagger was all we needed. Walkways and fairway perimeters were cut every evening and the dew was squeegeed off every morning.



With so many staff on the course we still managed to find a few to look after gardens and planters, and blow out the parking lot, driveway and sidewalks every morning.



*Staff & Volunteers*

To all of the Course and Grounds employees....the long hours leading up to the tournament, split shifts, juggling work/school/families, tough weather conditions – I could go on and on, congratulations. Everyone showed such a commitment and took pride in every little task no matter how big or small. That made for a smooth operation and a magnificent golf course. What a fun week we had.....thank you all.

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# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

## Golf Course Component Life Span Information Available

A chart listing golf course components and their expected life cycles is available from the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA). The chart can help clubs plan for both capital expenditures and interruption in play caused by course component maintenance and replacement.

"This list of golf course components—from tee boxes and greens to cart paths and irrigation systems—and their life expectancies can help golf courses avoid unexpected expenses and course closures by knowing how long components typically last," explains ASGCA President Greg Muirhead. "The process is similar to scheduled maintenance on our cars. We know oil needs to be changed every 3,000 miles to keep the engine running smoothly. The same thinking should be applied to golf course components by planning for maintenance and replacement."

The chart, compiled by ASGCA and reviewed by seven of the other Allied Associations of Golf (CMAA, GCBA, GCSAA, NGCOA, NGF, PGA and USGA), is particularly important for long-term planning. Muirhead recommends that clubs prepare master plans that look at budgeting over the long term in order to smooth operations and ensure consistency, even when new boards are appointed or ownership changes.

Muirhead notes that when the chart was launched at the 2006 Golf Industry Show, it was well-received by superintendents, club managers and owners attending the show.

The list of golf course components and their life expectancies chart is available via e-mail or mail from ASGCA. Contact Aileen Smith at [aileen@asgca.org](mailto:aileen@asgca.org) or 262-786-5960 to request a copy, or write to ASGCA, 125 N. Executive Drive, Suite 106, Brookfield, WI 53005.

## ASGCA Background

Founded in 1946 by 14 leading architects, including Donald Ross and Robert Trent Jones, Sr., the American Society of Golf Course Architects is a non-profit organization comprised of 176 golf course designers located throughout the United States and Canada. Members are actively involved in the design of new courses, the renovation of existing layouts, and issues affecting the future of the game.

For more information about ASGCA, including a current list of members and other available publications, log on to the ASGCA website at <http://www.asgca.org> or call 262/ 786-5960.

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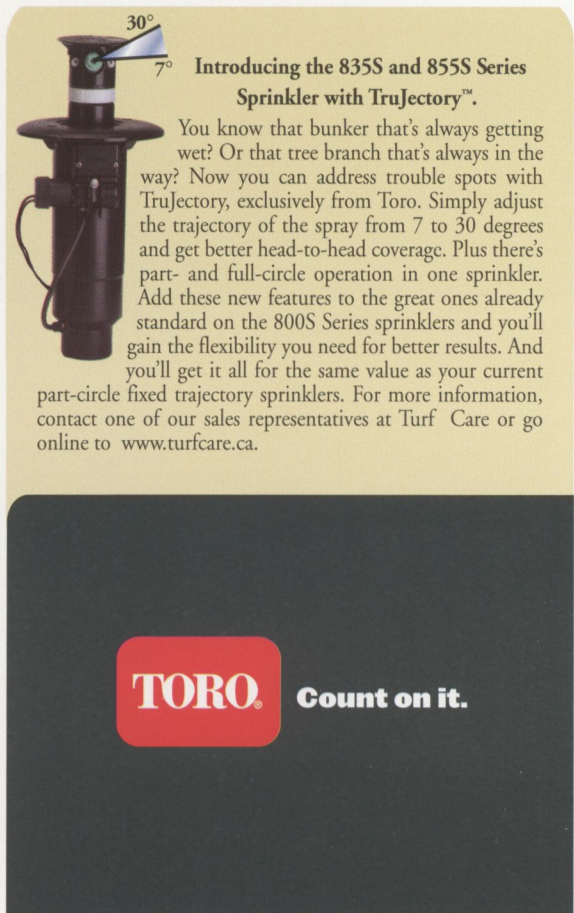
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# Above the hole

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

## License to Golf

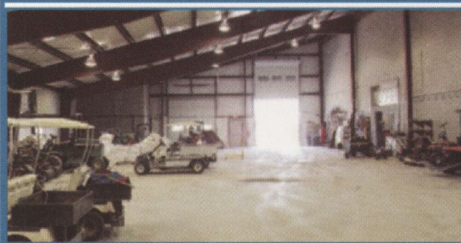
How many times have we all seen it, foot prints in the bunkers, beaver pelts on the fairways and craters on the greens. That's right, too many to count. It is really disheartening to see how much the etiquette of golf has gone out the window. Driving around on an ordinary day I see at least 10-15 people leave one of the above for the maintenance staff to cleanup and that's before 3 o'clock. The average golfer today is, for the most part, at least on public golf courses, just a recreational golfer, to put it nicely. The respect golfers once had for their course and the personnel maintaining it is all but gone. Mind you, I am speaking from the semi-private side of things, but from talking to people at private courses the consensus seems to be the same. I think golfers these days have gotten to the point where they think everything is our job, when in actuality it is just as much their responsibility to care for the golf course. It would be amazing to see the condition of a golf course where divots were replaced and ball marks fixed. It may seem like I am complaining but there is a point yet to be made.

So here's the next question, how many of you have a green card? Some may say you do but I bet your wrong, at least with the green card I'm talking about. In France they have a system of teaching and rating golfers and the end result is what they call a green card. You basically go through a series of lessons, followed by classes and finally a test, where if you pass all of the above you get your green card. This card not only shows that

you have passed the teaching process and learned the etiquette and skills of the game, but also your handicap. Now here is the kicker, you cannot step foot on the first tee of a golf course unless you have shown your green card, proving that you are able in ability and mindfulness to do so. This does not mean that only extremely skilled players can play, but it does show that you know the rules of the game and have respect towards fellow golfers and the golf course staff. I am in no means one for a Napoleonic style of rule, or am I on the next boat to France, but can you imagine the possibilities? Clean fairways, greens, tees and bunkers I mean my God, is there really such a place?

This sort of thing in our part of the globe is all but impossible with the amount and variety of golf courses we have here, but I don't think that the ideal has to be lost. While it is a pain to stop at every group or have the marshal do so to inform golfers of the course rules, every little bit does help. Educating patrons new or old to the game is essential to having an all around well kept course. Whether it is the correct method of fixing a ball mark or why they aren't to have the power cart an inch from the green. There is only so much we can do as golf turf managers to help the process before the golfers themselves have to pitch in. Green card or not, there will still be divots and still be ball marks, but if that extra bit of effort is attempted by golfers it would lead to a dramatic change in our courses across the board.

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

## The threat below...Fact or fiction Are plant-parasitic nematodes a problem on turf in Ontario?

When I began here about a year ago, I mentioned that one of the areas of turfgrass research I wanted to pursue was that of plant-parasitic nematodes. It was suggested to me that turfgrass nematodes were not a problem in Ontario, but I found this a little hard to believe as I know that all nematodes exist in just about every soil that supports plant life. The number of nematodes present in a soil will vary greatly, depending on a number of factors such as soil type, temperature and moisture, and host tissue – especially for the plant-parasitic kind. Nematodes are worm-like animals that are microscopic so you cannot see most of them with the naked eye. The majority of them are free-living and feed on fungi and bacteria, but many are plant-parasitic and feed on plant tissue. Although some will feed on leaf tissue, the ones we deal with in turfgrass are primarily root feeders. They move through the water films between soil particles and as such are commonly found in sandier soils where there are larger pore spaces for easier movement. They have a needle-like mouthpart, called a stylet, which they use to penetrate root tissue and essentially siphon out nutrients. There are a few species that will enter the root and feed from within, and these can be more damaging due to blockage of vascular tissue. However, most of the nematodes found feeding on turfgrass roots cause very little direct damage unless they are present in very large numbers. For most nematode species, a value known as a damage threshold has been established and indicates the number of that nematode that needs to be present in a set volume of soil in order to cause damage to a plant. These values are often set based on a specific set of parameters, including soil type, temperature, and moisture, and can really only be used as a guide. However, when turfgrass is being damaged and all other causes (fungal and bacterial diseases and abiotic stressor such as fertility) have been ruled out, the number of nematodes found in the soil can often be good information for diagnosing a problem.

In order to determine if plant-parasitic nematodes were a potential threat to turfgrass in Canada, and specifically in Ontario, I began conducting a random survey of samples that came through the GTI Diagnostic Laboratory. I wanted to get an idea of what species were present in this area and in what quantities. Not surprisingly I obtained varying results. Our lab found that on some golf courses there were very few to no nematodes in the soil, while on others, the numbers were sufficient enough to cause damage. As I had found in previous research, the factor that seemed to influence nematode number the most was the age of the green, as it takes time for nematode populations to build up in soils. I also looked at samples that came in to the lab for nematode counts from other parts of the country, and extraction results indicated that

in other provinces such as British Columbia and New Brunswick, nematodes were indeed present in sufficient numbers to be a primary cause of damage to the turf. In the end however, nematode population levels may not be that important if there are no visible symptoms on the turf. To determine the potential for damage in Ontario, I wanted to correlate symptom development with nematode populations, which I did primarily through conversations with superintendents. I found that in most cases even golf courses in Ontario with high nematode population levels did not have obvious symptoms of damage. However, there were some instances where the nematodes were not necessarily the primary cause of damage, but rather were a contributing factor to other stress-related diseases. This happened on a few courses with anthracnose and summer patch, both of which are diseases that we primarily see on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and were problematic this season. I found a few cases where golf course greens turf was affected by both diseases and the superintendent was unable to effectively manage either, culturally. Upon conducting a nematode extraction and count, we found high levels (meaning at or near threshold levels) of plant-parasitic nematodes in the soil. I believe that in some instances, the presence of nematodes feeding on the plant roots created enough stress on the plant to facilitate infection with stress-related diseases, as well as to delay recovery for the plant.

So, what does this mean for golf course superintendents in Ontario? Well, I wouldn't start worrying about these microscopic creatures too much just yet, but at the same time, I wouldn't ignore them either. I believe that plant-parasitic nematodes are indeed present in soils of golf course greens in the area, and I also believe that when the conditions are right – a relatively mild fall, a winter that stays cold throughout the season, and a moist but not wet spring – nematode populations can build up to levels that could potentially be damaging to golf course greens. More importantly, the presence of plant-parasitic nematodes in your greens may predispose your turf to other stress-related diseases. This does not mean that nematodes are a major problem on turf in this province, nor does it mean that you should run out and have all of your soils tested for nematode counts, but I would suggest that next time you are having a problem on your greens that you cannot diagnose, consider that you might have these little microscopic worms chewing on your roots. You won't be able to treat for them chemically as there are no nematicides registered for use on turf in Canada, but at least you will be able to adjust your cultural practices accordingly to avoid more damage. That would include opening pores spaces for your roots through aerification, reducing excess wear and stress on your plants, and as always, raising your height of cut – especially in the heat of the summer - to give those roots and plants a chance. In the meantime, enjoy the fall weather and as always, feel free to write or call me if you have any questions about the threat below...



# NUTRIENT RUNOFF FROM THREE PHASES OF A GOLF COURSE PROJECT

by Steve Starrett, Yunsheng Su, Travis Heier, Jamie Klein, and Jeff Holste  
Kansas State University

Kansas State University, in cooperation with Jim Colbert, the PGA TOUR, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), and various alumni, built an 18-hole championship golf course near Manhattan, Kansas. The new golf course community occupies a land area of about 410 hectares (1,012 acres) with 60% of its area in the Little Kitten Creek watershed (430 hectares, 1,060 acres). The Little Kitten Creek watershed, previously native grassland, undertook a dramatic change in land-use and watershed management since golf course construction in July, 1998. A research project initiated in early 1998 enabled researchers to establish background surface water quality (total N, TN; total P, TP; and sediment concentrations, TSS) and evaluate changes in water quality during construction and operation of the golf course. Water quality data generated included the following:

Water quality data were divided into three sets namely: pre-construction, during-construction, and early operation following construction.

The mean concentrations of TN, TP, and sediment (TSS, total suspended solids) in pre-construction period were 1.18, 0.39, and 477 mg/L; during construction are 3.88, 0.93, and 2,754 mg/L; and during early operation 2.02, 0.49, and 550 mg/L; respectively.



In general, construction activities had the greatest adverse impact on water quality. Nutrient concentrations in streams were greatly improved during early operation compared to the construction period, but still remain higher than the native prairie levels.

The complete report of this research and many other reports can be found at USGA's *Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online* ([usgatero.msu.edu](http://usgatero.msu.edu)). The specific URL for this report is [usgatero.msu.edu/v05/n08.pdf](http://usgatero.msu.edu/v05/n08.pdf).

*USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online (TERO) (ISSN 1541-0277) is an electronic technical journal published by the United States Golf Association and housed with the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at the Michigan State University Libraries. It reports the results of research projects funded under USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program.*

*The purpose of USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online is to effectively communicate the results of research projects funded under USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program to all who can benefit from such knowledge. The private, non-profit research program provides funding opportunities to university faculty interested in working on environmental and turf management problems affecting golf courses. The outstanding playing conditions of today's golf courses are a direct result of using science to benefit golf.*

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# MY SCREEN SAVER AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

by Don Crymble, Property Manager  
Keeper of the Markham Green

Unfortunately, the photos below were deleted from the article "MY SCREEN SAVER AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE". To read full article refer to page 28 of the August issue of *Green is Beautiful*. We regret the omission and are providing them now with a brief summary of the article in which Don visited the Augusta National.

We have all paid lip service to a commitment to excellence and thinking outside of the box; I didn't know what these terms meant until recently.

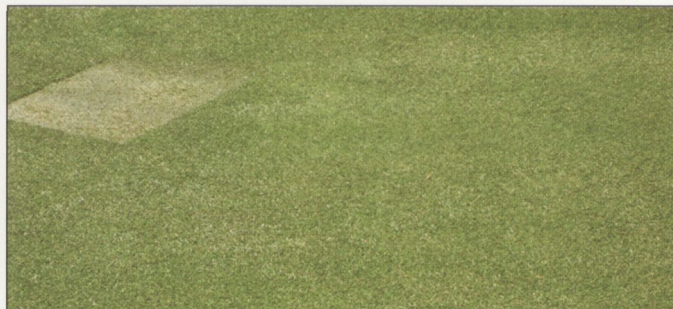
Augusta National and the Masters are without doubt the most esteemed property and event in the golfing world. Any superlative I could use could not do it justice.


My screen saver is a photo of a collar # 15 green which had appeared to have been scalped by a greens mower some 3 - 6 weeks previously. I found the photo interesting and thought I would set it as my wall paper. I considered the

photo an inspiration; if Augusta can make a mistake, so can I. How could anyone explain if Tiger had to chip out of that imperfection? What happened to the person responsible for that scalp? Many other questions and considerations.

I realized how little I know about excellence and thinking outside of the box. Certainly Augusta National has the resources to do what ever they want; they could have flown a piece of turf in from anywhere in the world. Why was that one imperfection left on that magnificent course? To inspire me? I have no doubt that Augusta National purposefully installed that scalp on the collar of # 15 as an inspiration to all who aspire to excellence and are daring enough to take risks in order to be the absolute best that they can be.


Thank-you Augusta National, thank-you Masters. Thank-you. Thank-you. Thank-you.





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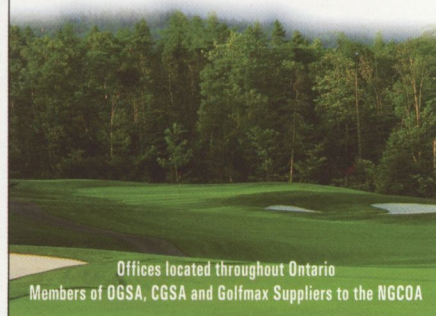
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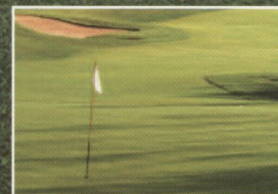


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## On the REEL side of things

by Mike Slack  
Slack Reel Service



Get another golf season is coming to a close and it will soon be time to pause, contemplate and regenerate for next season. This time of year generally brings work on operating and capital budgets and in turn, it means equipment assessment time! To what will we bid adieu?

When making tough decisions on new equipment, due diligence is the key to making difficult decisions and the acquisition process easier. If technology has changed since your last purchase or your property has unique characteristics, hopefully you have been able to see a "demo" of the pieces you seek a replacement for. Research of the product in question is critical. Ask your representative, who has recently purchased this particular piece and take some time to correspond with them and hear their comments, good and bad. Other things to consider are warranties. It may be advantageous to purchase an extra optional year or two depending on how long you intend to keep a unit in service. Items like rollers, bedknives and reels come standard. If your operation requires a specific roller or bedknife, ask for it to be quoted as installed. Also, collection baskets, spare cutting units, or utility cutting units like vertical mowers, items like backlap attachments, specific R.O.P.S., power steering and parts consignments are all items that can and ought to be negotiated prior to final purchase. Quotes can be unclear

when all the specific options are not itemized and can make a large difference when it comes to looking at competitive quoted price. Parts consignments can also be a useful tool to reduce downtime. A clear understanding of what needs to be serviced when and gathering historical data from one whom has had a unit in use for a couple of seasons may guide a better understanding of what wear items may be worthy of consideration for such a consignment. In terms of the leasing/purchasing option, be clear on your obligations as far as upkeep of the piece is concerned in advance and up until the lease expiry. These can add significant post purchase costs that warrant consideration in advance of finalizing a deal. For further information on these items and others like "residual values", "payment schedules" and "interest rates" consult with your leasing representative and perhaps, the club's accountant. I'll stick with the wrenches!!!

You alone have all the resources at your disposal enabling the best possible deal for you and the club. Your mechanic can provide insight into the workability of the unit and future maintenance costs, your colleague down the road can provide unbiased performance evaluation and sales representatives and financial experts can provide insight on translating the fine print. Best of luck with your winter purchasing season!

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by Daisy Moore

## Shade & Woodland Gardening

If you research the possible plant selections for shade gardens, you will invariably find yourself in the woodland gardening section of most gardening books and internet sites. Woodland plants are associated with shade since that is their native habitat.

Woodlands, though, often bear little resemblance to urban shade gardens. The difference is in the soil where woodlands are rich and deep with earth that is teeming with moisture and life from the build up of organic litter. The north side of a building is not usually so rich.

Shade gardening in the urban or rural environment usually means a part of the garden that has limited sunlight because of shade cast by buildings, fences or large trees nearby. Limited sun means that color cannot be the primary design feature. Foliage, texture and shape are the primary attractions along with subtle and sporadic flowering. Flowers in shade garden plants are often white to reflect light and capture the maximum amount of the sun's energy.

There are different types of shade ranging from dappled sunlight offered by the filtered shade from trees or shrubs to dense shade from the shadows cast by buildings or fences. Filtered shade offers the greatest selection of suitable plants including spring flowering bulbs which need the sun in early spring prior to the trees leafing out. Some sun-loving perennials can survive in filtered shade although they will not excel in form, flower or fruit. Geraniums, for example, will grow nicely as leafy plants but will not flower. Lilies and roses which are traditionally thought to be sun lovers, will perform in situations where the base of the plant is shaded but the tops can grow out into the sun.

Dry shade is considered the most difficult habitat for plants, so there are fewer of them to choose from. Dry shade is usually caused by the shade and competition from a tree with a shallow root system. Norway Maples are the worst for this, followed by Silver Maples. The lack of moisture in combination with the lack of sun makes it a challenge for anything to survive. Stone or aggregate can assist the appeal of these areas in combination with and as a help to the plants. Plants tend to congregate around stone due to the heat and moisture collection associated with them. When a major tree is involved you can sever some major roots and try to get plants established outside the tree's root zone. Build a barrier between the tree and the garden to keep the tree roots at a distance.

Specimen plants and ground covers can be planted in these areas. Some reliable ground covers to try in dry shade are Barrenwort (*Epipedium*), Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria*), English Ivy (*Hedera*) and sweet woodruff (*Galium sp.*). Native ground covers include wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), woodland sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*), Ebony sedge (*Carex eburnean*) and Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*). Woodland sedges will give a shaggy lawn-like appearance in an area where grass wouldn't grow. For good reason, woodland sedges are growing in popularity and are readily available at native plant nurseries. You can visit my website for a list of nurseries, [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com). Bleeding heart (*Dicentra sp.*), Goat's beard (*Aruncus sp.*), Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), daylilies and other bulbs are often successful specimen plants in dry shade.

Partial shade is caused by the shadows cast by a fence, building or other object. There is an excellent selection of plants that can grow under these conditions provided you enrich the soil with organic matter and make sure moisture is available. The light may be limiting but the other conditions can be more easily modified and improved. Popular ground covers for shade include Foamflower (*Tiarella*), Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla*), Coral bells (*Heuchera sp.*), Ferns, Bergenia and Lungwort (*Pulmonaria sp.*). Some splendid native woodland ground covers are wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), large leafed aster (*Aster macrophyllus*), great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and Trilliums of course.

Shade plants traditionally have large leaves to capture as much sunlight as possible. Variations in leaf shape, size and colour are critical features when selecting an attractive combination of plants. Hostas are anchor plants in shade because of the beauty and stature of their leaves. Hostas have the added ability to adapt to less ideal soil conditions. A favourite shade garden combination of mine is a blend of Christmas rose (*Hellebore sp.*), Ligularia, Snakeroot (*Cimicifuga*), sedges and ferns. These types of plant combinations are essential in shade gardens because it is difficult for one plant to stand out on its own, at least for very long.

Plants that thrive in the shade are increasingly popular and necessary as suburban properties mature and the success of all of the current tree planting campaigns is realized. As gardens develop, so does the adaptability of the plants within it. Keep enriching the soil and adding to the garden and it will grow along with you.

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 on am 570.



# Looking back

## 25 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1981 were **Ken Nelson** (president), **Bob Brewster** (vice pres.), **Rusty Warkman** (sec), **John Smith** (treas.), **Paul White** (past pres.), **Dan Ardley**, **Al Draper**, **Barry Endicott**, **Blake McMaster**, **Dave Moote** and **Doug Hoskins**. The editor of "Green is Beautiful" was **Bob Brewster** and the co-editor was **Barry Endicott**.

The OGSa/WOGSA joint meeting was held at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club hosted by **John Piccolo**, with 63 golfers in attendance. **Hugh Kirkpatrick** was low gross winner with a 77 and **Bill Glashan** was low net winner with a 71. On June 14th, the Galt Field Day was held at the Galt Country Club hosted by **Pelino Scenna**. The President, Greenchairman, Superintendent Tournament was held at the Scarboro Golf Club on July 17. There was a rules meeting held at Westmount Golf Club and forty superintendents, associates and guests attended, with **Keith Nisbet** discussing the rule book.

The Pro Superintendent Tournament was held at the Castlemore Golf Club with **Dave Nichol** as host superintendent, on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The winning team was from Aurora consisting of **Laurie Buckland** and **Paul Dodson** and the second team was from Oakdale Golf Club with **Ron Montessor** and **Paul Dermott**. The low team gross aggregate was from Westmount Golf Club consisting of **Gus Maue** and **Hugh Kirkpatrick**.

The OTRF Tournament was held at the National Golf

Club and the barbecue at the Board of Trade Country Club with \$4,800 being raised. **Ian Clark** was the low pro with a 72 and **George Garner** was the low superintendent. Ninety people attended the barbecue afterwards and the cost of the day was \$50.00.

The CGSA Conference was held in Vancouver, B.C., and it set a record attendance of 750 people. A pre-conference golf tournament was held at the Shaughnessy Golf Club and the Point Grey Golf Club and the winners were **Rod Hermitage** winning the gross prize and **Hugh Kirkpatrick** winning the net prize. Sixty four golfers participated in the tournament. The GCSAA Conference was held in Anaheim, California, with a record attendance of 7,713 people.

**Jim Wyllie** became the vice president of the GCSAA. **Blake McMaster** became a director of the CGSA. **Dan Uzelac** became a director of the Michigan Golf Superintendents Assoc. **Randy Price** became the superintendent of Markland Wood Country Club and **Bob Heron** became the superintendent of Mississauga Country Club.

New members were **Sean Evelyn**, Evelyn Golf Centre, **Alex LaBelle**, Midland Golf Club, **Gerry Chillingworth**, Aero Irrigation Ltd., **James Moore**, Puslinch Golf Club, **Mark Hagen** (F), Greenhills Golf Club, **Doug Rothwell** (F), Islington Golf Club. and **Don Crymble** (F), Islington Golf Club.



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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North Properties

## Canadian Tough?

In Canada, we used to pride ourselves on how tough we were. Freezing cold winters, stifling hot summers, soaking wet springs, falls that were.... well, fall's never really been a big deal weather wise. But as if to make up for that, the pioneers had to spend the fall trying to store away enough food for the winter so that they wouldn't have to eat the dogs, bark, and shoe leather in February. We played tough sports like hockey, football, and lacrosse. And maybe it's just that I'm getting old, but I think we're turning into a nation of soccer playing minivan drivers. I heard on the CBC the other day, that air conditioning is a "basic human right". I remember when "basic human rights" were things like not getting murdered by your neighbour for your cow. When I was a kid, I used to bale hay all day in heat that keeps them in from recess now. At the other end of the spectrum, the school buses don't run below certain temperatures because it's not safe to have the kids outside while they wait for the bus. My mom used to send me out in that same weather for half a day or more to play. She said that it would build character. My brothers and I would build a snow fort, not because it was fun, but because we honestly thought we would freeze to death if we didn't. Truth be told, I was raised in one of those turn of the century farmhouses, where apparently insulation was seen as a luxury, and it was often warmer in the snow fort than in the house.

Now I know that this is starting to sound like one of those, "When I was young..." rants that my father used to go on, but golf employs a lot of young people, and they ain't what they used to be. I'll never forget the day that a kid came up to me in tears, because "there's something wrong with my finger". It was a blister. Seventeen years old... first blister. Sad. By seventeen, we had enough callous on our hands from working on the farm, that we used to stick our math compasses into our palms and do tricks with lighters. I was at a party with my wife a while back, and the topic of discussion was the best way to get your aesthetician to remove callous. What's an aesthetician?

The first Breen came to this country on a coffin ship during the Irish Potato Famine, worked his way to Toronto, then walked to Brantford to spend the rest of his life working as a farm labourer. My wife's Grandmother was literally born in a sod hut out on the prairies in the early part of the last century, and was sent alone to Toronto at 16 (depression, dust bowl, no aestheticians) to find her own way. She married an Italian taxi driver whose family came to Cape Breton 300 years ago as coal minors. None of these people had air conditioning, and they all had lots of character. By contrast, my kids, who are apparently genetically linked to all of these folks, see a missing Gameboy charger as a crisis. Most Canadians have a family story just like those. That kid with the blister probably had ancestors who cleared 100 acres of bush and tried to farm a



piece of land between Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie. They're spinning in their graves.

Golfers were tougher too. Golf spikes weren't invented in an era where all fairways were smooth, perfectly groomed bentgrass. They were invented because a golfer had a reasonable chance of slipping on the bare dirt, weeds, and rocks in the middle of the landing area. There was also a reasonable chance that his left foot would be eight inches higher than the right one, and the ball four inches below either one. The stimpmeter was still decades in the future, and bunkers were still hazards. Imagine doing course construction with only shovels and horses. Lots of blisters there.

Krista and I are desperately trying to toughen our kids up, and counteract the ongoing wussification process that's foisted upon them by teachers and soccer moms. It's hard though, because in most cases the parents aren't much better. A kid got a cleat in the shin at Walker's football practice the other night and cried like a baby. As if that wasn't already bad enough, the kid's dad ran over and berated the coach for letting him get hurt. It's football. He's going to get hurt. It will build character. And callous. I bet the kid already has an aesthetician.

In Canada, we used to be some of the toughest people in the world. We're slipping, and in a couple more generations I predict that our motto will be; *When the going gets tough, the tough go down to the basement and record a song about their feelings in their home studio.*







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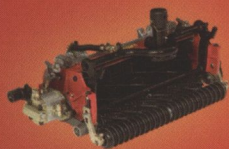
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