

# Green is Beautiful

August 2007

SEP 17 2007

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## NAVIGATING THROUGH HEALTH AND SAFETY

Inside this Issue...

Doing Anything with Nothing...Well Almost

The 39th Annual Presidents' Day

Making the Leap

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## President's message

A few recent unfortunate events have really made me think about what is important in life and what constitutes true happiness. Is it a successful career? Is it a successful family life? Is it personal wealth? At times I think we are all guilty of working really hard during those six gruelling months called the golf season. Unfortunately, it takes a few tragic events for all of us to revisit our approach to life and determine what truly defines happiness.

I have decided to set aside any association business during this message to mourn, recognize, and honour a few tragic events that have taken place in the last year, on behalf of our association and membership. I've thought about these unfortunate events a lot over the last while and determined that it's much larger than our careers, the golf business, the game of golf, or anything else I can write about.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family of Steve Connors. Steve is an employee of Turf Care Products, and his daughter Abi, has had a recent unfortunate accident, and continues to fight every day on the road to recovery.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family and friends of Paul Pilley, who passed away early this year. Paul, an educator and owner of The P.E.S.T. Institute touched the lives of many in the golf industry.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to Mike Jansen and his family. Mike is the equipment manager at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club and was in an unfortunate accident earlier this month. Mike, continue to fight and please know that there are a lot of people in the industry who truly care and are pulling for you.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family of Jay Lavis. Jay was a long time member of the OGSA and passed away earlier this year. Jay was a colourful character and was loved by many.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family of Graydon Goff. Graydon passed away earlier this month, and was a long time supporter of the OGSA, and spent the last 30 years working in the golf industry.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the staff and family of Ernie Amsler. Ernie was a great father, mentor, and long time member of our association. Ernie was respected and admired by many of his peers and staff members alike.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the above individuals for the gift of realization and appreciation. You've helped all of us realize how valuable our health, family, friends, and lives are. You've helped us appreciate the people around us whether it's in our personal lives or at work. Thank you on behalf of our membership and association. Your gift will be appreciated and remembered forever.



by Sean DeSilva,  
Coppinwood Golf Club



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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

Coppinwood

photo by Mike Klemme, Golfoto

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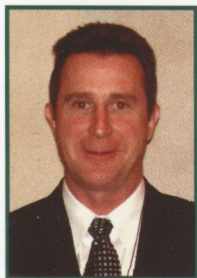
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## Editorial message



by Chris Andrejicka  
Co-Editor

Where has all the rain gone? It has been hit and miss for courses all across Ontario this summer. As the dog days of summer come to an end let's hope for more seasonable conditions heading into the fall.


This month's issue is packed with some very interesting articles for everyone. The member profile looks at the DeCorso Family, David, Ted, and Carmen. Pam Charbonneau talks about the toll the lack of rain has taken on our golf courses and provides us with a bit of good news concerning the use of URMULE for the addition of take-all patch to the Heritage label. Sean Jordan tells us how to manage on a shoestring, providing incentive to make some meaningful changes when more resources are not available. Justin Parsons talks to some folks in the golf industry who have made the leap from assistant to superintendent. Paul Grotier, from Donalda Club impresses upon us the importance of implementing

a good health and safety program. Daisy Moore's article this month talks about natural areas on the golf course and how they can be an asset to your facility. Make sure you check out Doug Breen's article, "Home Alone"; it should provide a great read.

As the golf season gradually comes to an end we would like to remind you that you can go to [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) > **Calendar of Events** to see what tournaments are left to be played.

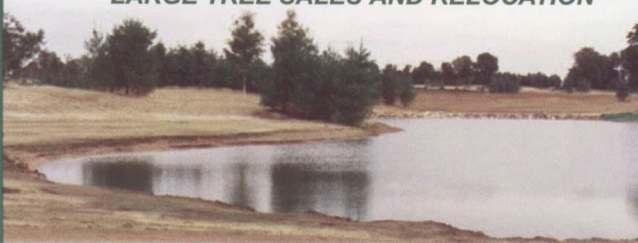
I would also like to remind everyone about the Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary. This bursary is an opportunity open to all OGSA member assistants. The deadline date is October 31<sup>st</sup>. Applications are available on line or call the OGSA for details.

I hope everyone's golf course is surviving the extreme conditions this summer, and would like to encourage everyone to participate in the remaining golf events for this year.




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## What's new

### Bigwin Island Golf Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence Huntsville, Ontario

Sunday, July 1, 2007 - Shawn Williams - Audubon

Bigwin Island Golf Club achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Bigwin Island Golf Club is the 34<sup>th</sup> course in Ontario, the 62<sup>nd</sup> in Canada and the 639<sup>th</sup> in the world to receive the honour.

"Bigwin Island Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for preserving the natural heritage of the area by protecting the local watershed and providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the Island," said Shawn Williams, Environmental Technician for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Williams. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

Bigwin Island's Superintendent, Scott Heron says, "We have worked hard for this designation and it is an honour to be recognized as certified by Audubon International. My assistant Kevin Schultz and I have been anticipating this certification since we opened the course 8 years ago. I believe this designation reflects our club's commitment to stewardship of this island and beyond".

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia have also achieved certification in the program. Audubon certified courses in central Ontario also include: Rocky Crest Golf Club in MacTier and The Lake Joseph Club in Port Carling.

For more information on golf and the environment, visit

[www.golfandenvironment.org](http://www.golfandenvironment.org). In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them at [acss@audubonintl.org](mailto:acss@audubonintl.org), or visit [www.audubonintl.org](http://www.audubonintl.org).

### 2007 HUGH KIRKPATRICK BURSARY - \$2,750.00

This bursary is available to OGSA member assistant superintendents, for the purpose of furthering industry related training or education. It was developed to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishment of assistant superintendent members. The application must be completed and received in the OGSA office by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Don't miss this opportunity to earn this \$2,750.00 bursary. Full details can be found at [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) in the members only section.

## Mark Your Calendars

### OGSA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

#### ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE  
BRIARS GOLF CLUB,  
SUTTON WEST  
DATE: TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

ALEX McCLUMPHA  
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HOSTED BY  
PETERBOROUGH  
GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

OGSA and Ontario regional association events are posted to our web site [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) under the menu heading "Events". Check out both the "Calendar of Events" and the actual "Event" pages for detailed information.





## GIFT OF LIFE GARDEN

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, representing the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association, OGSA members Mark Schneider of Maple Turf Supplies in Bolton and Marc Brooks, Golf Course Superintendent at Stone Tree in Owen Sound attended an open house at the Gift of Life Garden. The Gift of Life Garden is a community garden that provides fresh produce to people in need in the Simcoe County area. Joined by industry supplier Jim Kelly of Earth Power Tractors & Equipment of Meaford the three sponsors were able to see how their contributions are helping to make a difference for this worthy cause. The event was organized by land owner Gwen Crump and garden designer Karen Young. These two women, along with many other volunteers have worked tirelessly to make this worthwhile endeavour a success.



L-R Gwen Crump, Mark Schneider, Jim Kelly, Karen Young, Marc Brooks

## GCSAA APPOINTS VETERAN CLASS A MEMBER TO ENHANCE TOUR OPERATIONS MILLER NAMED LPGA TOUR AGRONOMIST

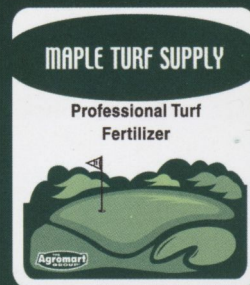
The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) announced on July 16 the hiring of John Miller, certified golf course superintendent, as the first full-time agronomist for the LPGA.

Miller, a 24-year GCSAA Class A member, will assist LPGA tournament operations staff in developing consistent course conditions and serve as a liaison between the LPGA and the host facility golf course management team. He comes from the Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, Ohio, where he served 14 years as golf course superintendent and hosted the Nationwide Tour's Dayton Open from 1999-2003.

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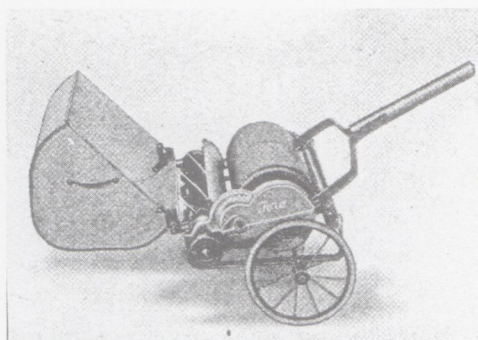


## What's new continued...

### ANTIQUE ALLEY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

In the July issue of *Green is Beautiful* we initiated a new article called Antique Alley. The editorial committee would like to continue with a submission in each issue, but we need your help.

If you have an old piece of equipment, in operating condition, still being used on your golf course, please provide us with a photo, description and year. we will print it in *Green is Beautiful's* Antique alley.



### OGSA "WILLIAM SANSOM" AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association shall present an award of Distinguished Service, in the name of our first President William Sansom, to an individual, providing such an individual is properly nominated and subsequently accepted by the OGSA Board of Directors.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2007 Distinguished Service Award. The recipient will be recognized at our conference Award's Luncheon, to be held Thursday, January 17, 2008.

The deadline date for nominations to be received in the OGSA office, is Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. For full details and a nomination form please go to [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) and click on Distinguished Service Award, under the heading News on the home page. If you do not have access to the web site, please call the office at 1-877-824-6472 and request a form to be sent by mail or fax.



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Copetown Woods Golf Club

**Spencer Williams** Class Supt  
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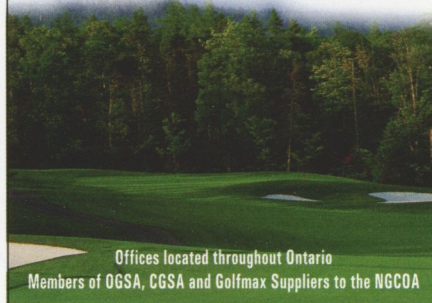
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## From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau  
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

This summer has been absolutely crazy for golf superintendents. There is a severe moisture deficit for many of the southwestern parts of the province with anywhere from 20% - 40% of the normal rainfall. Level 1 low water

alerts have been issued for many watersheds which mean a voluntary 10% reduction in water taking. Some watersheds have moved to a level 2 low water alert which calls for a 20% voluntary reduction in water taking. These water alerts are targeting large users and this almost always includes golf courses. Interestingly enough, while we in the southwest are dry, the eastern part of the province and Quebec are worried about turning off the water. They are looking at upgrading drainage instead of upgrading irrigation.

To a great extent the dry conditions have kept many of the foliar pathogens at bay, but the root pathogens and stress pathogens have been very active. Summer patch is prevalent on annual bluegrass and if that didn't get your annual bluegrass, the basal rot anthracnose probably will. In a year like this you can definitely see why creeping bluegrass is the preferred putting surface from a stress management point of view. Take-all patch has also been very active on creeping bentgrass. Often these root pathogens are seen together with anthracnose. The root pathogens attack the roots and weaken the plant and the anthracnose comes in as a secondary pest. Greens with

high organic matter in the upper profile of the green retain moisture, which leads to scalping of the turf when conditions are wet from rain or overwatering. The result of the scalping is usually anthracnose.

If those problems mentioned above haven't done you in, we have also seen some damage from the second generation black turfgrass atenioides this summer. Usually, it is only the first generation larvae that cause damage, but because things have been so hot and dry, even the second generation is causing some turf loss. And if that wasn't enough, there have also been high populations of black cutworms as well.

There is some good news on the disease front; as URMULE for the addition of take-all patch to the Heritage label has been approved. As soon as the final label has been issued, it will now be legal to use Heritage for the suppression of take-all patch in Canada.

Let's hope that this hot, dry spell does not last too much longer and that there will be some good turf growing weather to help all the sick turf recover.

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This is definitely a different subject. This is also a difficult subject to discuss. But this is a subject that many workplaces are addressing and dealing with these days. When people think of harassment, or as many in the safety community are calling it, “violence in the workplace”, we most often think of violence in the workplace as sexual in nature. As a matter of fact, in 2004 the

There are a number of conditions that the policy must address and your organization should go to <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/ShowTdm/cs/L-2> and check

If you have any questions please call and we can discuss them. Have a great fall!!

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## WATER WOES

Pond on the premises of Greystone Golf Club in Milton. Photo taken by Scott Bowman, Golf Course Superintendent on August 5th. Since that time the water level has dropped considerably.



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# Member profile

## Interview with the DeCorso Family

Article and photo by John Bladon

Agrium Advanced Technologies

There is a golf legacy that spans generations, growing in the city of Guelph. It was July 17, 1949 when now 25 year OGSA member, Ted DeCorso emigrated from his native Italy and no one could have possibly predicted the impact the DeCorso name would have on the Ontario golf scene. Ted loved the outdoors and the game of golf and wanted an investment to secure his future. After working in manufacturing and as a hairdresser, Ted went about realizing his dream. He purchased a country property south of Guelph, and following a conversation with Sam DiPinto, Ted hired designer Rene Muylaert and the executive length Victoria Park West course was born, and opened for play in 1968.

Ted's brother Carmen and other family members had arrived in Canada shortly after Ted on Labour Day in 1950. Seeing Ted's success, Carmen joined the Victoria Park family when the fates intervened on a fishing trip in 1971 and the decision to purchase the land for the future championship East course was made. Carmen, also now a 25 year OGSA member, left his career as a hairdresser, attended the University of Guelph and was the golf superintendent at the East course for more than 10 years.

Both Ted and Carmen's children are engrained in this truly "family" golf business. Carmen's son John is the food and beverage manager at the East course and anyone who has attended a function there knows of the "old country" hospitality John extends. Son, Paul attended Kent State on a golf scholarship and later worked for Titleist and daughter, Louise works tending to the company books. Ted's daughter Tina works managing the West course but it is son and OGSA member David, who has followed directly in the footsteps of Dad and Uncle Carmen. After graduating from Seneca College in 1987 and toiling at both Lionhead and with Geoff Corlett at TDI, David took over as the golf superintendent at the East Course in 1991. Dad's passion has clearly been bred into David. He speaks with pride about carrying on the established DeCorso name and also contributes to activities at arms length of the family business. David regularly participates in "on course" trials in conjunction with the GTI and serves as a board member of the Ontario Turf Research Foundation.

Now 2007, the planning is ongoing for the next potential phase of the DeCorso legacy. A new, 27-hole executive length public course, south of the two current properties is in the process of achieving approval. This will also see the West course revamped into a new retirement development complete with a brand spanking private 9-hole course for the residents of the site. After all these years, Ted still speaks passionately about the business and his eyes light up as he talks about the planned sanctuary that will harmonize the beautiful wetlands of the West site with housing and golf.

I asked Carmen, Ted and David who their ultimate foursome might include, of course, each of their answers included a couple of fantasy members. In each foursome however, were members consistent with everything about the Victoria Park environment. It's all about family. Actually, it's family with a side of golf and great food and drink.



L-R Ted, David and Carmen

### "In the Hot Seat"

	<u>TED</u>	<u>DAVID</u>	<u>CARMEN</u>
• Favourite architect:	Fazio	Colt	McBroom
• Favourite major:	Masters	Masters	Masters
• Best piece of turf equipment ever:	Triplex GM	Toro Pro Core	Lightweight 5 Plex
• Ultimate foursome:	Tiger, Player, David	Tiger, Jack, Ted	Trevino, Knudson, 2 sons
• Lowest round ever and where:	69, Vic East	71, Vic East	72 Jackoranda
• Favourite meal:	Seafood Linguini	Pasta Period!	Roast Lamb with Risotto
• What's in your CD right now:	Sinatra	Stones	Elvis
• What would you be if not a golf course superintendent:	Landscape Contractor	Landscape Contractor	Running a Winery



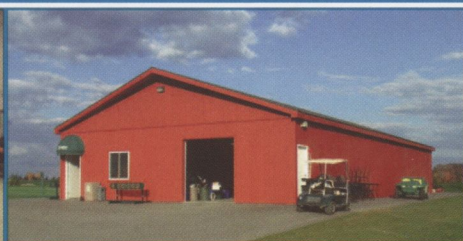
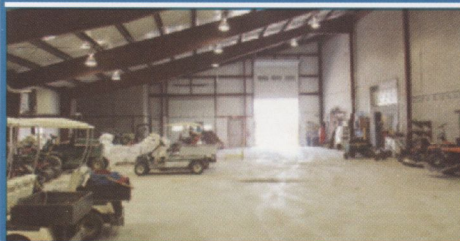
## HOLE IN ONE

Congratulations to Sean DeSilva, who recently got a hole in one on the 11th green at Beacon Hall while having a friendly game of golf with some former OGSA presidents.



L-R Rob Ackermann, Sean DeSilva, Paul Scenna, Keith Bartlett

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# THE 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRESIDENTS' DAY

Photos by Jeff Stauffer

This year's Presidents' Day was hosted by the beautiful Coppinwood; a golfer's paradise located on 357 acres of rolling terrain with stunning elevation changes, in the midst of quiet farm country, just 30 minutes northeast of Toronto. Designed by Tom Fazio, the par 72 layout features five sets of tees to provide golfers of all skill levels with an exceptional golfing experience. Coppinwood has superbly manicured bent grass fairways, and bunkers that are minimalist, dramatic and remarkably consistent in their playability.

All who gathered for this event were treated to a memorable day, thanks to Coppinwood hospitality. We would like to particularly thank General Manager, Syd Menashy and his administrative staff, Host Superintendent, Sean DeSilva and his greens staff; Director of Golf Operations, Euan Dougal and his proshop staff and to Food and Beverage Manager, Peter Costa and his staff.

This event is the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association's most popular and prestigious event, designed to promote camaraderie between team members and other teams. It is an opportunity to share ideas between clubs and enjoy friendly competition between clubs' presidents, greens chairmen, directors and superintendents. The day is also one for the host club to showcase their course to their peers.

The Presidents' Day trophy was named "The William Sansom Trophy" after the OGSA's first president, who held the position from 1924 to 1934.

## 2007 Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> place - Weston Golf & Country Club - 136**

Robert Ackermann, Cal Bishop, Leo Dimarco, John Latimer

**2<sup>nd</sup> place - Credit Valley Golf & Country Club - 140**

Jeff Stauffer, Terry Garbutt, Stephen Rowe, Fred Sava

**3<sup>rd</sup> place - Ladies Golf Club of Toronto - 141**

John McLinden, Donna Armstrong, Nancy MacTavish, Michele Bussieres



OGSA Director, Jeff Alexander presents the superintendent host plaque to Sean DeSilva



1<sup>st</sup> place Weston Team with The William Sansom Trophy





# Golf course highlight

## Coppinwood

2324 4<sup>th</sup> Concession Road  
 Uxbridge ON L9P 1N5  
 Phone: (905) 649-2800 Fax: (905) 649-8234  
 Website: www.coppinwood.com  
 Golf Course Superintendent:  
**Sean D. DeSilva**  
 Email: sean@coppinwood.com



Photo by Jeff Stauffer

### COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?  
 Township of Uxbridge

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?  
 Private with 180 members and 10,000 rounds

Typical opening and closing date  
 May 1 to November 1

Name of Superintendent  
 Sean D. DeSilva

How long have you been a superintendent?  
 12 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?  
 11 years

List accomplishments  
 OGSA Board Member 2001 – present  
 GCSAA Chapter Delegate 2003, 2004  
 OGSA Conference Co-Chair 2004  
 OGSA Conference Chair 2005  
 OGSA President 2007  
 GC Chair – Uxbridge Watershed Committee

How many staff?  
 4 year round and 28 seasonal staff

How many mechanics and assistants?  
 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant: Scott Pratt  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant: Kyle Whitehead  
 Equipment Manager: Drew Ness  
 Asst Equipment Mgr: Barry Bainbridge

How many gardening staff?  
 1

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?  
 18 + 3 practice holes

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?  
 7,536 yards from the back tees and  
 5,126 yards from the front tees

Size & Length of Driving Range & Tee:  
 Driving range & practice area: 24 acres  
 Driving range tee: 45,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

How many bunkers?  
 88

How many ponds?  
 2 ponds

Who was the original architect?  
 Tom Fazio

What was the year of original construction?  
 2005

What major tournaments have been held?  
 Coppinwood Invitational 2007

What is the size of your maintenance shop?  
 12,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

What type of irrigation system?  
 Toro OSMAC

What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?  
 Greens: 156,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 Tees: 220,000 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 Fairways: 35 acres

What is your predominant grass?  
 Greens: Bentgrass – A1/A4 blend  
 Tees & Fairways: Bentgrass,  
 Dominant Extreme

How many USGA/loam greens?  
 25 USGA greens

What is the predominant soil type?  
 Fairways: Sand cap  
 Rough: Clay subsoil

What equipment do you have in inventory?  
 5 Greens mowers with turf groomer  
 1 Triplex greens mower  
 (7 & 11 blade heads)  
 1 Vibratory roller heads for triplex  
 5 Tee mowers – 26" walking  
 2 Apron mowers – 22" walking  
 3 5 gang fairway mowers 7 blade heads  
 2 Triplex fairway mowers – 7 blade heads  
 1 Set of 5 gang verticut heads  
 1 Set of triplex verticut heads  
 2 Sidewinder rotary rough mower  
 1 Out front rotary rough mower  
 8 Utility vehicles – light duty  
 6 Utility vehicles – mid duty  
 2 Utility vehicles – heavy duty  
 1 TyCrop large material handler  
 1 TyCrop small material handler  
 1 300 gallon sprayer (hand wand & raven)  
 1 150 gallon sprayer (hand wand & raven)  
 1 50 hp tractor  
 2 45 hp tractor (one with bucket loader)  
 1 Skid Steer loader (bucket and forks)  
 1 Trencher/backhoe  
 1 Super tilt trailer

1 Greens and tee aerifier  
 1 Fairway aerifier  
 1 Sand pro  
 1 Over seeder – greens and tees  
 1 Over seeder – fairways  
 1 Greens roller  
 4 Grooming brushes for flex mowers  
 Note: complete list of inventory too  
 extensive to list

### COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?  
 • Grow in  
 • Washrooms  
 • Planting of 1400 trees  
 • Environmental restoration  
 • Paving of parking lot  
 • Entrance gate

### LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?  
 • Additional tree planting  
 • Equipment wash pad – recycle water  
 • Fescue improvements  
 • Practice holes

### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?  
 • Very dry and windy property, irrigation is a challenge  
 • Winter desiccation  
 • Overall size and acreage of the property

### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?  
 Construction and grow in of the golf course in 18 months.

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?  
 Due to a low number of rounds, thatch will be our biggest challenge in the next few years. We have started an aggressive aerification program and topdressing program on greens, tees and fairways.



# Navigating Through Health and Safety

by Paul Grotier, Assistant Superintendent

Donalda Club

For better or for worse, gone are the days where a single poster gracing the staff lunch room wall with the slogan “Work safe” is considered a satisfactory health and safety program. While it can be difficult to follow through with in such a fast paced, customer service sector such as ours, a comprehensive health and safety program must be developed and implemented to comply with strict government regulations.

## Why the fuss?

On July 8th, 2004, the Ontario government announced its plan to reduce workplace injuries by 20 per cent over the next four years. This was to be achieved by “implementing an enhanced enforcement strategy that includes hiring 200 new health and safety enforcement staff and targeting inspections at workplaces with the highest lost-time injury rates and higher than average claims costs for sector”.

A ticketing system has been expanded that gives Ministry of Labour inspectors “more flexibility to deal immediately with those who violate health and safety requirements”.

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, employers, supervisors and workers can be issued tickets starting at \$200, for violations such as failing to use proper Personal



Protective Equipment (PPE).

Workplaces can also be targeted by WSIB’s workplace inspection audit program called Workwell. This program audits firms with accident frequencies higher than those in their rate group. This extensive audit requires that a firm achieve 75% to pass. Firms are given six months to correct deficiencies. If a passing mark is not achieved during the second audit, firms can be charged surcharges of up to \$500,000!

## Making sense of acronyms

Health and Safety can be confusing with jargon such as OSSA, WSIB, OHSA, WHA, SOP and PPE. That’s just the tip of the iceberg!. To start, the following three are the most important to be familiar with.

**OSSA:** The Ontario Service Safety Alliance is a not for profit health and safety consulting company specifically geared towards small businesses and the service sector. It provides consulting, training and a wide range of safety related products. It must be stressed that the OSSA is an ally and their purpose is to help facilities, such as golf clubs. Our club works with the OSSA and the consultant’s input has been a tremendous help to our program.

**WSIB:** The Workplace Safety Insurance Board promotes workplace health and safety, and provides a workers compensation system for the employers and workers of Ontario. Also, WSIB is the regulatory body where reports of injury/disease are sent. It must be noted that not only is it the employer’s duty to fill out a form 7 when a worker





consults a physician due to a workplace accident but as well, the employer must advise the worker to fill out a form 6 which is a workers report of injury/disease.

**OHSA:** The Occupational Health and Safety Act sets out the rights and duties of all parties in the workplace. The Act establishes procedures for dealing with workplace hazards, and it provides for enforcement of the law where compliance has not been achieved voluntarily. Ministry of Labour inspectors and workwell auditors are the two enforcement bodies.

### Three tips to starting a health and safety program:

#### 1) *The Facility's Joint Health and Safety Committee*

It is important to show and prove that your facility has an active and structured committee. Meetings must be held at least 4 times a year and minutes should be taken for documentation purposes and as well, they must be posted on a health and safety board. The number of committee representatives needed varies depending upon total staff employed at your club. A workplace with fewer than 50 employees requires at least 2 committee members and a workplace with more than 50 requires at least 4. At least half of the committee members must be worker representatives.

#### 2) *The health and safety board*

It is recommended, and would score points on a Workwell audit, to have the following posted on the board: a list of the health and safety committee members, your clubs health and safety policy preferably signed by the General Manager or Owner, minutes of the last committee meeting, a copy of the last workplace inspection and a recent copy of the OHSA. Workplace inspections need to be conducted every month, however, your facility can be broken into sections with at least one section inspected per month. It is best to have a board or boards designated for health and safety only and as well, keep the number of boards to a minimum. Too many boards will lead to some being neglected and/or outdated.



#### 3) *Certification*

The Joint Health and Safety Committee should be working towards becoming certified. Certification is a 2 part process involving training in health and safety law, and the identification, assessment and control of hazards. Part One is a basic certification that will empower committee members with knowledge in health and safety law, hazard identification and control, investigation techniques and prevention resources. Part Two is a workplace specific hazard training that requires conducting a "Workplace Hazard Assessment", determining significant hazards and determining training needs.

The first two points listed above are quick and easy to undertake. I have been told that having a health and safety board including the items listed above and an active committee is sometimes enough to discourage an inspector from conducting a complete inspection of a workplace.

Undoubtedly, there will be times where help is needed and this is when I recommend calling the OSSA, hiring a consultant or even contacting neighbouring facilities to pool information. The latter can be of great help, considering we offer the same service and have similar workplace hazards. I have been fortunate that Donalda Club hired Lisa Yu from The Safe Workplace to help us develop a program that is Workwell compliant. Developing a health and safety program can seem like a daunting task, but simply by implementing some of the concepts listed above, a program will already be headed in the right direction.





# MAKING THE LEAP

## The Transition From Assistant to Superintendent

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent  
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

It's August. It's hot. It can be a grind. Both the demands of the job and the stresses placed on the golf course are as intense right now as they get all year. This is the time when superintendents and assistants alike must bear down and keep focus. There is a staff to lead, a membership to please and a golf course to maintain, none of which can be done properly without a strong relationship between these two individuals.

The dynamic between the two positions varies at every maintenance facility, as do the responsibilities of each. But at the heart of this division of a golf club is a leader, their vision and an individual they have chosen to help them carry out this vision. At some point in the career of every superintendent, they took a step — a very big step. In fact, it is the biggest step you can take. They went from being an assistant, to being a superintendent. They went from being the one who helps support the vision, to being the one who creates it.

In a superintendent's career, there really isn't anything else that can compare to making this leap. You are now it. You're the one. It all comes down to you. As Jennifer Pendrith, Superintendent at Kawartha Golf and Country Club says, "Every decision is ultimately my responsibility and if something goes wrong it's all on my shoulders".

Tom Brain, who is in his first year as superintendent at Burlington Golf and Country Club, also felt a tremendous increase in accountability when he took over the department. "It's the weight of the responsibility of the decisions you make... it all comes down to me now."

Like any profession, the higher up the ladder you climb, the more responsibility there is and fewer places to hide. Every decision becomes important for a superintendent because it all comes back to them. When Scott White became the grounds manager at Donalda Club last year, he was amazed at how personal the evaluation of his decisions became. Whether it's what piece of equipment to lease, whether or not to topdress, or how to handle a senior staff member that is out of line, a superintendent can't help but scrutinize his or her own decisions. As a result, White says, "I feel way more pressure now than I ever thought I would".

Some may argue that superintendents with less experience may be more critical of themselves and they are apt to take things a little more personally. This is likely

because the confidence level may not be quite as high, which is only natural since confidence comes from experience. It comes from seeing the positive effects of the decisions you make year after year. But even Paul Scenna, Superintendent at Beacon Hall Golf Club and a past president of the OGSA, admits he is not entirely comfortable answering questions on what makes a great superintendent and says, "I am still searching for the secret to success". Scenna, who has been a superintendent for 16 years, also agrees with the others that realizing accountability isn't easy. In fact, he says it was the most difficult part of becoming a superintendent.

All of this doesn't mean that there isn't a comfort level that sets in eventually. Scenna says it took a couple of years for him. Pendrith says it didn't take long at all. White, on the other hand, says that his personality is such that he will never be truly comfortable in the role, even though he is confident he is satisfying the needs of the club. But White stresses the importance of appearing composed. He uses the analogy of a duck, "calm and collected on the surface but paddling like hell under water".

Brain, who is still in his first year as superintendent, isn't quite ready to comment on that comfort level and said, "I just want to get through to Labour Day without losing grass and then, hopefully, people won't be second guessing me."

Both Brain and White took over at courses where they were the assistant. Brain says it was an easier transition to superintendent as a result because he felt comfortable with the property and he had been told when he was taking over. White feels it's both easier and more difficult. Easy in the sense that you are familiar with the landscape but difficult because you are trying to improve upon an already high standard. White always figured he would first become superintendent at a course where the agronomic practices weren't quite as strong, where you could "do something simple and look like a hero in 10 minutes" But sometimes just being, as White says, "a new paint on an old canvas", can help.

Of course all of these superintendents were at one time assistants. Most of them will tell you the thing they miss most about that role is the intimacy with not only the staff, but the golf course itself. Scenna calls it, "being close to the action". White admits that when you become a



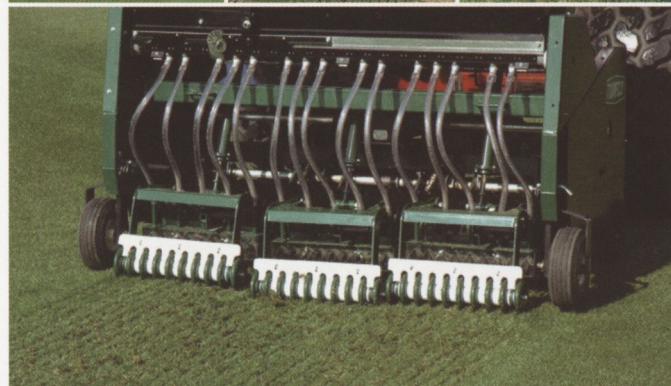
superintendent, "in some ways you lose touch with the golf course". Pendrith feels that the increase in the administrative load prevents her from being out on the course as much as she would like.

On the surface, this may seem problematic. When someone becomes a superintendent they all of a sudden see the golf course less but make all the decisions which govern its well being. This is where the assistant comes into play. They are there to support the superintendent's vision and inform their superior of the issues they can't be around to see. According to White, this is one of the biggest challenges an assistant faces, "They are trying to satisfy the desires of the superintendent even though they may some times have different ideas because they are a little more in tune with the physical aspects of the property".

A superintendent can face similar struggles with the membership though. They are trying to please golfers who may not be in touch with what is reasonable or even beneficial. Brain feels that managing the politics is the most difficult part of his job now. "It's understanding the information they need to know versus what they don't need to know". Pendrith agrees with Brain. "As an assistant I wasn't as exposed to all the politics. I had no idea what a political business this is".

It is this political pressure that can influence the decisions a superintendent makes. Because the assistant isn't aware of this pressure, they always want to act in the best interests of the golf course. But a superintendent doesn't always have that luxury. This may be why White says that a superintendent's job is all about communication. Scenna, Pendrith and Brain all stressed the importance of communication as well. But Scenna feels it really comes down to commitment stating, "You always have to be willing to do whatever it takes".

This time of year it takes a lot to be successful. The expectations are as high as the environmental pressures facing the golf course. Staff begin to tire and motivation can be tough to maintain and it's up to the superintendent to keep it all together. This task is especially difficult for a first year superintendent like Brain. His advice, "have a plan... and stick to your guns".



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# DOING ANYTHING WITH NOTHING....WELL ALMOST

by Sean Jordan  
Compact Sod

Many times while working on the golf course, I would think back to the sign that hung on the wall of the print shop where I worked during high school that read, "We, the unappreciated, have been doing the impossible, for the ungrateful, for so long, that we can now do anything with nothing." Now, don't take this to mean that I feel all golfers are a bunch of ingrates, only a special few. This old sign brings us to the point of the article, which is, in this day of tightening purse strings and ever growing expectations, turf managers have to not only become more creative with the resources they have but also get back to the basic idea of what we do; we manage playing fields for a specific set of clients.

In the July 2007 issue of *Green Is Beautiful*, Dr. Eric Lyons wrote a basic guideline on how to ask for more resources, mostly equipment and other monetary related types. I would like to offer a compliment to that article for those who just can't find any more money. This is a collection of ideas that I have learned over the years from colleagues and experimentation on how to do more with less.

The key to ensuring success is to remember your clients. In the end, they are the one for whom you are preparing the turf and their satisfaction is what brings them back to support the business. A Guelph graduate with whom I worked in North Carolina once told me that if you take care of the details (trimming, rocks in bunkers, clean cups) that larger unavoidable problems would be taken less harshly because it would seem that you are truly trying. Taking care of the details can create empathy from your clients and employers rather than blame when things go wrong. On the "Mom and Pop" 18 hole par 3 that I managed, golfer feedback led me to make some dramatic changes for the course. The clients didn't complain about slow greens or dormant roughs in summer, but they did fuss about a lack of ball washers, sticking flagsticks and low branches. Most of the requests were simple enough to deal with and addressing them did something important; it brought them back.

At a country club in Pennsylvania where I worked as an assistant, we had a recycling program that saved money and helped to improve the appearance of the course. During the year, we would collect all branches that were trimmed or fell and once a year a tub grinder would turn the heap into a nice fresh pile of mulch. The club had over 400 acres of landscaped grounds, so this was a huge cost saver in the end. Another practice facilitated by our arborists was to save felled hardwood trees and hire a portable sawmill to cut boards for projects around the course and buildings.

Many people would agree that annual plants add much to the aesthetics of a course, but it is hard to swallow the cost of something that is just going to be tossed in a compost heap at the end of the year. A superintendent of the 6-hole Nittany course at Penn State would get flats of annuals, that were either not good enough to be sold as #1 or were past their prime, for a significant discount saving a chunk of his already thin budget.

Trying to deter people from driving or walking in certain areas repeatedly only end in being faced with the simple truth; people are not far separated from cattle. Making barriers that people cannot move or drive over is just about the only way to eliminate the eyesore of "cattle path disease" from your course. Possibilities for barriers could be split rail or rock fences made from materials collected on the course property.

This is just another detail that will be appreciated by those who understand what you are trying to accomplish.

On the aforementioned par 3 course, my biggest challenge was trying to get everything done around play. During the summer, play would start when golfers could distinguish between the red and the white on the flagsticks and lasted until the ranger kicked the last few off after sunset. Only having one part-time seasonal helper, whose hours were already dedicated to specific jobs, only added to the stress. So after running around like mad during June of my first summer, I decided to sit down and figure out how to make my hours on the course more efficient. Multitasking was the only way to get it all done. Many mornings saw me rolling out of the shop several hours predawn on the greens triplex with a cup cutter across my lap and the soil bucket balanced on the front catcher. Granted, I would end up going back to occasionally fix a crooked pin after sunrise, but the result was that I was finished with greens and could go straight to tees by the first tee off. Other practices that could be considered standard operating procedure also saved time, such as the morning trip out to do bunkers, trash, rope moving, mulch path raking, irrigation box setting and flower dead heading on the way by.

Capital budgets also get hit during tough times, which makes it even more important to take care of what we have instead of always looking to upgrade our equipment. Though you may really want to get the newest and greatest new toy, just remember that at one time that machine you are looking to replace was the newest and greatest. I am often pleasantly surprised to see high-end courses using greens mowers that date back when those plaid golf pants were actually in style on the course. Simply employing competent mechanics and allowing them to do thorough preventative maintenance will put you money ahead when you may need it.

An area of turf management that has been a hot topic for years is Integrated Pest Management because used properly, it would allow for the sustainability of good turf with fewer chemical inputs. The time necessary to properly scout, plan, implement and record the pests and control practices would more than make up for itself in savings of chemical applications over the long term. It is just a matter of making this practice routine in the daily operation.

Another piece of advice that I was given by a supervisor was to avoid getting tunnel vision. This condition exists when we spend so much time concentrating on the greens, tees and fairways, where most of the strokes are taken, that we forget to look around. Many times we just don't notice the rocks, weeds and unkempt areas that reflect on the condition of the course as a whole. Just taking the time to put a piece of paper on the steering wheel of your golf cart to jot down spare time or rainy day jobs will help utilize the labour resource that you hopefully already have.

All of the examples that have been shown above are just to demonstrate that if you are limited in monetary or other resources, elbow grease and determination can go a long way. In the end, turf management is an art form unto itself that requires careful planning, the ability to change constantly and the patience to put up with a huge living system and all of its quirks; so noticing the little things and being creative with what you have should come naturally to those of you who have decided to enter this profession.





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# Above the hole

by Rafik Lang-Bismillah, Student & Intern  
Senjan Golf Club, Fergus

The environment is today's hot topic. Global warming, carbon emissions, and climate change are the inescapable "buzz" words found in countless news media reports. It is no longer a fringe issue, easily dismissed or ignored. The critics have been silenced, and what remains is a general acceptance that something must be done. The debate is now focused on what should be done; how, and at what cost to our current life styles.

Protecting the environment seems like a daunting task. Our individual actions, whether positive or negative, seem so insignificant when viewed in the context of the actions of others and the broad nature of the environment. Does it really matter if I don't drive my car today? Are my actions even remotely significant when my neighbour doesn't care? It is a courageous person who can honestly say that every little bit helps. That a stone dropped in a pond will cause a ripple that will continue to grow into a wave.

So where do superintendents and golf courses fit into the equation? The environment, and a healthy one at that, is essential to the success of any course. What makes the game of golf so attractive is largely the setting. It allows for an escape from the concrete and glass of the city, from the noise and smog of the highway, and all the other distractions of our modern busy lives. While the golf course is often recognized and praised for being a good recreational facility, its positive contributions to the environment are often overlooked. Instead, citizen's groups and the media are more apt to focus attention on other aspects of the industry, such as pesticide use, water use, and in some cases the inaccessibility of golf to certain people. These are areas of concern, and anyone involved in the industry will be quick to point out that they are recognized and being addressed. As with many other issues related to environmental sustainability we are discovering that properly managing the use of water and chemicals, not only benefits the environment, but also positively affects the bottom line.

Anyone who has golfed, or especially worked on a course, can vouch for the fact that golf courses are essentially a type

of maintained and manicured park, forest, wetland, or whatever other natural setting the architect envisaged. They are not so much aberrations, cruelly disturbing the natural order of things, rather they are today an integral piece of what remains of the natural landscape. It is therefore incumbent on all those involved in the industry to educate the public about all the positive attributes of golf courses. A portion of the work done on a daily basis on a course is environmentalism in action; wetlands are protected, forests are maintained, allowing a diverse group of animals and plants to call those 18 holes home. Organizations like the Audubon Society, and their certifications, should be widely publicized and more courses should strive to meet their requirements. Additionally, those who call the golf course their office need to stress that manicured is not a dirty word meaning unnatural. The knowledge and training course operators have, and continue to develop, enable them to make positive contributions to the environment. In this way it is possible to raise the profile of golf from merely a recreation to a piece of the puzzle in addressing the environmental issues of our time.



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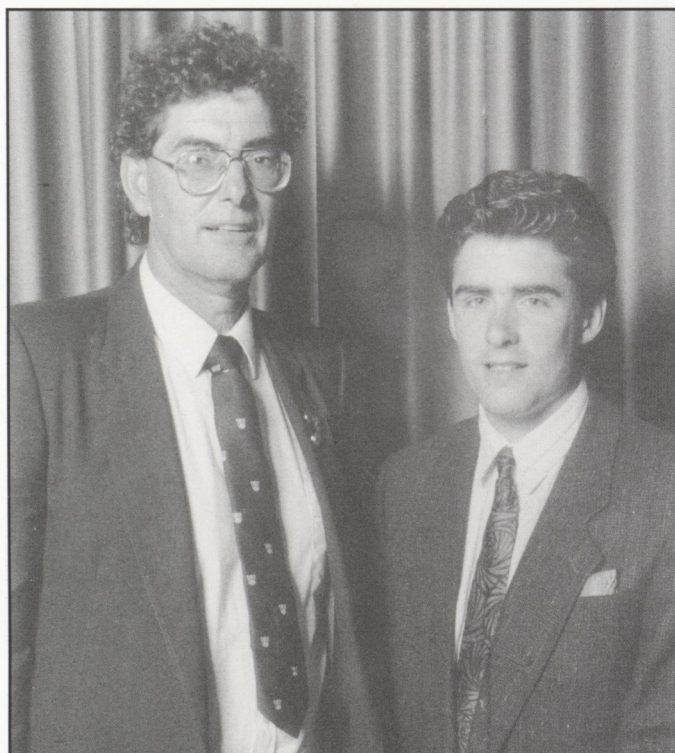
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# The way hair was

Can you Identify the people in this picture? Answers on page 29



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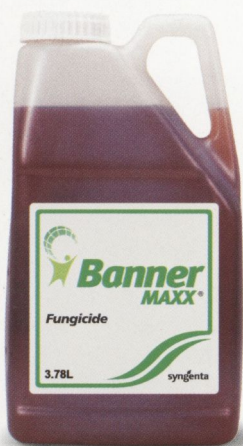
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# Off the fairway ...

## Natural Areas



by Daisy Moore

Natural areas on the golf course can be an asset to the landscape rather than a weedy liability. These areas are often vast on golf course properties and include a lot of the land outside the areas of play, off the fairway if you will.

Sometimes it is a meadow-like area, sometimes it is a line or colony of trees and sometimes it might even be a woods. No matter what the habitat, they offer unique challenges on what to do to and

how to re-vitalize them so that they provide beauty to the surroundings, effortlessly of course.

Transitional zones are those areas that are adjacent to cultivated areas and have been effected and altered in some way during construction or the management process. Weeds have moved in or will move in since these areas are typically untended due to lack of time or funds. Native plants and desirable species have been overwhelmed by aggressive weeds. So, how do we manage these spaces to not only improve their appearance but to also contribute to the restoration of healthy plant communities, critical in this time of climate change. Weedy areas are a source of seed that spread to the cultivated areas. Nobody wants to deal with thistle or wild carrot in their fairways or clubhouse grounds. Weeds are also an eyesore and spell neglect. Rather, these areas could be a source of colour and beauty and an invitation to pollinators and butterflies alike to alight onto the property. Native Ontario prairie plants, meadow plants and woodland species will happily make a home for themselves in natural areas if re-introduced to suitable surroundings. First things first though and we have to get rid of the thugs that muscle everything else out.

I have been working on such a project this season at Lambton Golf Club. Peter Kinch, the golf course superintendent, contacted me in October of last year and asked me to tackle some of the high-profile natural areas on the golf course. We narrowed it down to the bank behind the 6th green; a par 5 nestled into the lower valley of the Humber River watershed. #12 at Augusta was the desire or that idea anyway, only not just in the spring but all of the time. My proposal was to plant representatives of regional and southern Ontario flora to demonstrate the beauty and diversity of our local plants. These plants would be suitable to the site and an attempt at restoring some of what used to grow there, before it was a golf course. At the same time it is imperative to have the area look pretty during the golfing season and not to affect play.

Research is the first thing to do when proceeding with a restoration/revitalization project. I contacted the Humber River conservation authority to ask for clues as to what indigenous plants reside there and what plants might be appropriate for the region. I was quickly warned that there were rare species and unique habitats on site so should do a full biological inventory before proceeding. Point taken but they were very little help in providing me with what I sought, which was a plant list. In all due respect though, over the course of the project so far we have indeed discovered some unique habitats, some classic local stands of trillium and trout lilies and pockets of indigenous flora that have withstood the onslaught of dumped clippings, deer, weed-eaters and meandering

golfers. This has given us clues about what else could survive under the growing conditions and helped to identify the habitat so that a plant list could be developed. In the case of #6 at Lambton the site is a north facing slope that measures 120 feet by 45 feet. There are several large deciduous trees casting further shade and competing for moisture. A natural stream trickles out of the bank making more than a third of the area not only moist but wet. The section unaffected by the natural stream is dry and on a very steep slope. A small portion of the area at the crest of the slope is sunny and dry, and a small region near the middle is partial shade with moderate moisture conditions.

As part of the planning I first made a plant list of native species that will grow under the given conditions. I then organized the plants into a list of showiness for each season, spring, summer and fall and noted the size and growth-habit of the plants. The final job was and is to put the right ones together in the right areas so that they serve the objective.

In order for these native beauties to survive and prosper, the existing weeds have to be controlled. In the early spring, garlic mustard showed its ugly head and was removed from the site. This persistent weed is an annual that can be kept in check by physically removing the plant and by ensuring that nearby plants are either removed or prevented from going to seed. The same could be said for other common weeds that spread by seed. A little later in the spring the problematic perennial weeds emerged, requiring substantially more effort to remove. Perennial thistle has been one of the main concerns and can only be removed by digging out all of the extensive root system, spraying with round-up or a bit of both. At the Lambton project, perennial thistle had taken over a giant swath and seemed to be either brought in or at least encouraged by the heaps of mulch that had been added over the years, probably in an attempt to bury the eyesore. The other major weed problem we came upon is little known yet outside of the Toronto region and that is Dog Strangling Vine (DSV). We discovered that the steep bank was essentially being held in place by the extensive network of roots and that the existing trees and shrubs were being overwhelmed and strangled by the vine. We approached this problem by pulling out the roots at the crest of the hill and attempting to get some of the desirable species to take hold. The rest, we have sprayed with round-up, twice so far, and plan on continuing to spot spray until the vine is kept in check. At the same time, we need to plant new species to hold the bank in place. During the course of the project so far, brush has been cleared out, weed trees removed and desirable shrubs and trees have been pruned into shape and to allow more filtered sunlight through.

We have learned that nature does not give up easily and to change the plant community from a weedy eyesore to a "tapestry of colour and beauty" is going to take some time. So far so good though and as Peter has stated, the members are thrilled with what is going on and are all very excited about how good it looks already and how much better it will become as the native plants begin to prosper.

*Daisy Moore is a horticulturist. She plans and plants landscapes and gardens throughout the GTA.*

*She is the host of the radio program, "The Gardening Show" Saturdays 1-2:00 on am570.*





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# Looking back

## 25 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The directors of the OGSA in 1982 were as follows: **Bob Brewster** (pres.), **Rusty Warkman** (vice), **Ken Nelson** (past pres.), **Al Draper**, **Barry Endicott** (editor), **Bill Fach**, **Doug Hoskins**, **John Hutchinson**, **Bob Kennedy**, **Hugh Kirkpatrick**, **Paul Scenna** and **Tom Simpson**.

The CGSA's 33rd Annual Turfgrass Conference and Show was held from March 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> at the Constellation Hotel. The GCSAA's International Turfgrass Conference and Show was held in New Orleans from January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>. **Jim Wyllie** was elected as the GCSAA President.

The 1982 OGSA Management Symposium was held at the University of Guelph on January 5, with 120 turfgrass growers in attendance. We heard presentations from the following superintendents: **Stewart Mills**, **Doug Rothwell**, **Gord Witteveen**, **Hugh Kirkpatrick** and **Bill Hynd**.

New Members: **Bill Kelly**, Peel Village GC; **David Wray**, Nanticoke GC; **Al Stoyles**, Fanshaw GC; **Ron Heesen**, Board of Trade CC; **Tom Murphy**, Lambton GC; **John Allen**, Thornhill CC; **Michael Van Beck**, Glen Abbey GC; **Ben Harders**, Saugeen GC; **Keith Wills**, Mt. Elgin GC; **Stan Steip**, Preston Sand and Gravel; **Garry Hall**, Six Foot Bay GC; **Warren Vout**, Whitevale GC; **Paul Brown**, Oshawa GC; **Mike Donahue**, J.L. Donahue Contracting; **William Stevens**, Lynn Meadows GC; **Len Coward**, Glen Lawrence GC; **Ted Bouwhuis**, Brockville CC; **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst GC; **Wayne Hall**, Confederation CC; **Douglas Wood**, Douglas Wood Large Tree Sales Ltd.; **R. Sheard**, University of Guelph; **Stephen Verral**, Cataragui CC; **Jim Honey**, Warkworth GC; **Alex LaBelle**, Midland GC; **David Gourlay**, Hamilton GC; **Norm McCollum**, University of Guelph; **Bob Rivard** and **Mike Kahn**, Liftlock Golfand; **John Gall**, Sault Ste. Marie GC; **Steven Raymer**, Newcastle GC. and **Bob Harwood**, Westmount CC. Our membership totals were 159 Superintendents, 37 Associates, 12 Class F - assistants and 2 Class DD.

Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. was pleased to welcome Ontario Turf Equipment Co. Ltd. as a new Jacobsen distributor. **Bob Corbin** was retired after 17 years as superintendent at Cataragui Golf and Country Club. **Bob** had been in the business for 22 years, getting his start at the St. Catharine's GC. The following superintendents were on the move: **Warren Vout** to Whitevale GC; **Doug Rothwell** to the Royal Ottawa GC; **Dave Moote** to Cypress Lakes, Ft. Myers; **Bud Hooper** to Coral Springs, Ft. Lauderdale and **Steve Verrall** to Cataragui. The OGSA welcomed **Lee Burpee** to the staff of the University of Guelph.

Thirty nine members attended a meeting at North Halton G&CC hosted by **Al Beeney**, on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Curling followed the meeting and the team of **Neil Acton**, **Bill Fach**, **Bernie MacDonald** and **Tom Murphy** were the winners. There was a spring OGSA/WOGA joint meeting

at the Whirlpool GC, hosted by **Bill Glashan**. Low gross superintendent was **Hugh Kirkpatrick** with a 77 and low net was **Bill Glashan**. Twenty-four superintendents and guests teed it up at Dominion GC. hosted by **Dan Uzelac** with the Ontario Superintendents team of **Dan Ardley**, 34; **Paul Scenna**, 37; **Rick Cylka**, 39 and **Bruce Vollett**, 41, winning with a total of 151. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Galt Field Day and Cambridge Turf Plots Day was held. Participants from the University of Guelph were **Bob Sheard**, **Jack Eggens**, **Lee Burpee**, **Bob Hall**, **Dennis Muir** and **Andrea McTear**. **Andi Bertoni** was the evening guest speaker. **Bill Bowen** was low gross with a 72 and **Keith Nisbet** was low net with a 64. **David Gourlay** was low assistant with a 72. There was a Western Ontario meeting held at Greenhills on July 16<sup>th</sup> with **Graham Shouldice** winning low gross.

The OGSA No-Stars took to the ice every Monday afternoon. It featured such stars as **Bob** (He Chops... He Scores) **Brewster**, Long **John Smith**, **Ken** (Mr. Puck Control) **Wright**, **Blake** (We're winning by one) **McMaster**, **Bob Boom Boom Heron**, **Barry** (One on One on One on One...) **Endicott**, **Paul** (call me Dionne) **Dermott**, **Bob** (Mr. Dress-up) **Cherry**, **Joe** (Rib Cake) **Allen**, **Brent** (Flash) **McCaffrey**, **Rompin' Ronnie Craig**, **Bob** (Golden Wheels) **Golden**, **Dave** (Done like dinner) **Dick**, **Gar Vasey**, **Ben Kern**, **Ken Quiggan**, **Kevin Brown**, the **Hayhoe Brothers** and **Brusin' Brucie Calhoun**.

The President, Green Chairman, Superintendent Tournament was held at the London Hunt & CC, hosted by **John Bennett**. The team from Beaverdale led by **Bob Labette** won the tournament with London Hunt, **John Bennett** second and The Bay of Quinte, **Shorty Jenkins** coming in third.

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Tournament was held at the National Golf Club and the barbecue at the Board of Trade Country Club with \$7,500 donated to turfgrass research. Low net was **Bob Ogilvie** and low gross was **Russ Howard**.

At the annual meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>, regionalization was passed and approved. The following awards were presented: Honorary Members; **James Boyce** and **Andy Bertoni**, Life Members; **Whitey Jones** and **Rene Muylaert** and the President's Award **Keith Nisbet** and **Jim Wyllie**. The golf winners were: low gross, **Hugh Kirkpatrick**; low net, **Blake McMaster** and low guest, **Bruce Calhoun**.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the annual Christmas party was held at the Galt CC, hosted by **Paul** and **Dianne Scenna**.

Canada won the 4<sup>th</sup> International Greenkeepers Golf Tournament held at the Ipswich GC. in England on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Members of the team were: **Steve Miller**, Burlington; **Bob Heron**, Mississauga; **Doug Meyer**, Cedar Brook; **Lockie Shaw**, Calgary and **Tom Kenyon**, Southern Pines.

The way hair was... answer from page 23, **Norm McCollum** and **John Gravett**



# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North Properties

## Home Alone

I'm living like a bachelor this week. Krista took the kids, the reliable truck, all of the disposable income, and drove to visit some friends in Prince Edward Island. After years of turning down such invitations, since *Doug just can't get away this time of year*, she finally decided that she really didn't care whether I could get away or not, and they buggered off without me. Just add it to the ever growing list of things that she no longer needs me for. Actually, when she called to say that they'd arrived safely, she announced that the drive went much quicker without me, as they didn't have to stop and read every historic plaque along the way. They passed a sign that said *World's Longest Covered Bridge*, and they just kept going. They didn't stop at Magnetic Hill, or watch the Bay of Fundy make that waterfall run backwards. They just drove to their destination. What kind of a road trip is that?

When she left, I said that if I got lonely, I'd get a replacement wife to move in for the week. I often say these kinds of things, just to keep her on her toes, and make her realize how lucky she is to have me. She said that it would be fine, as long as she did some laundry and tidied the place up while she was there. If she does windows, she could even stay on after the family gets back. "Go ahead," she said, "Get the best one you can, and we'll see what your present market value is." It was very emasculating.

Of course, I really have no interest in finding out exactly how poor my present market value is, I only want to do the things every other husband wants to do when the wife and kids aren't around – live like I'm twenty. Except for work, I haven't worn pants for days. I leave drinks all over the house, and haven't used a coaster once. I let the dog drink out of the toilet. Actually, I'm encouraging it, so that I don't have to fill his water bowl. I cut the bag of dog food open, and left it on the kitchen floor. Now he's a free range canine. I had a panzarotti for lunch two days ago, and the box is still on the coffee table. I'm using it as a plate, so that I don't have to do any dishes. I'll just throw it out before she gets home. On Saturday I watched two football games back to back without anyone mentioning that the porch needs painting. I also watched *Braveheart*, half of *Fargo*, and a *Cheech and Chong* movie. My guitar is in the bed, just in case I wake up inspired to play it in the middle of the night. I golf every day, and never check the messages on the answering machine. This morning I ate a hot dog for breakfast. It's pretty sweet.



Tomorrow after work, I'm meeting some guys in a bar for dinner, going to see a movie where many people will be shot, crushed, and generally maimed by Bruce Willis, and then out to another bar to watch a football game from the west. I'm eating ice cream right out of the box as I type this, and the dog is licking up the spoonful that I just dropped onto the carpet. Tonight, I had a very large steak and played golf with Tiger Woods on my neighbour's new Nintendo Wii for about five hours. *His* wife is home, so eventually she threw me out. He was very jealous, especially when I told him about Sunday morning, when I bought a chocolate pie and ate the whole thing on my porch, while watching every other guy on the street getting dragged to Ikea or some antique store. He went looking at new curtains – I ate a chocolate pie on the porch in my boxers.

Now I know that this all sounds like heaven on earth, and it pretty much is, but I wouldn't be entirely honest if I didn't admit that there are some drawbacks. I'm almost out of clean clothes (well, except for pants), and if I don't eat a vegetable soon I'm probably going to get scurvy. I've also gained about two pounds per day since the family left. I'm not sure what the long term implications of letting the dog return to it's feral state will be, and sooner or later someone will have to deal with whatever is on that answering machine. I guess our box at the Post Office will fill up at some point too. Either way, they'll be back in a couple of days and I'll have to go back to living like a grown up again. And wearing pants.






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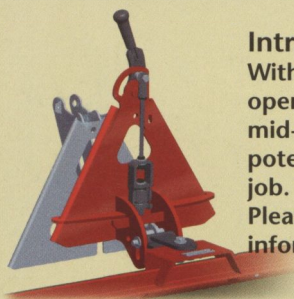
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