

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

December 2007

DEC 1 2007

SEE YOU AT THE CONFERENCE

Inside this Issue...

OGSA End of Season Tournaments

Turfgrass Diploma Program Update

Superintendents Recognition Program

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President's message

As the end of 2007 draws near, it is hard to believe that my tenure as the OGSA president is almost complete. It has been a great honour to serve as your president, and I have absolutely no doubt that your new president and board will serve with the best interest of the association in mind. My last eight years on the board has been a great learning experience and I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of great people. The industry has also changed dramatically and the OGSA has done its part in keeping up with challenges and trends.

We feel very fortunate that our membership has grown by 40% over the last eight years. On average we receive almost forty eight new applications for membership each year. The services and education we provide have also grown at an impressive rate. We continue to offer our membership affordable and diverse educational opportunities through the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show and our recently launched webcast seminars. Our award winning publication, *Green is Beautiful* continues to remain strong.

Since its inception, the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show has become the largest regional association show in Canada. This year's education portion is very strong and we look forward to seeing you all in January. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our members and suppliers for their ongoing support in making our conference as successful as it has become.

The Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association is financially sound due to our increasing membership, conference, financial investment portfolio, and well attended golf events. We have made responsible, financial decisions with respect to our operations, conferences, programs and services. Our investment portfolio will provide funding for programs such as research, environmental advocacy, scholarships, and opportunity/emergency funds. In the mean time, these long term investments continue to gain interest. Based on our long term strategic plan, surplus funds are re-invested into these four designated accounts to ensure funding for these initiatives and secure the financial future of our association.

Our association has also been very involved and supports environmental initiatives such as Integrated Pest Management, Source Water Protection, Nutrient Management, and Government Relations. It continues to play an integral role in environmental lobbying, ensuring that the superintendent's point of view is represented, and keeping our membership up-to-date on their requirements and obligations. Our board strategic planning sessions have facilitated us in fulfilling the OGSA vision to be recognized as a leading authority in golf course management, professional development and environmental stewardship.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of the OGSA directors and staff for the help during the last eight years. As you know being a director of our association is a volunteer position and it does take time away from both your professional and personal life. These dedicated individuals do it for no reason other than the love of their profession. And, on behalf of all of our members, I would like to extend many thanks to Dorothy Hills, Deborah Badger, and Patricia Thomas.

I would like to thank you, the membership, for your support and as always welcome your feedback. I look forward to seeing you at our OGCM conference and trade show in the new year.



by Sean DeSilva,
Coppinwood Golf Club



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The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

*Photo by Daryl Jantzen
at Lake Joseph Golf Club*

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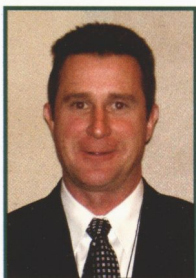
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Editorial message



by Chris Andrejicka
Co-Editor

As the 2007 golf season comes to an end, I would like to thank all those who contributed to making *Green is Beautiful* the great publication that it is. To the contributors of articles, advertisers and the OGSA office staff who spend hours preparing and creating such a fine magazine, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I would like to remind everyone to make sure you register soon for the upcoming Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show from January 16th - 18th at the Sheraton Centre, in Toronto. This year's show looks to build on past years success.


This issue presents a course highlight on Watson's Glen Golf Course in Pickering, where Peter Lucas is the course superintendent. The member profile features our incoming OGSA President, Jeff Stauffer from Credit Valley Golf & Country Club.

Regular contributor, Daisy Moore reflects on how 2007

was a great year for growing turfgrass but a tough year for gardens. For the future health of both she hopes for a wet December and a cold winter, resulting in something more predictable to work with this coming spring. Eric Lyons, Katerina Jordan and Rob Witherspoon combine their thoughts to bring us an update on the Turfgrass Diploma Program. You will also see a great collage of photos taken of superintendents who received recognition for hosting provincially significant tournaments during the 2007 season.

I would like to encourage as many superintendents to respond to the survey regarding the Economic Profile on the Ontario Turfgrass Industry, conducted by the OTRF and the University of Guelph. Please refer to the advertisement contained in this issue for details and the link to the on line survey.

In closing I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Let's look forward to a good winter's rest for both our courses and for us as superintendents to be refreshed and excited about the upcoming 2008 season.



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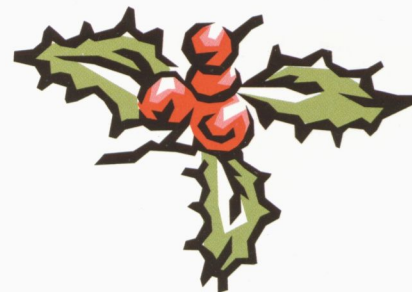
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What's new

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.



ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2006-2007 REPORTS

The following is a list of the OGSA reports, required for the Annual General Meeting, which are now available on line.

Meeting to be held on January 17, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

- Director Election Notice
- End of Year Audited Financial Statements for period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.
- End of Year Director Portfolio Reports
- Minutes from AGM January 18, 2007

According to our bi-law these reports can be accessed, as soon as they are available, on our website www.golfsupers.on.ca. Log into the Members Only section and go to "Member News".

The package can also be viewed at our offices:
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Welcome!

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

Patrick Thomas Brennan

Fox Golf Club Class A

Brad Hutchinson

Warkworth Golf Club Class A

John Kilworth

Credit Valley Golf & CC Class F

Jeff Lockhart

Burlington Golf & CC Class C

Paul Marley

Thornhill Country Club Class S

Dave Newey

Country Lane Golf Course Class F

Blair Snowden

University of Guelph Class S

Dan Stockdale

Frog's Breath Golf Club Class C

Jeff Thow

Cardinal Golf Club Class C

Aaron Weinberg

University of Guelph Class S

Rob Williamson

Remington Parkview G&CC Class C

Tyler Windfield

Black Diamond Golf Club Class F

Kyle Young

University of Guelph Class S

Welcome back to

Sean McIvor

Burlington Golf & CC Class C

WEBCAST SUCCESS STORY

OGSA hosted their first webcast presentation on November 7th at three different locations throughout Ontario. This was a free education opportunity for members and their staff to attend a pre-recorded webcast on **Green Speed and the Law of Diminishing Returns** by Tom Nikolai, Ph.D from Michigan State University.

Approximately 70 people braved the nasty weather to take in the webcast, network with their colleagues and participate in some lively discussion. This was also an opportunity to earn education points, for those working on certification.

Due to the success of this inaugural education experience, plans are afoot to present another webcast in the new year.

Antique alley



David Stevens, Superintendent and Owner, Beaverbrook Golf Course, Minden, Ontario

This 1941 Jeep Model MB was purchased in 1946 in Parry Sound by David's dad. It was used to cut fairways and later to spray greens. It is still operable.

The tractor in the background is a 1950 Model 25 Massey Harris, which no longer works.

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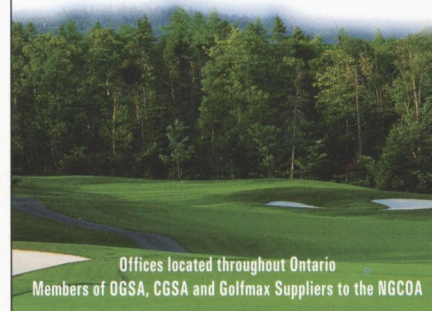


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From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

There are just a few problems to note that are occurring at the moment. European chafer and Japanese beetle grubs are widespread and causing lots of turf damage at the moment. With the very late onset of the fall rains – as late as October – the dormant turf didn't have a good chance to come out

of dormancy, recover and establish good roots before the major flush of root feeding by the grubs began. The result is turf loss and of course the secondary damage caused by all the birds, skunks and raccoons feeding for grubs. As you may guess, these predators do a good job of what I call biological control because they can eat a lot of grubs.

Another problem that has been identified is *Tipula oleracea* or common crane fly larvae. This species of leatherjackets starts developing in the summer and are feeding pretty heavily at the moment and causing turf damage on golf course putting greens. The damage looks very similar to black cutworm damage. However, if you do

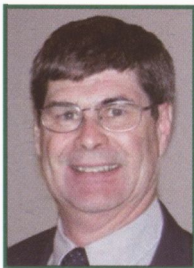
a soap flush, no caterpillars emerge. If you take a cup cutter sample and start digging around, one or two cm down you find the medium sized leatherjackets. These leatherjackets will continue to feed through out the fall and even throughout the winter, under the snow. They will pupate in late April and beginning of May and the adults can be seen flying around during the month of May. We are not sure how big an infestation of common crane fly larvae there are in Ontario. If you do find some leatherjacket damage now or first thing in the spring, I would really appreciate hearing from you so that we can confirm where in Ontario this species is currently found. I can be reached by email at pamela.charbonneau@ontario.ca

This time of year is when the various commodity research groups meet to determine which new pesticides should be included in the OMAFRA publications. The 2007 Submissions to OMAFRA Pub. 384 Turfgrass Management Recommendations are summarized in Table 1 below. Please refer to the pesticide label for rate, timing and precautions.

TABLE 1. THE 2007 SUBMISSIONS TO OMAFRA PUB. 384 TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

TRADE NAME/CHEMICAL NAME	REGISTRANT	CROP	PEST
SARRITOR	SARRITOR	COMMERCIAL LAWNS, GOLF COURSE, MUNICIPAL PARKS AND TURF FARMS	DANDELION SUPPRESSION
FOSETYL AL/CHIPCO ALIETTE SIGNATURE FUNGICIDE	BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	TURF	BENTGRASS DEAD SPOT
AZOXYSTROBIN/HERITAGE AND HERITAGE MAXX FUNGICIDE	SYNGENTA/ENGAGE AGRO	TURFGRASS FOR GOLF COURSES AND COMMERCIAL TURF FARMS	SUPPRESSION OF TAKE-ALL PATCH
DELTAMETHRIN/DELTA GARD INSECTICIDE	BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	TURF (INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL LAWNS, GOLF COURSES, SOD FARMS AND OTHER TURF AREAS)	CHINCH BUGS, SOD WEBWORM, CUTWORM, ANTS
IMIDACLOPRID/MERIT 0.5G INSECTICIDE	BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	TURFGRASS INCLUDING SOD FARMS	SUPPRESSION OF EUROPEAN CRANE FLY LARVAE (LEATHERJACKETS)

Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
SAFETAID - Health and
Safety Consulting

As our population ages we see more seniors looking for part time work outside their past vocation. We see more seniors working in the golf course industry. These folks are working for a few reasons. Some for the joy of it. Others to enjoy a little golf! And others to augment their income.

Hiring seniors is a positive experience, as generally these folks bring a world of experience to your club and are reliable happy people. Having seniors around should facilitate the training and mentoring that you require for your younger workers. This is a win-win arrangement. So are there any issues with hiring seniors to work at your club? Well, possibly there are.

As folks get older there are concerns that many people have addressed. They generally have to do with the health and agility of the senior workers. Employers must be cognizant of the abilities and limitations of this demographic.

It is important to be aware of their individual health issues; their ability to work at the same rate as their younger counterparts. Their reflex time and their ability to be aware of their surroundings. As much as seniors like to think that age does not affect their responses the opposite is true. Their ability to react to situations may be restricted by their speed of response and their strength. It is important to ensure that your senior workers are monitored to ensure that they are not working beyond their capabilities.

Some seniors believe that they can compete as they did in their younger years. This can put undue stress on their bodies and it is not unusual for seniors to hide this stress. Physical stress can manifest itself in many ways. One of these is with respect to heart problems.

Heart problems are often hidden or masked as the senior does not want to be seen as weak or incapable. This is a dangerous mix. If you are not aware of the limitations of your senior workforce you may inadvertently put a worker at risk by asking the workers to complete a task that is beyond his or her capabilities. We often think that this is just an issue with young workers. Well it is a similar concern with senior workers. Seniors want to prove they are still able to produce. The most vulnerable are those seniors who depend on the extra income to support their life style. They may not be able to afford to lose the job and as a consequence will attempt to keep their limitations hidden from you and their coworkers. This is a recipe for a potential disaster.

No one wants to have a worker injured at the workplace and no one wants to lose a worker because they have hidden an ailment that causes them injury or possibly death.

So it is important that you have clear policies in place that encourage your workers, senior or otherwise to discuss their potential limitations and assist you in making their workplace as safe as possible. Watch for shortness of breath, undue perspiring, holding the chest or rubbing the left arm! Make it a point to know your workers and their limitations and encourage your workers to discuss any health issues with you to ensure that you are kept in the know to the best of your ability. It really does make good sense!

Have a great holiday season!

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ASSISTANTS TOURNAMENT

Photos & article by Colin Young, Assistant Superintendent
Beacon Hall Golf Club

On September 25th, The Briars Golf club hosted our 6th Annual Assistant's Tournament. The entire day was a success, and despite a few drops of rain, the day went smoothly and was enjoyed by everyone.

The Briars staff did an excellent job hosting the event. It was a real pleasure working with the entire Briar's staff, who did an excellent job of hosting the event. Both the lunch and dinner, prepared by Melinda Kowalek's kitchen team was superb!

The pro shop staff led by Brad Johnson did an excellent job with our scoring and helped us tremendously with the prize table, facilitating our winners by keeping the pro shop open after hours.

Undoubtedly, we give thanks to the greens department led by Superintendent, Paul White and Assistant Superintendent, Ron Biggs. The golf course was in great condition despite the tough season we endured.

This year, we introduced the 4-person scramble using each player's tee shot at least 3 times. We felt with assistants not being able to play often and their golfing skills neglected due to their busy schedules that a scramble would relieve them from some of the pressure involved in the competition of the tournament. This format proved to be successful and was appreciated by everyone.



John Bladon represented our Platinum Sponsor, Agrium Advanced Technologies and presented the winning team with the Champions trophy. The winning team with a stellar score of 60; 11 under par was (L - R) Andre Sabbagh from Lambton Golf & CC, Stafford Smith from Westview Golf Club, Mark Scenna from Turf Care Products and Jeff Eichenberger from Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay.

The prize table was excellent, thanks to our sponsors, suppliers and people in the industry who generously donated. All 104 participants walked away with something. Without sponsorship this event could not

have taken place. The support this year was amazing, and we thank everyone who participated in this great event.

It was a pleasure helping organize this great event with Graeme Calder, Assistant Superintendent at the Cutten Club and of course Dorothy Hills from the OGSA. Neil Tanden, Assistant Superintendent at Weston Golf and Country Club, who has helped organize this event since the inaugural tournament in 2002, was also a great help. I would like to thank Vanden Bussche Irrigation for supplying us with bottled water as well as a prize donation, and Ontario Seed Co., Nu-Gro Golf, Engage Agro Corporation and Bayer Environmental Science for their prize donations.

Our sponsors were very generous, prizes were plentiful and we had a wonderful host. This tournament represents how great our industry is and I am very proud to be a part of it. I hope to see you all again next year.

THANKS!

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62nd ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Article and Photos by Dorothy Hills, OGSA

Those fortunate enough to play in the 62nd McClumpha tournament, were treated to a glorious autumn day of golf and camaraderie, under clear, sunny skies. As I arrived early to set up for registration I was treated to the sight of a coyote leisurely making its way across the fairway, just the beginning of a wonderful day.

Designed by Stanley Thompson, Canada's most famous golf course architect, the Peterborough Golf & Country Club course has always remained ahead of its time in both concept and design. In addition to his skill in course design, Stanley Thompson was an avid golfer and he holds the original course record at the club. As Peterborough's only private golf course, its challenging layout has been host to numerous prestigious amateur and professional events through the centuries. Set alongside the Trent Canal, the club's continuous upgrading adds to the already challenging play. We were truly privileged to have Peterborough Golf & Country Club host our event.

After a glorious day on the course, we gathered for a social time on the deck in the warmth of the afternoon sun to share our glory stories, then proceeded to the dining room for a wonderful meal. Thanks to all the staff at the club, from the pro shop, kitchen administration and the grounds crew our final event of the year was a resounding success. What a way to wrap up the season!

Everyone was a winner that day, but the following individuals walked away with the prizes.

Flight A

Low gross - Gary Stadnek - 79

(winner was decided by retrogression)

Low net - Jason Griffiths - 66

Longest drive - Gary Stadnek -

Leaf tickets donated NGF Golf, a division of Northgate Farms
Closet to the pin - Phil Scully

Flight B

Low gross - Gord Sommerville - 78

(winner was decided by retrogression)

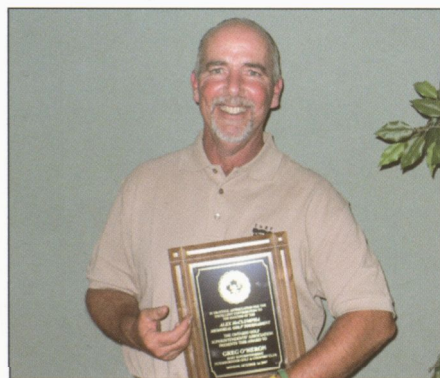
Low net - Corrie Almack - 68

Longest drive - Darren Hancocks

Closest to the pin - Hal Schrader

Syngenta Longest drive winner - 304 yards - Gary Stadnek

Winner of \$500 future shop gift certificate - Gary Stadnek



Greg O'Heron receives the Host Superintendent Plaque



Mark Scenna from Turf Care Products presents Bill Gilkes with the George Darou Trophy. Superintendent over 50 with low gross (Bill had an 81)



Gary Stadnek congratulated by Jennifer Pendrith. Flight A low gross winner with a 79 (decided by retrogression)

Thanks!

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Member profile

Interview with Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

by Jason Hanna, Assistant Superintendent
Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

It has been said that the most successful people tend to pursue opportunities. They set a goal and will do "whatever it takes" to achieve it.

At 10 years old Jeff Stauffer began to work at a golf course and a few short years later, knew he wanted to be a golf course superintendent when he grew up. Working for his uncle at Ayren Links Golf Club outside of Oshawa, Jeff did practically every job on the golf course, from raking bunkers to mowing fairways with gang mowers.

When Jeff entered high-school, he tailored his studies to help him gain enrollment into university to study turf science. He was accepted to the University of Guelph, where he studied the science of turf management and throughout his two-years continued to work on the golf course as the second assistant at the Oshawa Golf Club. Jeff gained the right mix of practical and educational experience to grow his love for the business and improve his resume for future success in the industry.

After graduation, He accepted a full-time position at Oshawa Golf Club as the assistant superintendent working for Ian Bowen. It was during these years working with Ian that Jeff realized the involvement and role of professional associations like the OGSA and the benefits offered by being a member.

In 1996, Jeff jumped at an opportunity to move to Credit Valley Golf Club as the assistant superintendent to work closely with John Gravett on a series of construction and course improvement projects and now states,

"Learning from two great individuals and specifically their approaches to course management left impressions and ideas that are carried with me today."

Three years later, Jeff's childhood goal was realized when he was promoted to Golf Course Superintendent.

As Jeff's career in turf evolved so too did his goals. He had set his sights on a new goal, to hold a position and actively participate on the OGSA board of directors and work his way towards the position of president. In January 2008 Jeff will fulfill another goal. When asked about his time with the OGSA, Jeff noted,

"During my time with the OGSA, I have had the privilege to sit on several committees and advisory boards ranging from the MOE to the GCSAA. I consider one of my greatest achievements to be part of the development of the IPM Accreditation Program, which continues to gain acceptance across the country in different areas where pesticide use is challenged."

As Jeff moves forward with enthusiasm into his tenth year as superintendent at Credit Valley and as the incoming OGSA president he hopes to achieve continued growth and representation of our great association. He believes it is a true honour to become the president of the OGSA and lead a superb group of individuals who have volunteered their time to participate on the board and address the many positive challenges facing the association.

What I am most interested to see is what Jeff will set his sights on next. If history tells us anything, Jeff Stauffer will continue setting and achieving new goals for years to come.



"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major:
- Best piece of turf equipment ever:
- Favourite architect:
- Ultimate foursome:
- Lowest round ever and where:
- Favourite meal:
- What's in your CD right now:
- What would you be if not a golf course superintendent:

Masters
Irrigation system software
Tom Fazio
Tiger, Nicklaus, Player
-6 (65) Ayren Links G.C.
Pork Tenderloin with spaghetti squash
INXS

Insurance Broker

Golf course highlight

Watson's Glen Golf Club

3430 7th Concession Road

Pickering ON L1Y 1C6

Website: www.watsonsglen.com

Golf Course Superintendent:

Peter Lucas

Email: turf@watsonsglen.com



18th Hole

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?

Durham Region

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

Public

Size of membership?

50 members

Number of rounds?

23,000

Typical opening and closing date

April 15 to November 15

Name of Superintendent

Peter Lucas

How long have you been a superintendent?

11 years

List other accomplishments

Past President Eastern Ontario GSA,
Past Vice-President Atlantic GSA,
CGSA Panel for development and
ratification for Standards of CGSA

How long have you been an OGSA member?

13 years

How many year round staff?

3

How many seasonal staff?

20

How many mechanics and assistants?

Equipment Manager: Richard Heffering
Assistant: Vanessa White

How many gardening staff?

2

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?

5211 yards from Red tees
5983 yards from White tees
6513 yards from Blue tees
7172 yards from Gold tees

What is the size and length of driving range and range tee?

8 acres, 350 yards, 10,000 ft² bent/rye tee

How many bunkers?

93

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?

11

Who was the original architect?

Kevin Holmes

What was the year of original construction?

2000

What type of irrigation system?

Rainbird Stratus 2

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

14,000 ft²

What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?

Greens: 4 acres
Tees: 5 acres
Fairways & Approaches: 40 acres
Rough: 45 acres
Fescue: 55 acres

What is your predominant grass?

Greens: Pennncross
Tees and Fairways: Penn Trio

How many USGA greens and loam greens?

19 California Sand Greens

What is the predominant soil type?

Clay Loam, imported topsoil

What equipment do you have in inventory?

2 Toro 5410 fwy units
1 Toro 5100 fwy unit
1 Jacobsen 3400 fwy unit
4 Toro 3150 triplexes
2 Toro 3000 triplexes
2 Toro 1000 walkers
1 Toro Sidewinder
1 Toro 5700D sprayer
1 Toro MP 3700 sprayer
1 Progressive rough unit
1 John Deere 3215 rough unit

2 Kubota tractors
1 Buffalo turbine blower
1 Giant Vac
12 midweight utility vehicles
1 Cushman Truckster
1 John Deere Pro Gator
1 John Deere tractor
1 John Deere Aercore 800 aerifier
2 GA-60 aerifiers
1 John Deere D750 Dozer
1 Dresser Dozer
1 Cat 29' excavator
2 bush hogs
1 Viking grader
1 Land Pride box grader
1 Land Pride multi seeder
Numerous small engine equipment

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
Expanded irrigation reservoir 33%

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?
Build clubhouse and all associated landscape
Pave cart paths
Build bench area paddocks
Drainage

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Almost entire site is open and windy.
Finding unique ways to accomplish cultivation practices necessary with a bent grass facility in and amongst public golf.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?
Bringing a young, immature course into an award winning facility on a daily play basis.
Fortunate to win reader and panel awards in value, design and playing conditions.

ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT

Sheraton Centre Toronto

EDUCATION POINTS

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Points

Preconference Seminar – January 16	0.7
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – Thursday	0.6
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – Friday.....	0.4

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Points

Pre-conference Seminar – January 16 th	7.0
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – Thursday	6.0
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show – Friday	5.5

Integrated Pest Management Points

Wednesday, January 16th - Pre-Conference Seminar

Shaded Growing Conditions' (4 hrs).....	4.8
Tree Inventories, Maintenance and the Politics of Trees (4 hrs)	4.8

Thursday, January 17th

Greens Reconstruction (1 hr).....	1.2
Putting Surface Management (1 hr).....	1.2
USGA Year in Review (1 hr)	1.2
Moss on the Golf Course (1 hr)	1.2
Research Update from GTI (1 hr)	1.2

Friday, January 18th

Foliar Nutrition (1 hr)	1.2
Reduced Pesticide Use (1 hr)	1.2

PRE-CONFERENCE SEMINAR

SPONSORED BY SYNGENTA CROP PROTECTION CANADA, INC.

Wednesday, January 16th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Civic Ballroom

Shaded Growing Conditions

Speaker – James H. Baird, Ph.D., Agronomist, NE region of the USGA Green Section

Tree Inventories, Tree Maintenance And The Politics of Trees

Speaker – Steven Mann, Bartlett Tree Experts Can. Ltd.

OPENING CEREMONIES and KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday, January 17th 8:30 a.m.

Grand Ballroom East

Stand Up to Your Challenges!, Speaker – Scott Burrows
Scott brings a powerful message that will inspire us to maximize our potential, turn our setbacks into comebacks and rise above the competition.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

SPONSORED BY NGF GOLF, A DIVISION OF NORTHGATE FARMS

Thursday, January 17th & Friday January 18th

OGSA AWARDS LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY AGRIUM ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Thursday, January 17th at 11:30 am

Grand Ballroom West

Let's celebrate the achievements of many of our peers. Come out and congratulate those who have earned special awards this year!

ENT CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

nto - January 16 -18 , 2008

TRADE SHOW SOCIAL HOUR

SPONSORED BY BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Thursday, January 17th 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

On The Trade Show Floor

OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, January 17th, 5:30 PM

Grand Ballroom East

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Thursday, January 17th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Civic Ballroom

Join us to meet your new Board of Directors and for a social time with your colleagues.

JOB BOARD

Looking for a job? Looking to Hire?

A board will be set up with category headings. Bring your Job Available postings to the conference and leave them at registration for posting on the board.

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Friday, January 18th beginning at 8:00 a.m.

This is a one day program that includes education program sessions designed specifically for the golf course equipment technician. In addition, time is provided in the program for the participants to attend the trade show to see new equipment and equipment changes, and discuss issues and ideas with our exhibitors.

Lunch is provided on the trade show floor.

Wind up the day with Dr. Rossi's closing talk on "Surface Management for Optimum Ball Roll".

HORTICULTURE PROGRAMS

Friday, January 18th beginning at 8:00 a.m.

This one day program will provide four hours of education time in program sessions designed specifically for the golf course horticulturist. In addition, there will be some dedicated time during the lunch break for participation to visit the trade show exhibits.

Lunch is provided on the trade show floor.

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Friday, January 18th 1:30 p.m.

PUTTING SURFACE MANAGEMENT FOR OPTIMUM BALL ROLL

SPEAKER – DR. FRANK ROSSI

Go to www.golfsupers.on.ca for full conference details and registration page



HE CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

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.



Thom Charters and Sean DeSilva



Jennifer Pendrith and Trevor Clapperton



Jeremy Geer and Drew Rachar



Dan McCaffrey and Chris Andrejicka



Bob McMenemy, GAO Director with Mark Fenton and Scott Jamieson



Brent Siekierzycki and Marc Brooks



Scott Dyker and Rob Gatto



Dave MacDonald and Doug Breen

The following superintendents were plaque recipients in 2007

Investors Group Championship Tournament

Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur Championship
Ontario Women's Amateur Championship
Ontario Amateur Championship
Ontario Junior Girls' Championship
Ontario Junior Boys' Championship
Ontario Senior Women's Amateur Championship
Ontario Senior Men's Amateur Championship
Ontario Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

Host Supt.

Trevor Clapperton
Jeremy Geer
Dan McCaffrey
Mark Fenton
Thom Charters
Brent Siekierzycki
Scott Dyker
Dave MacDonald

Golf Course

Dalewood Golf & Curling Club
Rocky Crest Golf Resort
Sutton Creek Golf & CC
The Links at Piper's Glen GC
Bayview Country Club
Owen Sound Golf & CC
Beverly Golf & Country Club
Stratford Country Club

Presenter

Jennifer Pendrith
Drew Rachar
Chris Andrejicka
Scott Jamieson
Sean DeSilva
Marc Brooks
Rob Gatto
Doug Breen

The way we were

Can you identify the people in this picture? Answers on page 24



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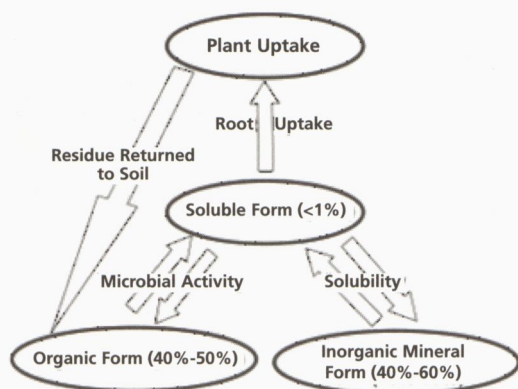
PHOSPHORUS & POTASSIUM, TWO ESSENTIAL TURF MACRONUTRIENTS

By Achille Correggia, B.Sc. (Agri.) Agronomy, A.Pag/CCA-ONT

Nutrients that are required for both the growth and development of turf are considered essential nutrients. A nutrient is considered essential if (a) in its absence turf is unable to complete a normal lifecycle, or (b) that element is part of essential plant function(s). Essential nutrients can be separated into two categories: (a) macronutrients and (b) micronutrients (also called trace elements). The distinction between the two categories simply indicates the difference in nutrient concentration within the turf tissue, with macronutrients being required in larger amounts than micronutrients. This difference does not represent the importance of one nutrient category over another as both categories are equally vital for healthy turf.

Two nutrients classified as macronutrients are phosphorus and potassium, the function and availability of both these macronutrients will be discussed in more detail.

Phosphorus



In order to manage soil phosphorus levels for economical turf management and environmental land stewardship turf managers must understand the different forms of phosphorus within the soil. Soil phosphorus can exist in three completely separate and different forms; soluble (1%), organic (40-50%) and inorganic (40-60%). These three different forms are in constant equilibrium with each other, meaning phosphorus is constantly moving from either a soluble or insoluble form within the soil. It is important to know that phosphorus only in its soluble form is available to turf.

With sufficient phosphorus levels the overall quality of turf is enhanced as phosphorus is involved in many fundamental processes including, photosynthesis, nitrogen fixation, protein and carbohydrate metabolism and most importantly root development. The table below provides ideal phosphorus levels for a proper fertilization program, this information can help determine if soils contain sufficient amounts of available phosphorus for proper turf development.

Optimum Phosphorous Range

Soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)			
0-6	7-15	16-25	26+
Parts per million			
56-93	44-83	34-55	24-43



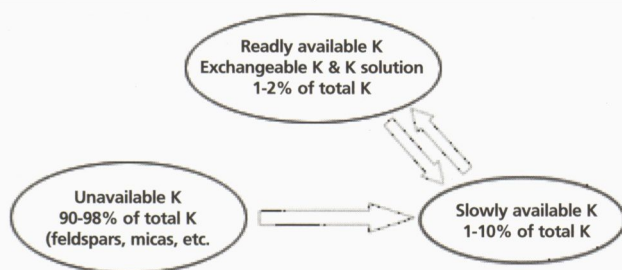
Figure 1. Median Bray P-1 equivalent soil test levels in ppm.

Soils that are lacking adequate amounts of phosphorus could result in turf showing signs of deficiencies, these signs can include; reductions in turf density and root growth, reddening or yellowing of leaf margins, death of mature leaves and poor seed development. Phosphorus deficiencies in turf can also be described as a dark green colour that progresses to a purplish to reddish purple colour in the older leaves; visually turf stands will appear wilted which may be confused with the onset of drought stress.

The availability of phosphorus to turf can be affected by numerous factors including soil moisture, soil temperature, fertilizer application, and soil clay content, but the primary factor in phosphorus availability is soil pH. Soil pH levels do not have a direct effect on phosphorus, but are an indicator on how certain minerals will interact with phosphorus in the soil; this interaction will affect the availability of soil phosphorus. Soils with a pH level less than 5.0 or higher than 7.0 will have reduced phosphorus availability. At pH levels lower than 5.0, phosphorus will react with high levels of iron and aluminum, creating iron or aluminum phosphate minerals. Soil with a pH level higher than 7.0 has a high concentration of calcium which will react with phosphorus, producing unavailable calcium phosphate.

A possible solution to correcting low or high pH soils is the addition of lime to acidic soils with a pH lower than 5.0 and elemental sulphur to basic soils that are well above a pH of 7.0. The amount of lime that needs to be applied to an acidic soil can be easily calculated from the soil's buffer pH and the limestone's agricultural index (A.I.). The addition of sulphur on the other hand to basic soil is somewhat more difficult to predict and correct. A typical soil can contain anywhere from one to five percent lime. At the five percent level, the top three inches of soil can contain up to 25 tonnes of lime. These higher calcium levels may require an application of up to eight tonnes of elemental sulphur to amend this pH problem, not a practical solution for established turf. These high sulphur rates would need to be applied prior to turf establishment, which make soil testing prior to turf establishment so vital in correcting any soil problems. On established turf no more than 5 pounds of elemental sulphur per 1000 ft² should be applied in one application.

Potassium



After nitrogen and phosphorus, potassium is the third most likely essential nutrient to limit plant productivity. Many soils are rich in potassium although only one to two percent of soil potassium is readily available for turf uptake. The remaining potassium is stored in two different forms known as slowly available and relatively unavailable. Slowly available potassium typically constitutes one to ten percent of the potassium in a soil profile while the remaining ninety to ninety-eight percent is relatively unavailable.

Correct potassium levels are vital for chlorophyll, protein and starch production, turf movement (stomata opening & closing), as well as turf respiration. Potassium is especially important in helping turf adapt to environmental stresses. Good potassium nutrition is linked to improved drought tolerance, enhanced winter hardiness, better resistance to certain fungal diseases, and greater tolerance to insect pests.



Figure 2. Median ammonium acetate equivalent soil test K levels in ppm.

A deficiency in potassium will typically begin in older leaves as chlorosis, followed by necrotic lesions (spots of dead tissue) at the leaf margins. The most common causes of potassium deficiencies are under fertilization, restricted root growth from soil compaction (potassium uptake is through root interception) and low cation exchange capacity on constructed sand soils. Sandy soils have minute amounts of clay and organic matter, resulting in very few exchange sites. Potassium, as all other cations are subjected to rapid leaching from sand based low organic matter soils. In these types of soils it is better to maintain lower K values and apply K fertilizers with multiple applications annually. The table below provides ideal potassium concentrations for environmentally and economically sound potassium fertilization programs. Based on the information below, turf managers can determine if their soils contain adequate amounts of potassium for proper turf development.

Optimum Potassium Range

The uptake of potassium by turfgrass is often quite large. Turfgrass will typically absorb far more potassium than is required for proper turf development if sufficiently large quantities of potassium are

Soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)			
0-6	7-15	16-25	26+
Parts per million			
91-180	121-240	121-240	201-400

present within the soil. This tendency for excessive uptake is called luxury consumption because the excess potassium absorbed does not increase turf quality. This excessive uptake of potassium by turfgrass is stored in the blades of the plant; the removal of grass blades from the area through mowing will also remove this collected potassium. On average 3 to 4 lbs of K/1000 ft² are removed annually when clippings are exported from a mown site. The combination of turf's tendency to over consume large quantities of potassium combined with the removal of grass clippings during mowing may potentially lead to potassium deficiencies within the soil, eventually affecting the health of turfgrass.

What does this mean to a turf manager?

Turf managers need to consider several factors when reviewing test results for phosphorus levels. If results indicate low levels, they need to ask themselves what are the causes for this deficiency. One common cause for inadequate phosphorus levels is a high (above 7.0) or low (below 5.0) soil pH, if this is the situation turf managers need to correct this problem by either applying sulphur or limestone. If a soil pH problem is not addressed, any phosphorus addition through fertilizer applications can become bound up in forms (ex. iron phosphate or calcium phosphate) that are not available for turf grass uptake. With regards to potassium, turf managers need to be aware of turf's tendency of luxury consumption and soil's minute levels of available potassium. Disregarding these two vital factors along with other limiting factors that were mentioned above may quickly lead to deficient potassium concentrations in the soil and eventually within the turf.

Without proper levels of available soil phosphorus and soil potassium the overall health of turf could be greatly compromised. Weakened unhealthy turf would become more prone to insect and disease invasion which would certainly increase operating costs. Finally and most importantly is the public's enjoyment that comes from a high quality recreational turf area, any decrease in turf's quality would be greatly diminish an individual's pleasure.

Reference

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University of Guelph update

Eric Lyons, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Agriculture elyons@uoguelph.ca

Katerina Jordan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Plant Agriculture kjordan@uoguelph.ca

Rob Witherspoon, Director, Diploma in Turfgrass Management, Dept. of Plant Agriculture robwith@uoguelph.ca

The Diploma in Turfgrass Management program is now in its 5th year on the Guelph Campus. Many readers of *Green is Beautiful* are graduates of the Associate Diploma in Horticulture and may be unfamiliar with the new program that focuses specifically on turfgrass management. The program was started in 2003 when the “old” associate diploma programs were transferred from the main University of Guelph campus to the Kemptville and Ridgetown College campuses. As many graduates of the previous Associate Diploma in Horticulture were turf focused, and the university’s turfgrass expertise resided in Guelph, a new Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management was created. It fills a need for specialized training in this demanding and growing field. Required courses continue to include soil science, plant biology and landscape design and management, but it is all done within the context of educating future turfgrass managers. There are also courses in turfgrass diseases, turfgrass weeds and insects, equipment management and maintenance, and three courses in turfgrass management. Courses are also offered in a number of other related areas as well including environmental stewardship, human resources and business and financial management.



Ron Schiedel, President of Greenhorizons Group of Farms, showing the latest in sod harvesting technology to students (photo by Rob Witherspoon)



Student intern rolling a green at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pennsylvania (photo by Eric Lyons)

The program was designed for students who have experience in turfgrass management and are looking for the next step to achieve their goals. The age of the students varies greatly from recent high school graduates to established professionals looking to move ahead in their second careers. Many of the students entering the program have in fact already earned a four-year degree. The goal is to challenge everyone in the program and produce the highest quality graduates possible. Today’s turfgrass managers face significant management challenges and having highly trained and qualified professionals in the field makes the job easier to handle.

The program is taught by a variety of instructors, some of which are full-time faculty at the University of Guelph, and others who are sessional lecturers chosen because of their experience in the field of turfgrass science and management. We base a number of our courses on basic science rather than just applied turfgrass management, giving the students a broader and stronger knowledge base when they head out into the field. This arms our graduates with the ability to problem solve in previously unknown situations, making them more capable and adaptable turfgrass managers. During the program, students have the opportunity to gain a number of additional credentials including pesticide applicators, integrated pest management and chain saw safety certification.

One essential part of the learning experience in the program is the internship, or experiential learning that occurs in the summer between the first and second years of the program. Classrooms and laboratories have limitations and nothing can replace the actual act of doing and learning from current turfgrass managers. We encourage students to venture out and try to find new experiences and learn new methods during this time. Some of our students have elected to go abroad to the United States and Europe and others have elected to stay in Canada. We encourage any of you who are interested in becoming an internship supervisor to forward an internship posting. We encourage our students to have their internships lined up by the end of January although many make their internship plans during the Christmas break so early postings are strongly encouraged. There is significant competition for the limited number of student interns available so anything that differentiates your internship opportunity from others is encouraged. We do our best to instruct students to bring a positive, learning attitude to their internship and be prepared to distinguish themselves from the regular summer employee.

Enrolment in the program is limited and initial applications are due in early January. Applicants are required to provide details of their interests and aspirations as professional turf managers as well as information about their previous experience along with references. If you have any staff that you think may be interested in pursuing a career in turf management, please encourage them to contact us.



University of Guelph campus landmark "Old Jeremiah" was sodded in the fall of 2005 courtesy of the 07A ADTM class (photo by Rob Witherspoon)

Reaching out to alumni and other experienced turf managers is important as well. If you have an interesting professional experience to share with students such as a renovation project or other challenges you have faced,

please let us know and perhaps you could be involved in the program as a guest speaker. The student run Turf Club is always looking for speakers as well to share their experiences in the industry. If you are doing something interesting on your course and are within reasonable driving distance of Guelph, let us know and perhaps we can bring a busload of students to learn from you right on



Turfgrass Diploma students at Hamilton Country Club helping prepare for the 2006 Canadian Open (photo by Jonathan Hughes)

your property.

Since the first graduating class of 2005, over seventy graduates from the program have headed out into the work force. Although some have changed career paths into other areas, the vast majority are employed in turf management. Graduates are working as golf course superintendents, assistants or lead hands, irrigation and spray technicians, equipment operators as well as sod growers and sports field managers, or have leadership roles in landscape management and construction companies. Although the majority of graduates work across Canada, graduates are also working in Australia, Germany and the United States.

The rapid success of the program is built on the solid foundation created by the previous Associate Diploma in Horticulture program and the tremendous support we have received from alumni, industry suppliers and other turf management professionals. Your continued support in promoting the program to potential students working within your organization, providing valuable internship opportunities to students or being a guest speaker is critical to the long term success of both the Guelph program and the industry in Ontario, Canada and beyond. If you have any questions about the program, please contact us.

Off the fairway ...

Season Re-cap



by Daisy Moore

There are flurries when I look out my window now and just over a week ago it was in the high twenties. Weather extremes aside, the most worrying fact is that we have had a fraction (40%) of the yearly 'norm' of precipitation. As landscape managers and gardeners, we must remember that it is tough on plants when they go in to the winter dry.

As a reminder, we started the year in short sleeves and followed this with a white Easter. Hot weather arrived early and my records show that our working season began, three weeks ahead of last year. Spring, as we distantly remember it, didn't really happen. Rain was hard to come by but came just enough in May to make spring gardening and planting jobs possible. Timing has been critical. The season was pushed ahead, flowers started early and vegetative growth was robust. We had a particularly floriferous Mother's Day. Since then the shortage of rainfall has been the main story and controlling factor for the season.

Fall planting was delayed due to dry soil. Watering the plants is one thing, but watering to re-saturate the soil is quite another. October brought rain and with it a re-growth in the garden. Many plants went into dormancy during the extended drought and the addition of water brought them to life, late in the season. Time will tell which plants will flourish and which will suffer and which plants will be favoured by our modernized natural selection. Will southern weeds become more aggressive

and will our native plants succumb to some foreign pest? Those of us in the know feel just a bit uneasy about how powerless we are against the big things that nature throws at us. We have to watch and wait a little bit and in the meantime do the best we can to bolster our resources and supply the best conditions we can for plants to grow.

Luckily native plants did well this year. This is rather a gross generalization but it did seem to me that native plants both in their natural habitat and as plants in ornamental gardens, flourished this season. This bodes well in the grand scheme of things. Prairie species in particular were able to grow through the bizarre conditions of the spring and flower as they usually do in the heat of the summer. Despite the shortage of rainfall and extreme conditions, natural landscapes are showing remarkable resilience.

Other areas, like my lawn, did not fair so well. Billowing masses of creeping Charlie consumed the dormant grass in a similar fashion that the grubs did 3 years ago. Common mallow did the same sort of thing to my neighbour. Mass execution can come in many forms.

2007 was a great year for growing turfgrass but a tough year for gardens. For the health of both I hope we have a wet December, a cold winter and then we have something more predictable to work with in the spring.

Daisy is a horticulturist. She operates a garden design and consulting business from her home in Elora.

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



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Above the hole

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

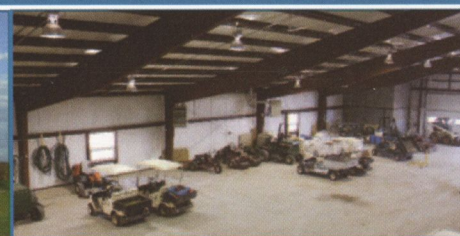
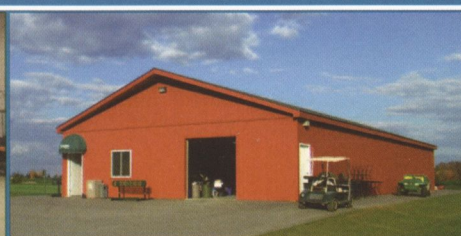
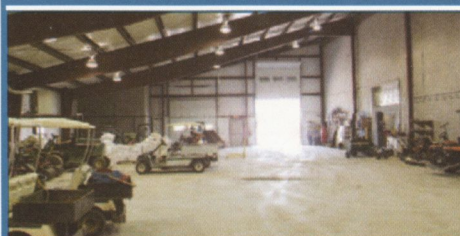
I'm writing this article outside, on an unbelievably warm October afternoon, and not surprisingly I'm distracted. Worse still than attempting to write outside, was trying to write sitting in the shop. Granted, it probably didn't help that I had my laptop precariously perched atop a pallet of sand, or that my "office" chair doubles as a topdresser – but you work with what you have. My quest to find a suitable place to work has brought me from the confines of the library out onto the course. This new setting was rationalized under the pretense that being outdoors was more conducive to writing, as apposed to sitting in the sterile, church like silence of a library. I thrive on ambient noise, or perhaps the answer is simpler still; it was just a perfect autumn day.

So after much back ache and near fatal drops to the computer I find myself here; on a bench by the sixth hole, watching golfers scramble to get their final rounds of the season in. It is one of those days that you know you have to enjoy, because they are few and far between and gone before you realize it. The initial explosion of autumn colours has passed to allow for the far less spectacular sight of bare trees. Everything else on the other hand stands out and shines in the strong mid-afternoon sun. Against the

backdrop of bare trees and fallen dead leaves, the greens glow bright green. The course now sits like an oasis in the midst of a world drying up and preparing for a long sleep. An entirely new dimension is added to the joy of being on the course in this weather. That familiar childhood sound of leaves crunching underfoot excites the senses. The crisp refreshing breath of cool autumn air as you stand on the first tee, promises to relax. Afternoons such as this make you feel as though you've really discovered a hidden gem. Like some secret corner of the world where the sun shines just for you, and follows you around the course. Where no matter how you play the round, or what tedious clean-up task you have, you can really feel rewarded.

If inspiration was what I was searching for by coming out to the course, then I certainly found it. So often in life people are forced to evaluate their lives and find some sense of meaning in what they do. I've discovered mine this morning, sitting on a bench overlooking the sixth hole. It's a picture perfect setting and if not for that golfer cursing his lost ball, it would be serene. If my laptop manages to survive a few more bumps I might be spared having to give up this 'office' until my fingers turn blue.

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Looking back

15 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1992 were : **Rhod Trainor** (pres), Hamilton Golf & C.C. , **Dave Gourlay** (vice), Eagle Creek Golf Club, **Mark Hagen** (past), West Haven Golf & C.C., **Simon George** (editor), Oakville Golf Club, **Bill Fach**, Rosedale Golf Club, **Dennis Pellrene**, Scarborough Golf Club, **Rick Serrao**, Glendale Golf & C.C., **John Taylor**, Twenty Valley Golf Club, **Alex LaBelle**, Carlton Golf and Yacht Club, **Bruce Burger**, Lakeview Golf Club, **Doug Suter**, Credit Valley Golf Club and **Mark Schneider**, Beach Grove Golf & C.C. **Cindi Charters** was office secretary.

The membership of the OGSA has doubled over the past 7 years to 386 members. **Mark Malott** of Woodslee, Ontario was the recipient of the 1992 Ontario Golf Superintendents Association Award presented by **David Ward** of the University of Guelph. In memoriam, **Vincent Piccolo**, long time member, passed away on November 21st.

Construction of the Guelph Turfgrass Research and Education Centre was started in the winter and was completed in the fall. OMAF donated \$250,000 for the development of the research plots on the site. A site development workshop was scheduled for mid-November with **Jim Snow**, USGA Green Section and **Paul Rieke** of

Michigan State University, meeting with GTI researchers to discuss how to meet turfgrass research needs. The OGSA was busy making plans for our office to move into the GTI in 1993. The OTRF Tournament was held at Mad River, on August 10th.

The first Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held in early January at the University of Guelph. The OGSA joined with the GTI and allied turf groups in forming a 3-day education and trade show. The committee met at the University of Guelph and consisted of **Annette Anderson**, **Mira Stone**, **Paul Dermott**, **Thom Charters**, **Roger Garbutt**, **Bob Sheard**, **Glen Dowling** and **Mark Hagen**.

The Golf Equipment Technicians Association of Ontario was formed on February 8th. A meeting was hosted by **Fraser Barrett**, President who is the mechanic at the National Golf Club. A curling meeting was held at North Halton G&CC on April 11th hosted by **Allan Beeney**, who also had the winning team consisting of **Paul Scenna**, **Simon George** and **Keith Rasmus**. **Thom Charters**, from Weston Golf and CC, was chosen by the CGSA as "Superintendent of the Year". The CGSA Canadian Conference was held in early December in Halifax.

The way we were... answer from page 17th. In 1991, OGSA President, Mark Hagen (left) presents plaque to Rhod Trainer for hosting the Ontario Amateur Golf Championships at Hamilton Golf & Country Club.

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Survey Now Available

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation and the University of Guelph are conducting a study on - **The Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry**

The University of Guelph and the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation are conducting a **research study** on the economic profile of the Ontario turfgrass industry. This study is the first comprehensive economic review of the turfgrass industry in more than 20 years. The study will help us understand and raise awareness about the importance of the turfgrass industry to the province and the country. We would like to ask you for your participation in this study by filling out this survey.

Survey can be accessed from www.golfsupers.on.ca Information on Homepage till Dec. 30th.

Your participation is crucial to this research. If you have any questions or require a hard copy of the survey please contact either:

Kate Tsiplova (519) 824-4120 x 58343, ktsiplov@uoguelph.ca or
Katerina Jordan (519) 824-4120 x 56615, kjordan@uoguelph.ca

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of Peace.*

*From the directors and staff at
OGSA*

Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

Tonka

Today I spent the day doing one of my favourite things in the world. I watched a very large piece of yellow equipment dig a very big hole. There's nothing like it in the world. I don't know whether it's the massive amount of hydraulic power, the sound of a big diesel engine, or the fact that an entire day's worth of hand labour can be accomplished in ten seconds by flicking one's wrist, but it makes me as giddy as a schoolgirl. It always has. I think most guys feel the same.

It starts with Tonka trucks. They're yellow, and steel, and heavy, and nearly indestructible. You can fill them with dirt, play with them in the water, and leave them outside in the sandbox for years without any real damage. I once tied two of them to my feet and roller-skated down a hill. You try that with a plastic truck, or the pink Corvette that Barbie drives! Big Jim's Sport Camper can only be outside for a month before the UV radiation will make the plastic disintegrate. Big Jim's not man enough for a Tonka; he won't even fit in the cab, although you can get a Star Wars action figure in there. I never let Luke Skywalker drive my trucks though, he's too much of a whiner. Han Solo wouldn't let him fly the Millennium Falcon for the same reason.

I had two brothers, no sisters, and a sandbox the size of a small farm. In that sandbox was a fairly serious collection of Tonka equipment. Backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, dump trucks, earthmovers, you name it - we had it. As a farm kid, we also had a nice collection of Ertl tractors and other toy farm equipment; heck, by the time I was eight I was driving real tractors, but there's still nothing like big yellow construction equipment.

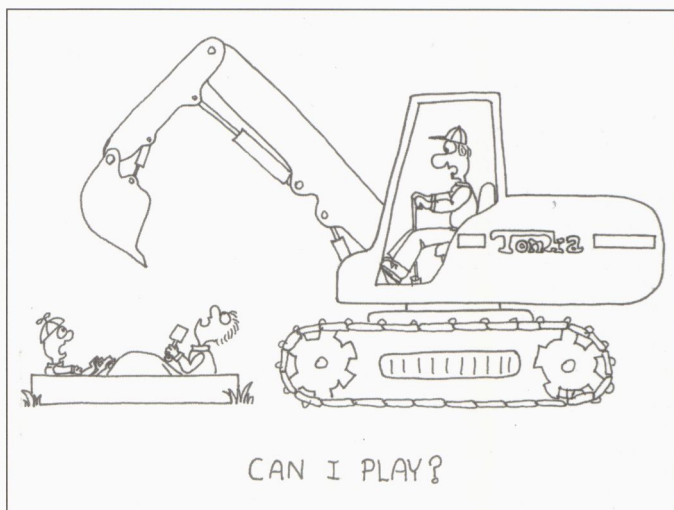
I used to love watching *Mighty Machines* with my kids on TV. I won't lie to you, I still watch it. Even with the narrator and the cartoony voices, there's still something very manly about the moving of large quantities of material. And what a great idea for a show. This guy gets to run around with a Betamax camera, filming stuff I'd love to watch all day. I wish I could figure out how to make money filming other things I like to do. Any chance that I could develop a series called *Great Meals I have Eaten*, or *Me Playing Really Nice Golf Courses*? There really ought to be a *Mighty Machines* episode that followed the construction of a golf course. That would be the single greatest cinematic achievement in the history of life, the

universe, and everything.

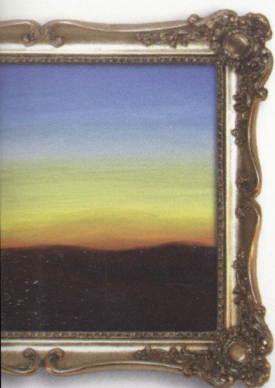
If I had a billion dollars, I'd buy the biggest excavator that I could find and put a big honking Tonka logo right on the side of it. Then I'd roam from town to town like *The Littlest Hobo*, helping random strangers with their hole digging problems. "Hello there friend, you look like you could use someone to dig a basement and foundation for you. Would you like an unnecessarily large pond in your front yard while I'm here? Maybe a swimming pool for the kids?" Then perhaps I could find other people in town who needed holes filled up, and help two people at once. I could be a hero to the "Clean Fill Wanted" crowd. Maybe I'd even get a yellow super hero suit with a little black cape and call myself *Tonkaman*. I may do that anyway.

According to the internet, which we all know is never wrong, The Tonka Toy Corporation was founded in 1946 as a sideline to a company in Mound, Minnesota that made metal tie racks and gardening equipment. They named the trucks *tonka*; a Dakota-Sioux word meaning "big" or "great" (which explains that wrestler from the 80's), and within ten years it was about all they were manufacturing. Although they still make barbeque grills, which seems strangely appropriate. I'd like to do a TV show about me cooking various meats on a Tonka barbeque.

So tomorrow I go back to "supervise" the heavy equipment operator, who thinks I'm a loser with nothing better to do but stand there all day watching him dig a hole. And of course there *are* other things I could be doing, but nothing I'd rather do.



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