

FEB 23 2007

February 2007

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Muskoka Bay Club

Inside this issue...
New Pest Control Products Act
Silvery thread moss update
Conference overview

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COVER PICTURE

Muskoka Bay Club

Photo courtesy of Muskoka Bay Club

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President's message

As I sit here and write my first President's message, it is difficult not to reflect upon the outstanding work that previous presidents and board members alike have done. It is certainly an indication of their passion for the golf business and the dedication it takes to be a golf course superintendent. We should all be proud of what they have done for our profession and association. They have done their part in elevating our position within the golf course industry.

I would also like to thank you for your support of the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show, recently held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. We once again have broken all previous attendance records which is a good indication of your commitment to our industry and support of the OGSA. A special thanks also goes out to our Chairman, Jeff Stauffer and his committee for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the conference and trade show. I would also like to thank Dorothy Hills, the OGSA and CGSA staff for their hard work and attention to detail.

The Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association recently held their Annual General Meeting on January 18th, 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest board members, Jennifer Pendrith and Randy Twyman to our team. On behalf of the membership and current Board of Directors, we look forward to working with you and receiving your valued input. It is also time to say good bye to our good friends Past President, Paul Scenna and Director, Chris Nelson. I appreciate all you have done for our association and profession, and wish you both all the best in your future endeavours.

As I look forward to the year ahead it is important to look back on our success from the past and our challenges for the future. We will be focusing our efforts on our strategic plan which was developed in 2004. The strategic plan was also reviewed and updated in the fall of 2006 to evaluate where we are now and where we will head in the future. The highlights of our year ahead will be trying to increase our affordable education opportunities for our members, a continued strong and dynamic conference and trade show, and ensuring our financial stability through our long term investment funds. We also have an outstanding golf and meetings line up and will continue to support turfgrass research at the University of Guelph. We feel both honoured and fortunate to have an excellent research facility at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and its associated staff. We should also feel fortunate to be able to conduct local research being lead by two passionate individuals such as Dr. Eric Lyons and Dr. Katerina Jordan.

I urge you all to take advantage of our strong association and what it has to offer. As our mission statement states: "The OGSA is committed to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enriching the quality of golf and its environment". We will do our part to ensure that our membership and profession is represented in the highest regard. We, as a board, look forward to the year ahead and wish you all the best in 2007 and beyond. If you have any suggestions or feedback please feel free to contact any of the directors. We are here to serve our membership and guide our association into the future. Thank you again and I look forward to the year ahead.



by Sean DeSilva,
Coppinwood Golf Club



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Green is Beautiful 2007

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Editorial message



by John Bladon
Co-Editor

With the 2007 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference now in the books, we can all set our sights on the balance of the conference and trade show season and the planning process for a successful 2007 growing season. For myself, one of the more significant

announcements made at the conference was that of the GAO's donation to the OTRF. Their commitment of \$50,000 towards turfgrass research in Ontario is absolutely huge. This represents a tremendous step with the end user/golfer/customer now making a contribution towards researching the product they are using or consuming. This, coupled with the OGSA and other association donations, spells a bright future for turfgrass research in Ontario.

This first issue of 2007 is indeed jam packed! In case you missed it, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an

overview of the recent conference held at the Sheraton in Toronto. Also of note is our "Member Profile" of Gordon Witteveen. Gord was honoured during the conference with the OGSA's William Sansom Distinguished Service Award, and directly or indirectly has shaped how a great many of us do our work today. Congratulations, and thank you Gord! We also have a piece on member Chris Goodman and his new project, Muskoka Bay. The course received "Best New 2006" honours announced in the final issue of the GAO's official magazine. Last and certainly not least, Dr. Eric Lyons brings us tidings on silvery thread moss while Pam Charbonneau gives us an update on the new Pest Control Products Act.

We have received some great emails in response to the request put in "Clippings" for member authored articles. Keep those ideas, articles and photos coming! Finally, on behalf of the Editorial Committee I would like to welcome Paul Grotier to the team, and thank you for reading *Green is Beautiful*, and wish you a great 2007.

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OGSA Events

OGSA golf events are being finalized for the upcoming season. As details become available they will be posted to the website www.golfsupers.on.ca under the menu heading "Events". Check out both the "Calendar of Events" and the actual event pages. We will also notify you in our email bulletin, "Clippings" when registration forms are available.

Again this year, information concerning the President's Day will be mailed to our member superintendents.

Our first event of the year will be the Can/Am, held Monday, April 30th at the Ambassador Golf Club in Windsor. Watch for registration forms to be posted on the web site.

OGSA Annual General Meeting 2007

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 18th at our 2007 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. Nominee, Jennifer Pendrith, Superintendent at Kawartha Golf & Country Club joined the board by acclimation. Randy Twyman, Superintendent at Taboo was appointed to fill the vacancy provided, as Chris Nelson resigned.

Paul Scenna has left the board, fulfilling his year as past president, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for his many years of service.

This year's board consists of: Past President, Bob Burrows; President, Sean DeSilva; Vice President, Jeff Stauffer; Treasurer, Randy Booker; Secretary, Jeff Alexander; Directors, Chris Andrejicka, Jarrod Barakett, Doug Breen, Trevor Clapperton, Rob Gatto, Jennifer Pendrith and Randy Twyman.



L-R Back Row: Chris Andrejicka, Jarrod Barakett, Randy Booker, Jeff Stauffer, Randy Twyman, Doug Breen Front Row: Trevor Clapperton, Jennifer Pendrith, Sean DeSilva, Bob Burrows, Jeff Alexander, Rob Gatto



Past President, Bob Burrows accepts plaque from President, Sean DeSilva

OGSA Roster

Membership information forms have been mailed to all our members, asking them to confirm their information which we currently hold in our database. Our membership directory "Roster" will be published to coincide with the mailing of our May issue of *Green is Beautiful*. Please ensure that your information is correct, so that the directory is as accurate as possible at time of publication.

The printed copy of the directory is published in the spring. However, member contact information can always be obtained by accessing the "Roster" in the "Members's Only" section on our web site.

Associate members are offered the opportunity to advertise in the "Roster" again this year. You should have received your advertising package, by mail. Don't hesitate to contact the office if you require further information.

OGSA's Green is Beautiful "Above the Hole" Writing Contest!

How would you like to be part of Ontario's leading Golf Course Management Magazine? The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association's official publication, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an opportunity to all turfgrass student interns. The column "Above the Hole", authored by University of Guelph, Turfgrass intern Ian Boyd, is open to a new intern as of April 2007. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian for his contributions and to wish him all the best as he graduates and embarks on his career in the golf industry.

The magazine's Editorial Committee will be reviewing submissions from Ontario based turfgrass interns in February 2007.

Basic Requirements include:

1. You are in the first year of your education of Turfgrass Management.
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3. You have an aptitude for writing.

How do I apply?

We ask that each applicant submit an article entry. The article will be based on your growth and experiences as a student/intern. Each entry should be 550 words in length and electronically submitted to the OGSA office by March 1st, 2007 to Dorothy Hills at ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca. Please email, using the subject line Above the Hole Entry. The successful applicant will receive one year paid student membership to the association as well as a six issue writing opportunity in *Green is Beautiful*. This is a great mechanism to express yourself within the industry of your future and differentiate yourself from other interns. We look forward to having you on board!



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From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Below is some new information from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency which may affect turf managers over the next few years.

The new *Pest Control Products Act*

New *Pest Control Products Act (PCPA)* received Royal Assent on December 12, 2002 and came into force June 28, 2006.

It strengthens the health and environmental protection provided by the old PCPA. In 1998, as a matter of policy, Health Canada established safety factors that considered additional protection for children and pregnant women and took into account pesticide exposure from all sources, including food and water. These policies are now formalized into law under the new Act.

The new Act also requires that the Government of Canada's Toxic Substances Management Policy (TSMMP) be applied to pesticide regulation. Under the TSMMP, a pesticide's potential for toxicity, bioaccumulation and persistence are taken into account when conducting environmental risk assessments as part of the pre-market evaluation for pesticide registration. If a newly proposed pesticide is found to meet the criteria for toxicity, bioaccumulation and persistence, it will not be registered. This policy has been applied in pesticide regulation since 1999.

The new *PCPA* allows for more transparency in the registration system. The new Act requires the establishment of an electronic Public Registry which is an electronic database of non-confidential information on pesticides or the pesticide regulatory system, accessible through the PMRA's website. This is a collection of information on pesticides, including applications, registrations, re-evaluations and special reviews. Most of the information contained in the Register will be accessible through either the Public Registry on the PMRA's website or the Reading Room. Confidential business information—manufacturing processes, methods for determining the composition of the product, financial or commercial information, and the identity and concentration of formulant ingredients and contaminants that do not pose a health or environmental concern—will not be available for inspection. The Reading Room is where interested parties can inspect the confidential test data on which pesticide evaluations are based. The reading room is located at the PMRA's headquarters in Ottawa.

The new Act also formalizes into law the current practice of consultation on major registration decisions to ensure continued public participation in decision-making. Requests for reconsideration of decisions and special reviews of existing registered products are also new provisions in the Act that will further increase transparency. Documents

outlining the evaluation are made available to the public through the Public Registry on the PMRA's website. Following the publications of the proposal documents, there is a consultation period during which interested parties can submit comments. Health Canada will consider these comments before making a final decision.

The new Act now requires that all pesticides be re-evaluated on a 15-year cycle. In 1998, as a matter of policy, the PMRA began re-evaluating all pesticides that were registered prior to 1995 using modern scientific approaches to determine if they remain acceptable for use by modern standards.

Furthermore, the new Act modernizes enforcement and compliance provisions, and provides the regulatory authority to require registrants to report sales data and any incident of potential or actual adverse effects. The new PCPA requires that incidents of potential adverse effects relating to pesticides be reported by the registrant of the pest control product. The new PCPA also requires that sales data be reported. These new, mandatory requirements ensure that pesticide use is monitored and that incidents relating to pesticide use are reported to Health Canada, and will lead to increased protection of Canadians' health and their environment. As well, there are regulations that require safety information be provided to workers. The new Act also provides a mandate to minimize health and environmental risks by encouraging the development and implementation of sustainable pest-management strategies and by facilitating access to reduced-risk pesticides. For more information on the new *Pest Control Products Act* you can visit the PMRA website at <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/legis/pcpa-e.html>

Reduced Risk Program under the PMRA

In response to public concern over the use of pesticides in urban settings, an action plan on urban pesticide use was developed by the federal government, the provinces and territories. The action plan has three elements: Healthy Lawns Strategy; the registration of new reduced risk products and product re-evaluation.

The PMRA will continue to facilitate access to reduced risk products through harmonization activities with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) including priority joint review of reduced risk chemical pesticides and biopesticides.

To increase public access to reduced-risk pesticides, a May 2002 PMRA initiative extends the Reduced Risk Joint Review program that has been underway with the US Environmental Protection Agency since 1996, to include submissions made only to PMRA. The program is designed to encourage pesticide manufacturers to apply for Canadian registration of reduced-risk products that are currently available in the U.S. To minimize the barriers to these products, Canada will use the same criteria as the U.S. EPA to determine eligibility of

chemicals for the reduced-risk program and recognize the U.S. EPA's biopesticide designation, thus further harmonizing the respective approaches of the two countries. Through this program, the PMRA also committed to shorter review time lines for products that have been shown to qualify as reduced-risk chemicals or biopesticides. To date five pesticides have been registered for turf under this program and they are listed in Table 1. For more information on reduced risk program consult the PMRA website at <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/dir/dir2002-02-e.pdf>.

Table 1. Turf Reduced Risk Registrations as of Dec. 16, 2006

Chemical	Product	Product Type	Uses
azoxystrobin	Heritage	Fungicide	Turf
boscalid	Cadence	Fungicide	Turf
spinosad	Success	Insecticide	Turf
trifloxystrobin	Compass	Fungicide	Turf
corn gluten meal	Nutrite Pre-emergent, TurfMaize, WOW! (without weeds)	Herbicide	Turf

Product Re-evaluation under the PMRA

As mentioned above, one part of the action plan was product re-evaluation. Priority re-evaluation was given to the seven most common active ingredients used in lawn

and turf care: namely the following insecticides: chlorpyrifos; diazinon and carbaryl and herbicides: 2,4-D; MCPA; dicamba and mecoprop. Reviews of chlorpyrifos, diazinon and malathion have been completed and carbaryl is scheduled for 2007. Review of mecoprop has been completed. Re-evaluation of the lawn and turf uses of 2,4-D has been conducted (PACR 2005-01). On August 16, 2006, an interim measures were announced and waiting for agricultural use re-evaluation. Re-evaluation of the lawn and turf uses of MCPA has been conducted (PACR 2006-05) A 60-day consultation period closed June 27, 2006 and re-evaluation of dicamba is in its final stages. PMRA has released information on its re-evaluation program for 2005-2009. Table 2 includes the turf products which are scheduled for re-evaluation over the next several years. For more information on re-evaluation consult the PMRA website at <http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/english/pubs/reeval-e.html>

Table 2. List of active ingredients scheduled for re-evaluation (2005-2009) by PMRA

Active Ingredient	Trade Name	Pesticide Type
Carbathiin	Arrest	Fungicide
Chloroneb	Terraneb and Pro-Turf Fungicide V	Fungicide
Chlorothalonil	Daconil Ultrex	Fungicide
Deltamethrin	Decis	Insecticide
Dithiopyr	Dimension	Herbicide
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Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
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Noise and Hearing Protection

Most of you are taking care to ensure that noise protection is available for all your workers, and by now you have probably established rules for the use of hearing protection. I am sure that you understand the effect noise can have on your workers and I expect that a good number of you give your workers some choice as to the type of hearing protection that you make available. When hearing protection is deemed necessary workers do not have a choice about wearing it.

Depending on the type of workplace and the type of equipment you have in the workplace the levels of noise can be quite debilitating. Some equipment can generate noise levels in excess of 110 decibels. If this is occurring in your workplace the Regulations (as of July 1, 2007) will require that hearing protection is **mandatory** for any worker exposed to this level of noise. This is not a choice. This is the law.

As of July 1, 2007 your workers will require hearing protection if the noise levels are 85 decibels or more. For instance a worker working in an area where noise levels are 90 decibels must wear hearing protection if the daily exposure is four hours or more. Section 139 of Regulation 851 (the Industrial Regulation) is changing as of July 1, 2007. This section defines when hearing protection is required.

- Have you ever taken the time to check the noise levels in and around your workplace?
- Do you know how much noise is generated by the equipment you are using?

- Do you know if the hearing protection that you are purchasing is doing its job?
- Have you ever taken the time to ensure that your workers are wearing their hearing protection properly?

This may seem like a simple process; however in my exposure to many different workplaces I find that most workers and supervisors do not take the time to ensure that they and their workers know how to use hearing protection properly. Many employers today believe that they are meeting the legislative standards by providing hearing protection for their workers. This is not enough.

Employers and supervisors should be testing the noise levels in the workplace so that they know what the noise levels are on each piece of equipment and in any area where noise might be generated. By doing this you will know when workers must be wearing hearing protection. If you do find that noise is an issue in your workplace you **must** ensure that hearing protection be worn?

One thing a number of employers are doing at this time, when it comes to hearing protection, is simply saying that hearing protection is required whenever workers are operating equipment. This is a proactive way of ensuring compliance and will assist you in controlling one potential hazard in the workplace.

So ensure that you are doing "everything reasonable" by taking the necessary steps to eliminate potential hearing loss.

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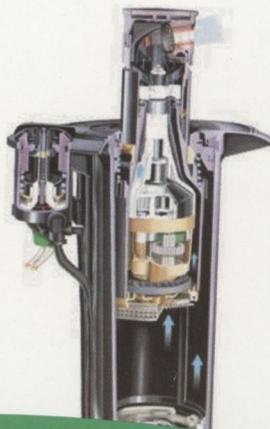
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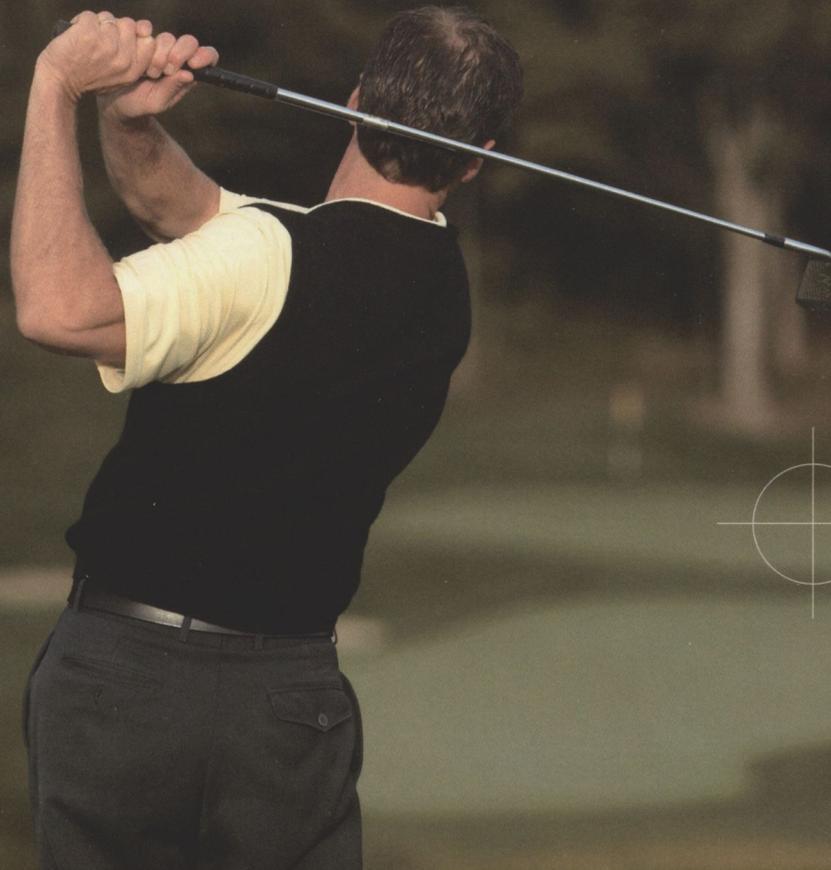
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Submitted by Mark Schneider, Maple Turf Supply Ltd.

Fall Wrap Up Tournament

October 3rd saw 65 players tackle The Ridge at Manitou Golf Club for the final GBGSA tournament of the 2006 season. Mother Nature co-operated with spectacular fall weather, calm winds and beautiful vistas over this scenic course. The scramble format produced some great scores with the winning foursome of Bert McFadden, Georgian Bay Club, Phil Brown, Summit Golf Club, and Toby McHale & Jeff Smithson from Maxium Golf carding a score of 12 under par. Lunch on the course was graciously provided by Mike Smith and G.C. Duke Equipment. After golf, we enjoyed a short talk on the patio by Bruce Flowers of Persimmon Golf, outlining the permitting process for golf development.

President, Marc Brooks awarded our annual GBGSA Turfgrass Scholarship to Mike Styles of the Georgian Bay Club. Mike is a second year turf student at Seneca College. Congratulations Mike!

Other year-end draw prize winners for the monthly closest to the hole sponsors were:

Winner

Richard Bertram – Settlers Ghost Golf Club
Alex Dolensky – Huntsville Downs Golf Club
Paul White – The Briars Golf Club
Barry Endicott – Gord Wendover Construction
Brian Sinclair – Shanty Bay Golf Club

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Our sincere thanks to our other monthly prize sponsors:

Ontario Seed Company, DCS Agronomics, G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd., Maple Turf Supply, Patriot Flags, All Turf Ltd., Hutcheson Sand & Mixes, Masters Turf Supply, Maxium Golf, Multitynes Ltd., Nutrite Ltd., Penguin Golf Associates, Plant Products Ltd., Pumps Plus, Port-O-Sport, Syngenta Products, Utica Turf Equipment, Burnside Golf Services and Keith Stephenson.

As well, we would like to thank our hosts at The Ridge of Manitou, Drew Rachar and Tyler Strachan for the outstanding course and excellent service. See you in 2007!

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WESTERN ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Angelo Capannelli, Hutcheson Sand & Mixes

Wow, what a day!

The weather was perfect....a sunny day for the most part with the temperature at the time of the shotgun start around 15 degrees. It was our final golf tourney of the 2006 season, the Taylor Barnes. For the most part, all of our members were really looking forward to this event not only because it was the Taylor Barnes but also because it was being staged at Burlington Golf & Country Club, where long time CGSA, OGSA and WOGSA member, Pelino Scenna was set to retire. Yes, after 48 years of being in the "business", Pelino Scenna is retiring. He spent 5 years at Brantford Golf & Country Club as an assistant superintendent, 21 years as the superintendent at Galt Country Club and the last 22 years as the superintendent at Burlington Golf & Country Club. It was a perfect way to celebrate this grand event and to "roast" our colleague and friend Pelino.



Pelino with sons Paul and Mark

photo by Marie Thorne

I'm sure that all our members would agree, we were treated to an exceptional golf course. The greens were rolling nice and the fairways were providing nice, tight lies, for those of us who were fortunate to find the them.

In addition to the superb conditions of the golf course

we indulged in a wonderful meal. The food and beverage department at Burlington Golf & Country Club put their best fork forward and we were certainly the beneficiaries of this effort.

In the case of all golf tournaments there were a few prizes to give out and without going into specifics let's just say the winning teams were very pleased with their prizes.

Now to the important part of the evening....the "Pelino Roast".

One at a time, industry representatives came to the podium to tell a story or two about Pelino and his career in the turfgrass business. Ken Cousineau, Executive Director of the CGSA started the proceedings off and spoke about Pelino's enthusiasm. Marie Thorne echoed that sentiment and added that Pelino's passion for his job and for the industry is something that stood out for her. Rob Field, former assistant superintendent at Burlington Golf & CC spoke about mentoring and how proud Pelino is of the numerous former employees that have made the turfgrass industry their chosen career. Corrie Almack had an opportunity to tell a story about Pelino's ethics and high moral standards, which was followed by Tom Brain's emotional message to Pelino about being a good teacher and father figure to him. It was a nice moment for Pelino to hear these things being said about him and a moment that I am sure he will remember for a very long time.

All in all it was a great day at Burlington Golf & CC and a memorable way to finish the 2006 WOGSA season.

ASSISTANTS TOURNAMENT 2006



Correction from the October issue pg. 13 The photo caption should have read.

2006 Low Gross Winner Craig Robinson of Ingersoll G&CC with Keith Lefebvre from Nu-Gro Our apologies to Craig.

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GREEN HORIZONS
GROUP OF FARMS

OSC / NUTRITE FALL SEMINAR

by Victor Freiberg - OSC

"Holy mackinaw!!!" thundered Joe Bowen to the 225 superintendents and assistants in attendance at the 18th Annual OSC/Nutrite Professional Turfgrass Seminar, "What a line-up!" The classic clubhouse of the historic 75 year old course shook with laughter as Joe Bowen, television and radio voice of the Toronto Maple Leafs, recounted the many twists and turns his personal life and career has taken since landing his dream job some 25 years ago.

Cory Janzen, Host Superintendent, welcomed everyone to the golf club and shared his experience on using dwarf or low-mow bluegrasses on tee areas which were prone to significant divots. Cory found that these dwarf bluegrasses had much quicker recuperative abilities and divots were not as "deep" as bent or even Perennial Rye tees.



Joe Bowen & Dave Schmelefske

Christian Prud'homme, Agronomist for Fertilchem spoke about "Phosphites in Today's Golf Course Management." A foliar application of phosphite induces a defence mechanism in a plant. Prud'homme outlined the differences between phosphate (P₂O₅) and phosphite (P₃O₃) and detailed the plant health promoting properties that phosphite brings to the turf manager.

David C. Smith of DCS Agronomic Services discussed, "Trends in Cultural Management – Topdressing, Aeration and Verticutting." He mentioned the many challenges faced in maintaining a competitive playing surface and described the aeration, topdressing and verticutting equipment being used extensively in the industry today. David also pointed out the incredible changes made by equipment manufactures in the last 20 years. Today's superintendents have a greater selection of high-end aerators etc. to rectify problems that they may face.

Dr. Doug Brede, Research Director for Jacklin Seed, updated everyone with his presentation "Developing the Next Generation Kentucky Bluegrasses for Fairways".

During his many years of research, Dr. Brede has selected and cultivated some of the best varieties. A "pasture-type" bluegrass, available 20 years ago, if left to go to seed would result in a plant up to 3 feet tall while today's low grow varieties would only bolt to a foot tall. Add greater density, drought, disease and heat tolerance and selection today has greatly expanded. In the coming years, there will be bluegrasses available with better summer heat tolerance, faster germination and even better colour earlier in the season. The large number of new golf courses in the top 100 in the United States having Kentucky Bluegrass fairways is a testimonial to the exceptional fairway quality that can be achieved with elite Kentucky Bluegrass variety selection.

Dr. Brede began the afternoon session with a talk on "Interseeding Bentgrass into Poa Annua". Success in converting a stand of poa to bentgrass has been elusive due to the competitiveness of poa annua. His presentation centred on the success shown by the new bentgrass, T-1 in outcompeting poa. This new bent exhibits great shoot density, even with low levels of nitrogen (1 lb/season) and are not prone to thatch. The greatest gains on poa annua were achieved with seedings around the summer solstice from June 1 – July 15. A rather heavy rate of 3 or even 4 lb/ 1000 sq. ft. of seed, or several lighter seedings spread over a few weeks worked well, especially when soil temperatures were too warm for poa seed germination. A foliar application of phosphorus was beneficial upon seedling emergence and skipping a few mowings on the second week after seeding, resulted in better establishment. Brede found that once the stand was 50 % converted, then cultural controls favouring bentgrass and discouraging poa could be employed to hasten the conversion.

The afternoon concluded with an informative presentation by Jim Turner of Growing Technologies Inc. on "Eximo and Syntech AR- Revolutionary Soil Treatment for Reduction of pH, Sodium and Bicarbonate Levels". These new products open up pores in the soil profile and liberate bound up minerals. The result is an improvement in turf colour, without fertilization, and a rootzone environment less prone to patch-type diseases.

Attendees at the OSC/Nutrite Seminar received 6.0 IPM accreditation points and GCSAA members received .50 GCSAA education points.

OSC/ Nutrite would like to recognize the following sponsors, who helped make this day successful. Ag-Turf, Agrotain, Bayco Golf, Bayer Environmental Science, Cameron Chemicals, Engage Agro, Jacklin Seed, Martin Marietta Magnesia, Sustane and Syngenta.

As the new year begins, winter draws to a close and before the new golf season is upon us, we have a little spare time to contemplate the past, the present and the future, and are reminded in this article that *"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, that's why it's called the present"*. Read on....

LIVE FOR TODAY, NOT TOMORROW

by Paul Grotier
Assistant Superintendent
Donalda Club

"I can't wait until the winter arrives!" How many times have you heard someone in the golf business utter these words? Who can blame them? With the demands imposed upon us, the golf season is a long and highly stressful time. I am quite sure I don't need to remind everyone of all the long hours put in at their respectful facility. I am also guilty of looking forward to the "down time" the winter months provide; however, do we look forward to the future at the expense of the present? Do we try to appreciate every single day during our busy golf season? I am aware this article may be preaching a tired cliché. Additionally, I am sure you are wondering who am I to write about such a topic? Well, for twelve years now, I have been living on borrowed time. On September 1st, 1994, I received a heart transplant after my heart succumbed to a viral infection which weakened its muscle tissue and its ability to function. Then, in the summer of 2002, I contracted the West Nile Virus. Luckily, I made a full recovery. Shortly thereafter, I was informed that other transplant patients who had similarly fallen sick to the West Nile Virus had not been so lucky and had ended up with some type of body paralysis.

Both of these traumatic events had a profound effect on me, and realizing that I had twice dodged a bullet, they equally changed my views about life. I learned to appreciate every day that I am alive and healthy. I know it

The way we were

Can you identify the person in this picture?



is trite but it is true. On both occasions that I was sick and hospitalized, I spent most of my time regretting the things I had not done. Consequentially, I made myself a promise to live my life to the fullest. I now try to live my life without regret. While I occasionally forget my lessons learned, I try to live for today and not tomorrow. I try to make the most of everyday, especially during the golf season. I challenge you to do the same. Live for today and never take time for granted. Get busy living life and fulfill whichever goals you have always wanted to achieve. Never live in regret and do not wait until it is too late. People have a tendency to look to the horizon at the expense of what is in front of them. I realize some people may say that this article's subject only works in theory and not in practice. While I disagree and think any day squandered is an opportunity lost, it is always nice to be reminded. As the obscure Latin phrase I never paid heed to in high school English class suddenly becomes clear, "Carpe Diem" to seize the day - I now see the wisdom!



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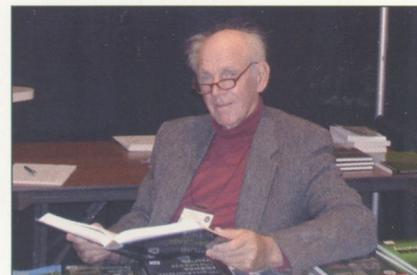
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Member profile

Interview with Gordon Witteveen

William Sansom Distinguished Service Award Winner 2007

by Jennifer Pendrith, Superintendent, Kawartha G&CC
and Keith Bartlett, Superintendent, St. Georges G&CC



For more than forty years Gordon Witteveen has carved his name into the pages of golf history and has been a powerful voice for golf course superintendents all over the world. It's rare to come across a person in the golf industry who doesn't instantly recognize the name Gordon Witteveen as a true leader and role model for both aspiring and accomplished superintendents. It's no wonder that Gordon has been selected as the 2007 recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award.

Gordon's dream of becoming a golf course superintendent began on May 1st, 1956, on the very first day he worked at Noranda Mines Golf & Country Club, and from there, his career skyrocketed. He landed his first superintendent job at London Highland Golf & Country Club the very same day he graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. Three years later, he couldn't wait to move to Toronto to take on the superintendent's position at Northwood Golf and Country Club where he managed the course for 12 years. He then moved on to the Board of Trade where he retired after 27 years, but his love of being out on the golf course didn't end there. He went on to open Pleasant View, his own 9-hole course near Brantford, Ontario, where he still remains active in its maintenance.

Gordon has not only been actively involved with national and international superintendent associations, but he was one of the key founding members of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGSA), served as its first Secretary, and then in 1970 he held the position of President. He initiated the CGSA's official magazine *Green Master* and served as its editor for 5 years. He's a regular columnist for many magazines and has written a number of books including *Practical Golf Course Maintenance*, which he co-authored with his colleague Michael Bavier.

Gordon believes and states strongly, **"To merely belong is not enough... you have to participate."** And it's for this reason that Gordon has been the recipient of so many awards throughout his career including the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, the Canadian Score Award for Superintendent of the Year, and the John B. Steel Award for his outstanding contribution to golf in Canada.

He's travelled the world visiting golf courses and presenting his seminar *The Magic of Greenkeeping* and his well-known talk, *40 Years of Mistakes*. The latter humorously demonstrates that mistakes do happen and how being honest about them with your members and colleagues provides an opportunity to learn and improve as a superintendent. As Gordon himself puts it, "people love it when you own up to your mistakes."

Gordon has been described as innovative, creative and undeniably controversial. He's admired by everyone who's had the privilege of learning from him over the years for his honesty, integrity and for telling it like it is. There's no denying that his opinions have ruffled some feathers, but Gordon says he always "managed to stay a step ahead of the noose." And his passionate views challenged people in the golf industry to re-evaluate their ideas and to think outside the box.

Gordon is most proud of seeing the successes of the many superintendents he's mentored over the years. As Gordon says, **"people are more important to me than any tools"** and **"the contacts you make with your fellow superintendents are more important than any lecture"**. His life lessons have served us well and to this day he remains a true inspiration to all of us in the golf industry.

"In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major: Every Superintendent should attend the Masters at least once.
- Best piece of turf equipment ever: People are more important than any tools.
- Favourite golf designer: Fazio
- Ultimate foursome: Paul and Helen White, Marilyn and myself.
- Lowest round ever and where: 42 from the senior tees on the front and not telling about the back.
- Stanley Cup pick: Have not watched hockey since Eddie Shack retired.
- Favourite movie: Dr. Zhivago
- Favourite meal: Every day Marilyn cooks is my favourite meal.
- Favourite course outside Canada: 9 hole goat track in New Zealand, and World Woods in Florida.
- What's in your CD right now: Chopin
- Rate your lawn: St. Augustine lawn in Florida is a 10 and I do not lift a finger to make it that way.
- What would you be if not a golf course super: A writer of historical fiction.

Golf course highlight

Parry Sound Golf & Country Club

50 George Hunt Memorial Drive, R.R. #3

Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 2W9

Phone: 705 342-1998 Fax: 705 342-1998

Email: jeff@parrysoundgolf.com

Golf Course Superintendent: Jeff Alexander



COURSE PROFILE

Is your club private, semi private or public?

Semi-private

Size of membership?

600 with 24,000 to 26,000 rounds annually

Typical opening and closing date

April 15th to November 1st

How long have you been a Superintendent?

11 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?

11 years

List other accomplishments

Director of OGSA (2001 to present)

Past President and Director of Georgian

Bay Golf Course Supts Assn (1998-2005)

How many year round and seasonal staff?

2 year round and 12 seasonal

How many mechanics and assistants?

Asst/Foreman: Rob Anderson

Mechanic: Brian Poirier

How many gardening staff?

1

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?

18

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?

6,000 yards from the blue tees

5,514 yards from the white tees

4,865 yards from the red tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?

Driving range: 12 acres, 275 yards

Putting Green: 10,000 ft²

Chipping Green: 5,000 ft²

Tee: 35,000 ft²

How many bunkers?

44

How many does water come into play?

6 ponds come into play 10 times

Who was the original architect?

George Rickwood - 1929

What was the year of original construction?

Existing course established 1929 and new

site and construction in 1981, opening 1983

By whom and when was the course remodeled?

New course by Thomas McBroom

Major Tournaments held?

Bobby Orr Celebrity Classic

2005 Ontario Junior Girls Championship

What is the size of your maintenance shop?

5,000 ft²

What type of irrigation system?

Toro

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

3 acres of greens, 2.2 acres of tees

20 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?

Poa Bent

How many USGA/loam greens?

2 (range) modified California style

19 loam

What is the predominant soil type?

Heavy clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?

1 Aerator, 1995 Ryan GA-30.

1 Aerator, 2004 Bannerman BA 600

Superject, 3-pt hitch

1 Air Compressor, 1997 Mobile Devoir

1 Blade, 1999 7ft, 3-pt hitch

1 Blower, 2006 Whisper Jet, walk behind

1 Blower, 1999 Giant Leaf

1 Blower, 1998 Little Wonder, walk behind

1 Blower, 2004 Jacobsen B-40, 3-pt hitch

1 Broyhill Sprayer, 1980, 100 gallon

1 Chainsaw, 2001 Stihl HT 75 Pro

2 Chainsaw, 1992 Jonsed Red, Husqvarna

1 Digital Camera -2003 Kodak

1 Dump Trailer, 1985

1 Edger, 1995 Turfgo Edgerite

2 Fairway Mowers, 2006 Jacobsen LF-3400,

2002 Ransome 250

1 Flymow Mower, 2002 Suzuki Hover

1 Grinder, 1982 Dual Express Reel Grinder

1 Grinder, Foley Bed Knife Grinder

1 Mower, 2002 Jacobsen Walk Behind

2 Mower, 2000 Toro 1000 Walk Behind

1 Overseeder, 1992 Jacobsen 3-pt hitch

1 Overseeder, 1988 Ryan Walk Behind.

2 Pump, 2003 Honda

1 Pump, 1993 Water Whacker Washer

2 Rough Mowers, 2006 Toro

Groundskeeper 3500-D

1 Rough Mower, 1992 Ransome 72"

1 Sand Pro, 1989 John Deere Bunker Rake

1 Sod Cutter, 1991 Ryan 18"

1 Spreader, 1998 Gandy Drop

1 Spreader, 1990 Scotts Rotary - R8

1 Spreader, 1999 Scotts Rotary - R8A

1 Spare Cutting Units, 1996 Jacobsen

Greens

1 Sprayer, 2000 Cushman/ Smithco 200 gal.

1 Tee Gee Grade Maker - 2004

1 Top Dresser, 1978 Cushman/ Ryan

1 Top Dresser, 2004 Turfco 1530

1 Tractor, 1992 Ford F-3930

1 Tractor, 1995 Ford F-1920 Loader

4 Trimmer, 2001 John Deere XT 250

3 Triplex, 2002, 2005, 2006 Jacobsen

Greensking VI

1 Truck, 1999 Dodge Dakota

4 two way radio, Motorola Radius P1225

3 Utility Vehicle, 2006 JD TX Gator

1 Utility Vehicle, 1992 Cushman Truckster

2 Utility Vehicle, 1996 EZ-GO Cart

2 Utility Vehicle, 2003 Jacobsen Workhorse

1 Vantage Pro 2, 2005 Weather Data Station

1 Verticut Unit, 1980's Brouwer

3 Verticut Unit, 1988 Jacobsen mower

1 Vertidrain, 1996 Vertidrain 005, 120

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

What projects have you recently completed?

-Creation of renovation Master Plan and Report (MBTW Group - Kevin Holmes)

-Construction of 12 acre practice /teaching facility

-Complete renovation #1, 10, 11 & 13 tee complex

-Complete reconstruction of pumphouse

-Clubhouse renovation (May 2007)

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

-Continue tee complex renovation to increase tee space

-Aggregate & supply storage area

-Replacement of irrigation system

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

-Tee areas are very limited for rotation because of size which creates problems for new turf establishment

-Black layer on greens - deep aerification and frequent topdressing to change profile.

Do you have any success stories?

-With help from my past and present board of directors and staff, we have been able to re-establish the golf course name here at Parry Sound Golf & Country Club.

Restoration of turf conditions and development of the golf course has created a very marketable and financially viable club. We offer good value for our members and guests

Muskoka Bay Club

article by John Bladon, Agronomist
IPM Coordinator and Technical Representative
Agrium Advanced Technologies

Arguably, the Muskoka region boasts the finest collection of golf courses in Ontario, never mind anywhere in North America. Those who have played or worked in the region know some of the properties I speak of. Bigwin Island, Taboo, Clublink's Rocky Crest and The Ridge at Manitou are all examples of layouts that are complimented flawlessly by the region's breathtaking scenery and rugged natural features.



Hole 1 from the green

In late 2004 construction began on the newest addition to the region near the southern most tip of Lake Muskoka, in the town of Gravenhurst. With a picture perfect postcard setting as its backdrop, the Muskoka Bay Club, brainchild of Peter Freed of Freed Developments and designed by renowned architect Doug Carrick, began the process of taking its place as the area's premier public access golf course and residential community. Now, after narrowly edging out Coppinwood as Ontario's best new course in 2006, it is widely considered among Doug Carrick's best work, and quite possibly his best to date. The 7,367-yard, par-72 championship layout opened this past July and immediately became a sought after and much talked about golf experience.



Some Foursome! L-R Chris Goodman, Superintendent; Doug Carrick, Architect; Peter Freed, President and Larry Ungerman, Partner

"Developing the Muskoka Bay Club in Gravenhurst has been a wonderful opportunity and you couldn't ask for a more prominent setting – it's the gateway to Muskoka. Stepping onto this site is like taking a walk in the wilderness as nature engulfs you, but in reality you're less than five minutes from town."
Doug Carrick, Carrick Design

It was in March of 2005 and as the project was kicking into high gear that golf superintendent and OGSA member, Chris Goodman officially joined Muskoka Bay's management team. Muskoka is indeed a brilliant palette for golf, although course construction in the region is not without its challenges. The Muskoka Bay site is extremely stony and as rugged as any site in the region. After completing months of clearing and blasting through the early parts of 2005, a sand cap was placed over the entire site totaling 350,000 m² of material. Although there were variations in each of the four deposits used, all the capping material originated from the 800 acre Muskoka Bay site and significantly reduced both trucking costs and logistical headaches. As the cap was gradually moved into position, Evans Golf began the shaping process and irrigation was installed. By August 20th, the seeding

process had begun and green sites were planted with A4 while tees and fairways received Dominant Extreme, both noted varieties of creeping bentgrass. Chris noted that A4 was an easy choice with a proven track record at other courses in the region like Taboo. He also spoke of the challenges associated with managing the capping material.

“Being as we had worked with four separate deposits there were wide textural variations in the material. It ranged greatly in terms of sand, silt and clay content and accordingly now, requires different management inputs. As a for instance, fertility and water management tend to range from fairway to fairway...we have some receiving more nutrition than others, some receiving wetting agents while others require none at all...the challenge has been customizing our management plan to both fit different parts of the site and remain fiscally responsible. Chris Goodman, Muskoka Bay Club

As we toured the site, the most striking and impressive item in this author’s mind was the bunkers or lack thereof



“Goodie” Shows off the 9

by today’s golf standards. Only 35 bunkers in total grace the site with 10 or more holes having only one or no bunkers at all. Softening their effect further and enhancing their appeal is the absence of now standard glaring “white” sand replaced by native material that carries a soft tawny appearance. The bunkers’ edges have also been left unsmoothed or ragged befitting this natural site. While intended, the benefits of these bunker complexes are many. Maintenance costs will be much more manageable with both their lower numbers and with the choice of sand via future contamination issues. Finally, it allows for the site’s features to remain the highlight of this golf course rather than a vast array of bunkers. Chris noted the communication and cooperation between he and Carrick’s firm was key in reducing these and other future maintenance issues.

“From the bunker complexes, to green slopes, to maintenance traffic flow and fairway acreages, Doug and Ian (Andrew) were both very receptive to any input I had for them. We made proactive changes without compromising their design efforts so we had a more maintenance efficient product when all was said and done” Chris Goodman, Muskoka Bay Club

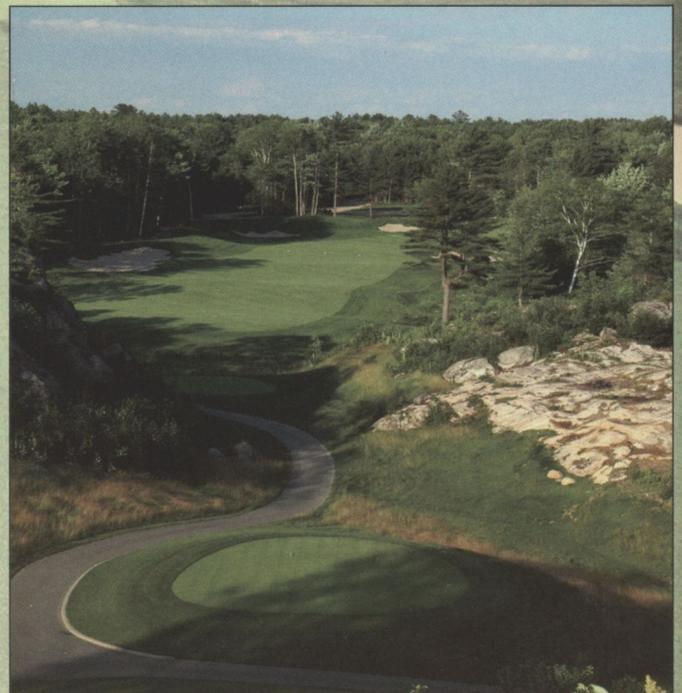
The Muskoka Bay Club plays from five tee boxes measuring anywhere from 5,036 yards to 7,367 yards and



Hole 4

is indeed a must play. If you can’t wait for spring and would like more information on the golf course, the club or onsite real estate, you can visit www.muskokabay.com or contact Chris directly at cgoodman@telus.blackberry.net

“It is a magical setting that manages to combine the “wow” factor with playability. There’s a continual flow of distinctive, photogenic holes with some of the best design use I’ve seen of the indigenous Muskoka outcroppings” Ted McIntyre, Ontario Golf Magazine



Hole 1

2007 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

The three day event started on Wednesday with a presentation on 'Testing for the Top Management of Golf Courses In Canada' with John McGuire and Mark Flock from Brookside Laboratories. The day, sponsored by Syngenta, attracted a large audience. For those who missed it or want a refresher, you can view the power point presentation by going to our website www.golfsupers.on.ca and click on the conference section located on the home page.



Jeff Stauffer

Our 2007 Conference Chairman, Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club, officially opened the ceremonies on Thursday morning, welcoming everyone to a great event and encouraging all to take advantage of all the educational and networking opportunities over the next couple of days.

Thursday and Friday offered numerous education opportunities sponsored by NGF Golf, a Division of Northgate Farms.

Of course, there was a lot of networking done on the trade show floor, especially on Thursday afternoon when Bayer Environmental Science hosted an hour long trade show social.

We had record attendance at the President's Reception on the 43rd floor of the Sheraton, providing a spectacular view of Toronto by night.



Turfgrass research in Ontario has shifted to the next level as the Golf Association of Ontario is proud to announce its annual contribution to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF). The GAO has committed, through its members, to make an annual donation of \$50,000 to assist in the funding of scientific research of turf culture for the advancement of the turfgrass industry.

"The Golf Association of Ontario is pleased, on behalf of its over 115,000 individual members and over 450 golf clubs, to be able to support an initiative as important as turf research", said President of the GAO, Harry Daniel. Approved by the GAO Board of Directors in December, a \$0.50 portion of annual dues collected from each adult member will be donated to the OTRF further developing turfgrass research in the province of Ontario. A presentation was made to OTRF, President, Ron Schiedel by Harry Daniel.



OTRF President, Ron Schiedel and GAO President, Harry Daniel

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association, President, Bob Burrows acknowledged the importance of continued turf research support in Ontario, commenting that the OGSA looks forward to working with the OTRF in a mutual endeavour to enrich the quality of golf and its environment, through turfgrass research. Bob presented a cheque for \$20,000 to Ron Schiedel

We would like it to be noted that The Eastern Ontario Golf Superintendents Association made a contribution to the OTRF in the amount of \$500. The cheque was presented by their outgoing President, Micheal Gutteridge from Dalewood Golf Club. Micheal explained that his chapter had never contributed money for turf research and like many of the other local golf superintendents associations; they had idle money in the bank. Their new President is Tim Schaly from Briar Fox Golf & Country Club. A special thanks to this regional association.

In addition, John Bontje, President of the Georgian Bay Association made a presentation of a cheque to Rob Witherspoon, Director of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, to further their work in the industry.



Jimmy Westrick

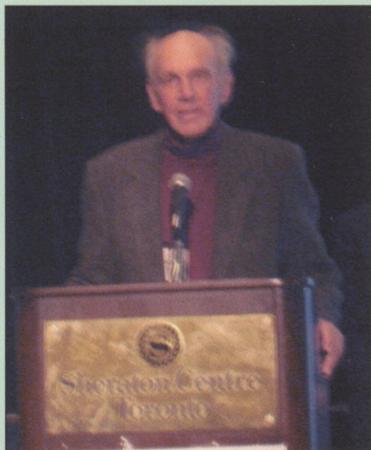
Keynote speaker, Jimmy Westrick gave a motivational talk on “Creative Leadership – The Competitive Edge”. What a way to start the day and get those creative juices flowing. His energy was contagious, and got us all thinking about an innovative and highly effective approach to leadership that produces outstanding results. He inspired, motivated and left each of us with the question, “Am I an agent of change?”

AWARDS LUNCHEON

We had overwhelming support at our Awards’ Luncheon this year to honour and recognize those who have achieved special awards during the previous year. We would like to thank Nu-Gro, now Agrium Advanced Technologies for their continued support and sponsorship of this popular event.

William Sansom Distinguished Service Award

President, Bob Burrows officially started off the presentations by announcing the recipient of our 3rd William Sansom Distinguished Service Award. This award has been named in honour of our first President, William Sansom, who held that position from 1924 through 1932.



This award is presented to a person who the association members feel has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent’s profession. This contribution must be significant in both substance, and may be, or have been national or regional in nature. This year’s Distinguished Service Award goes to Mr. Gordon Witteveen.

Jennifer Pendrith, one of Gordon’s many interns gave a brief account of Gordon’s history as a superintendent and of his exceptional gift to mentor so many interns and see them successfully launch their own careers in the golf industry.

50 Year Member



Mr. Allen “Whitey” Jones has been an active member of the OGSA by sitting on committees and attending conferences. As well, he held the position of OGSA President in 1969. He was very active in supporting the Canadian Association when it was first formed. Mr. Jones, fondly known as “Whitey” has retained that nick name since childhood. It seems that he was very blonde as a young boy. He spent many years in his home town of Aurora, where he was the superintendent of the Aurora Highlands Golf Club, when it was owned by the Nisbet family. Mr. Jones was instrumental in the construction of remodelling the existing 9 hole course into an 18 hole operation. He often hosted OGSA events at the Aurora course, and has attend many McClumpha tournaments. Whitey is now retired and lives in Keswick with his wife Ruth.

Bob made a presentation of a framed photo of the Aurora Highlands Golf Club when Whitey was the superintendent there.

25 Year Member Awards

The following members were presented with a 25 year member plaque.



James Moore, Gordon Nimmo, Bruce Burger, Rod Hermitage of AG Turf Chemicals, Don Crymble, Sean Evelyn

Tom Murphy is also a 25 year member, but unfortunately was unable to attend the ceremonies.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

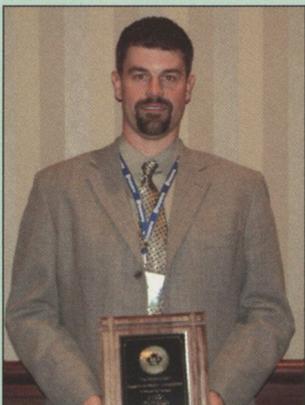
Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

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

The 2006 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary was awarded to Jason Pummell, Assistant Superintendent at Bayview Golf & Country Club.

Jason says that in addition to his concrete career goals, he aspires to become a mentor to individuals entering the turf industry, and would like to foster a love for the game and a commitment to course conditioning in the next generation of golf course managers.

As part of Jason's application for this scholarship, he wrote an essay on "Meeting the Challenge", which you can read on page 26 of this issue of *Green is Beautiful*.



Turf Managers Short Course Education Award

An annual award is given to the golf course related student, who upon completion of the program, received the highest overall mark in the course. This year's award winner was Debbie Dale, with the highest overall average of 95%. Debbie is the assistant superintendent at the London Hunt & Country Club.



Turfgrass Diploma Scholarship

The OGSA has developed this scholarship to recognize scholastic accomplishments and potential leadership in the field of turfgrass management.

This year's Turfgrass Scholarship was awarded to Matthew Legg. Matthew is enrolled in the Associate Diploma Turfgrass Management course at the University of Guelph, and worked last season at the Cutten Club, under the supervision of David Kuypers, to gain experience from



current renovation projects.

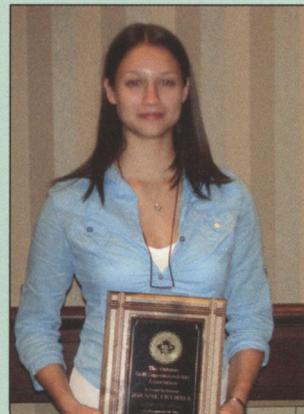
Upon graduation, Matthew plans to go to Augusta National Golf Club for a post graduation internship.

Heritage Scholarship

The OGSA developed this scholarship program to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of members of the OGSA and are studying a curriculum unrelated to Turfgrass Management.

This year's award winner was Joanne Crymble. Joanne is a student at McMaster University, currently working on her degree in Civil Environmental Engineering, and is the daughter of Don Crymble, the Property Manager, of Markham Green Golf Club.

Joanne states that obtaining a degree in Civil Engineering, gaining practical work experience, and becoming involved in her school community will help her to prepare for her career. Persistent acquisition of valuable knowledge and skills will ensure continued success.



GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

Barry Endicott Article Of The Year Award 2006

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

The recipient this year was Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent at Trafalgar Golf & Country Club for his article in the July 2006 issue of *Green is Beautiful*, entitled "Bunkers Fit For A King". This article detailed the work done at Weston Golf & Country Club preceding the return of Arnold Palmer and Weston's 50th Anniversary.



Photo Of The Year Award 2006

The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The recipient's photo is judged by the Editorial Advisory committee. The recipient this year was Shawn Karn for his photo of 2nd Green Par 5, at Rosedale Golf Club which appeared in the August 2006 issue of *Green is Beautiful*. Unfortunately, Shawn was unable to attend.

Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Award Sponsorship

In recognition of the article and the photo awards, we would like to thank Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Limited who have generously donated a total of \$500.00 in the names of our two *Green is Beautiful* award winners to the OGSA Turf Research Fund. This money will go towards furthering research in the golf industry in Ontario. Jason Becket, Golf Manager for Vanden Bussche was present at the luncheon to help us celebrate this event.

Regular Contributor Award

Our magazine would not exist without the contribution of the regular articles submitted to each issue, year after year. One individual in particular has helped to lighten our load with his wit, humour, and a touch of sarcasm. He has introduced us to the absurd, the obscure and the funny side of both turfgrass management and everyday life.



A plaque was presented for many years of regular, outstanding contribution to our magazine, to "Mr. Turf or Consequences" himself, Mr. Doug Breen.

IPM ACCREDITATION AWARDS – LEVEL II

In grateful appreciation for the excellent contribution to the environmental success of the game of golf through successfully achieving full I.P.M. Accreditation in 2006, plaques were presented to the following golf courses.



Bayview Country Club
Cutten Club
Devil's Paint Brush GC
Devil's Pulpit Golf Club
Greensmere Golf & CC
Islington Golf Club
Kawartha Golf & CC
Kleinburg Golf Club
Lakeview Golf Course

Madawaska Golf Club
Markham Green Golf Club
North Halton Golf & CC
Ottawa Hunt Golf & CC
Pointe West Golf Club
Stonebridge
The Raven at Lora Bay
Victoria Park GC West

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As the last day of the conference drew to a close, exhibitors packed up and education sessions finished, a large crowd gathered in the Grand Ballroom West to hear an energetic and motivational presentation given by Michael "Pinball" Clemons.

Pinball captivated the audience with his inspirational talk "Winning Against the Odds", a dynamic and empowering presentation, clearly demonstrating the capabilities of "Team Work"



Our association always values your input and we look forward to receiving your comments, on how we can continue to improve upon our annual conference and provide you with the best possible education and networking opportunities. Here is one person's precis of the conference.

CONFERENCE RE-VISITED

by Justin Parsons
Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

Although I have attended almost as many NRA gun rallies (0) as I have Ontario turf conferences (3), I think it is safe to say, that this year's rendition was a great success. Thanks in large part to the many people who volunteer their time and efforts to ensure that the year's first OGSA event gets the season off on the right foot.

For many who attend these conferences, it is as routine as Wade Belak's 'healthy scratch' status with the Maple Leafs. But for some of the younger members of the OGSA like myself, these events can be somewhat overwhelming. Not only are there countless (68) people to meet, there are dozens of new products and industry innovations to consider. Fortunately, the OGSA does a great job of organizing the talks and tradeshow so that even the most inexperienced conference attendees can get the most out of it.

The event kicked off with talks from Mark Flock and John McGuire from Brookside Labs. Flocks' seminar provided insight into the complexities of the lab testing process and reminded us that those who actually take the samples will also influence the end results. An interesting side note from the talk; the microwaves they use in the labs are so hot they can actually cook a leg of lamb in 3 nano seconds.

CONFERENCE RE-VISITEDcontinued from page 23

McGuire's seminar focused on some of the new technology that is available to superintendents which can help make their lives a little easier. He feels that this is increasingly important considering a superintendents job is now 80 per cent administrative and 20 per cent cultural. Surprisingly, the talk did not mention the new iPlex from Apple, which can actually cut greens, water tees and replace ball marks all at the same time.

After the pre-conference, the show offered talks that deal with issues that are particularly relevant. Indeed, seminars on health and safety and water quality and management are becoming significant areas of focus in the industry. To be sure, the legalities involved in golf course maintenance are not to be taken lightly. Many courses are now being audited in a variety of ways and it is important for us to be cognizant of the standards we must adhere to.

The conference also offered more light-hearted moments with talks from James Westrick and the closing speaker, Michael 'Pinball' Clemons. Westrick's talk showed us, in a

unique and energetic way, that in order to manage people effectively, you must first understand yourself. Clemons' dynamic talk reminded us how important it is to approach your job, and life in general, with passion. Indeed, both speakers made Robin Williams look like a mortician on ritalin. Another speaker with a great deal of enthusiasm was Katerina Jordan. Her talk was full of information on root diseases that are becoming increasingly prevalent in the field. Jordan stresses prevention as the key factor in controlling these types of diseases.

Finally, some of the best talks are always those given by superintendents. Their practical knowledge and experience on the subject at hand is truly invaluable. To be sure, those such as Mike Rossi and Al Schwemler who volunteer their time to give back to the association are to be commended.

All things considered, it was an enjoyable few days. Whether a seasoned conference veteran, or a budding young attendee the show had something to offer everyone.

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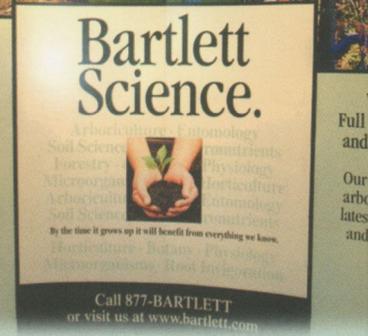
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR 2008 – JANUARY 16TH, 17TH, AND 18TH



MEETING THE CHALLENGE

by Jason Pummell, Assistant Superintendent
Bayview Golf & Country Club

The game of golf has evolved and has led to increased demands and pressures on those involved in the turf industry. Industry professionals face greater expectations related to course conditioning. In addition to the demands related to the course, as assistants we are being challenged to be more efficient, have better technical skills, be computer savvy, and also to manage crews made up of different skills, ages, and ethnic backgrounds. One of the greatest challenges of assistant superintendents in Ontario today is becoming a superintendent. The field is saturated with qualified and experienced people all vying for the few precious positions that come open in a year. When there are upwards of a hundred applications for each superintendent position, how does one separate oneself from the crowd and be successful in the quest to become a superintendent? A strong mentor, solid work ethic, and conducting yourself in a manner as though they are a superintendent are all elements that search committees are looking for in their next superintendent.

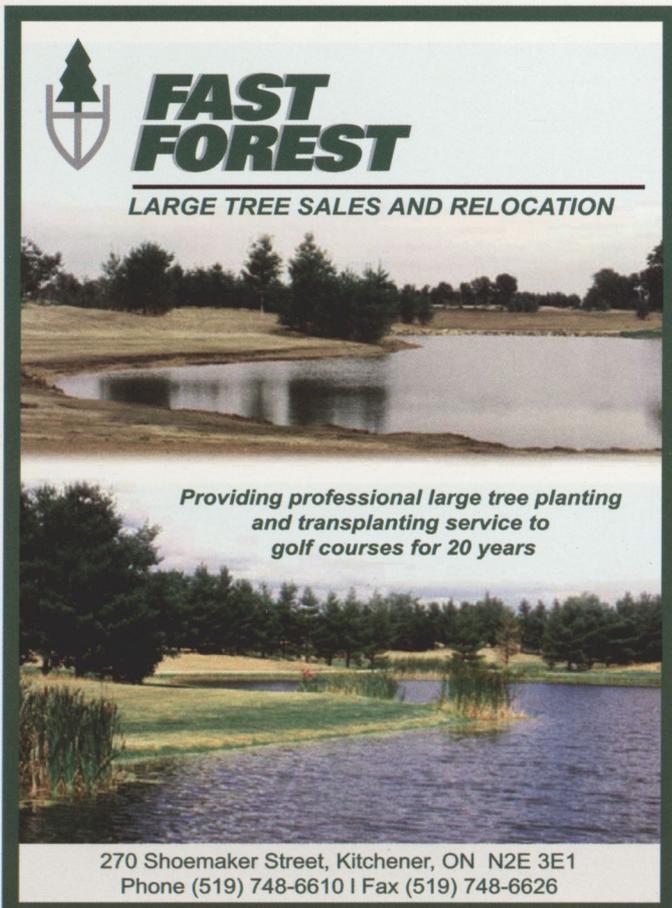
A mentor is a person who will challenge and guide you while you learn the business of managing a golf course. A mentor will expose you to all aspects of course operations from green committee meetings to member events. While one of the key responsibilities of a mentor is to lead by example, the person being mentored must be proactive and ask for opportunities to learn. An assistant superintendent who is in search of career advancement must ask for new challenges and responsibilities that are a part of the superintendent's role. Requesting to be involved in the budget process and discussing the process with your mentor would be an example of effective mentoring. An effective mentor will be honest with you and provide suggestions for improvement and help prepare you for the position. Continue to learn from your mentor, trust their judgment and they will let you know when you are ready for a superintendent position. A strong mentor will provide input regarding which

jobs to apply for, guide you through the application process, and even write you the ever so important letter of recommendation.

A strong work ethic is something that is solidified in an assistant's position. If one is dedicated to the golf course as an assistant, they are likely to carry this ethic with them to a superintendent's position. One must not think that once they secure a position as a golf course superintendent that their workload will become easier. In reality, the workload will increase substantially. However, an assistant who has already developed a strong commitment to course conditioning and feels as though the condition of a course is a direct reflection of their work ethic will bring this frame of mind with them to their new position.

Presenting yourself with the confidence and demeanor of a superintendent to not only the grounds staff, but also to members, managers and other superintendents will increase your chances of becoming a superintendent. It is an assistant's responsibility to ensure that others see them as someone who is capable of the position. This can be accomplished with small, yet effective touches. An example would be to wear a different uniform than the crew so members will identify you as a manager. Making a deliberate attempt to try to interact with members on the course and engage in meaningful dialogue is also key.

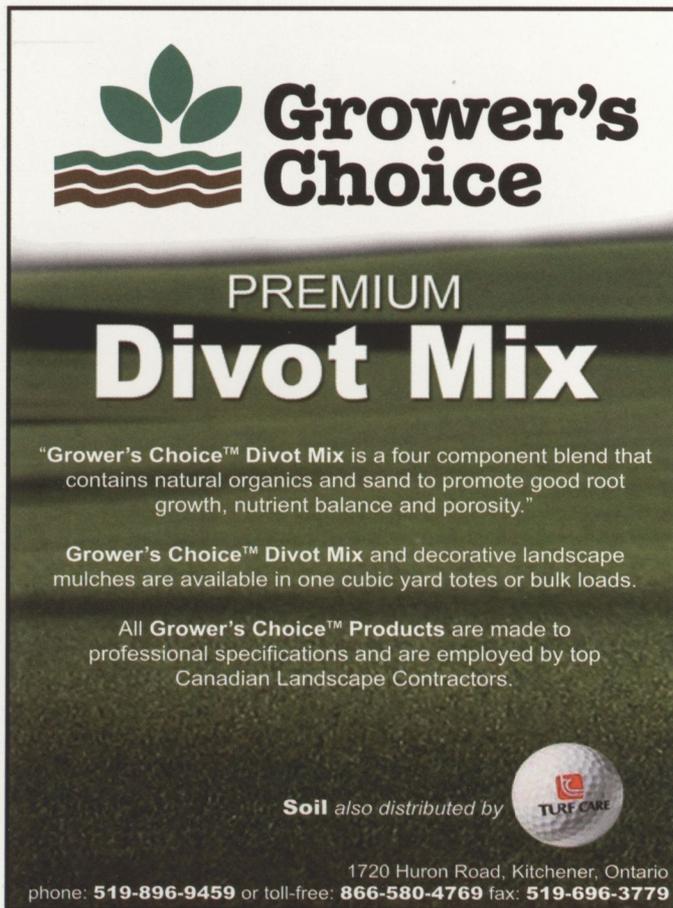
In the end, the most important step in making the transition from assistant to superintendent in the competitive market we work in is to be the best that you can be and always place the condition of the golf course as your highest priority. Following the lead of a strong mentor, demonstrating a strong work ethic and conducting oneself with the confidence of someone in the superintendent position are all elements that will give your application the attention of search committees. With that, a bit of luck and some good timing and BINGO you just may be successful in attaining your goal of becoming a superintendent.



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Above the hole

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

It's that time of year again when everyone has a chance to catch up on some sleep, take a vacation, stop into the various conferences and soon start preparing for next season. We, in the 07'A class at Guelph, will be starting the final semester of our studies all the while looking for a place to put into practice what we have learned. Some of us have already found jobs for the upcoming season, while others may have resumes on your desks as we speak. I, for one, can not wait to put the books away and get a start on my career.

While I am excited to get out into the workforce there are a number of challenges facing all of us in the next few years. Water regulations are becoming more comprehensive and stringent, many widely used pesticides are on the chopping block and fertilizer regulations are undoubtedly coming in the near future. It seems that we all may have to get accustomed to spending more to keep our courses at their current standard or, if not, take a hit in the course conditions. However, the group most widely affected by these changes will be golfers. In North America golfers have taken on the opinion that golf is green, while that is far from the truth. At the home of golf, overseas in Scotland, one fertilizer application and two irrigation cycles a season is considered over doing it. While there are some minds that need changing and some obstacles to overcome it is not all bad.

Along with challenges comes a world of opportunity for students moving out of the classroom and established people in the industry alike. New golf courses are popping up all over, particularly east of the GTA, creating new jobs and different perspectives. The regulations that have been implemented and the ones that are coming will force us to find more creative solutions to keeping a healthy golf course and surrounding ecosystems. Vigilance and correct diagnosis of problems will become paramount as broad spectrum pesticides of all kinds are being replaced by more focused products. Alternative methods of pest control are also on the horizon with some promising results that are sure to make environmental groups less suspicious of turf maintenance activities. These new solutions and new ways of thinking will have a dramatic impact on the industry. The hard part is going to be changing the way things are done and trusting that they will work.

Changing with the times is something everyone has done in the past, in one situation or another, and is something everyone will have to continue to do. Being able to accept and embrace change is crucial, whether it is with respect to finding a job or using new products and methods that replace the old standard. It will be interesting to see the state of the industry in the next 5 to 10 years with the changes we make in it and the ones that are forced upon the industry from outside it. After all, it is change that has brought the golf business to where it is today.



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University of Guelph update



by Eric Lyons
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant
Agriculture, U of G

Management and Moss

Silvery thread moss gets its name from the silvery appearance it has during dawn or dusk when the sun is low in the sky. Its scientific or Latin name is *Bryum argenteum* meaning silver moss. In recent years, it has become more and more of a pest on our golf greens. The purpose of this article is to inform you a little bit about the ecology of this moss, but to do it in the

context of management plans that will help you minimize the presence of moss on your greens.

Four other moss species have been found on greens. These four species are *Amblystegium trichopodium*, *Brachythecium spp.*, *Bryum lisae* and *Funaria hygrometrica*. However, only *Bryum argenteum* has been found on commercial golf course putting greens. The other four species have only been found on research golf course putting greens. Silvery thread moss is very different from common lawn moss. Dr. Tom Cook from Oregon State University has studied the many types of moss and has differentiated the species that invade golf greens from those that invade home lawns. Our on site survey of over 200 golf greens has shown silvery thread moss as the only moss present on golf greens in southwestern Ontario.

Moss invasion involves a combination of environmental factors which enable a particular moss species or community to thrive in a certain niche. The factors include a combination of physical and ecological components. Mosses exist in sub arctic regions, in temperate and tropical forests, on mires, hot springs, lakes, rocks, buildings, in sea water, on sand, burned sites and many other areas (Richardson 1981). With this wide range of harsh environments that mosses can survive, it was only a matter of time before one found its way into the harsh environment of a closely mowed golf green. Anecdotal evidence points to the fact that *Bryum argenteum* likes hot, dry places and the same evidence points to the fact that this is where most of the moss on golf course putting greens has been found. Many mosses existing on open or well-drained sites have physiological and morphological features that give them the capacity to tolerate desiccation (Schofield 1985).

Mowing

Believe it or not, despite common beliefs mowing height is probably the strongest contributor to moss invasion. The lower mowing heights enable silvery thread moss to receive the light they need to survive as an invasive moss. At higher mowing heights the grass is more aggressive and competitive and it can shade out the moss. Unlike its lawn invading brethren, silvery thread moss is not believed to be overly shade tolerant. The grass species also have to support a root system which mosses do not. Mowing heights are a sensitive issue and often golf course superintendents feel the need to keep mowing heights low to satisfy the demands of the golfers. First, other methods to maintain green speed should be used, including rolling, core cultivation and top dressing. Done diligently and correctly they can help maintain green speed at a higher height of cut.

Fertility

Silvery thread moss can be found on sand dunes and sidewalks. It is well adapted for survival under low nutrient situations. The ever decreasing fertility rates stress the turfgrass on greens to the

limit. Mosses have special mechanisms for absorbing the small amounts of nitrogen that is found in rain water. The non-vascular nature of mosses optimizes the absorption and use of nutrients applied to the surface of the plant. When nitrogen is severely limited mosses definitely have an advantage and proper nutrition is essential in allowing grasses to compete with mosses.

Irrigation

Finally we get to irrigation and water use. Over irrigation is usually the first thing that people refer to when speaking about moss invasion. As stated previously, mosses such as silvery thread moss actually survive quite well in dry well drained areas. One key to preventing moss is proper irrigation. The water should be available in the soil, not at the surface. Just like proper irrigation to help suppress disease and encourage root growth, you want to water deep and infrequently to discourage moss. With light frequent irrigation most of the water is available at the surface, where the moss can use it. With deep infrequent irrigation the water is available in the soil where only rooted plants can get it. It is not necessarily over watering that encourages moss but improper delivery methods.

Curative solutions

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, moss invasion still may occur and there are plenty of home remedies, natural elixirs, and other curative concoctions that are tossed about and suggested. I want to remind you that at current time there are no registered products for the control of moss on golf greens. Pam Charbonneau has done quite a bit of work with copper hydroxide in order to get a minor use label approved for turfgrass use. Many researchers and superintendents have reported that soap with iron or micronutrients can be helpful for controlling moss. To this point, nothing has proven to be that silver bullet when it comes to moss control. Often times these successes have been combined with increased mowing heights and fertility to work. It very well might have been the management changes, not the home remedy, that facilitated the turfgrass to regain its rightful place on the green.

Some advice in using any new product be it a pesticide, fertilizer or bio-stimulant. Always try out the product on a nursery, practice green or an area that can be lost without significant repercussions. Often these things work well for other people who may have a slightly different climate. The same remedy may not work under your circumstances and may even be harmful. In general, with home remedies avoid blanket spraying, which can lead to large scale effects which may be undesirable. Always remember that the climate changes year to year and this can adversely affect how well different remedies may work.

My laboratory is continuing moss research and looking closer into fertility and irrigation practices and how they may be optimized to inhibit moss encroachment. We thank all of the superintendents who have participated to this point, and will be requesting continued input to help solve this and future management concerns.

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by Daisy Moore

Global Warming

As part of my radio duties, I was asked to comment on how the lack of snow through December and into January in Ontario and elsewhere across the country might affect the garden. With the warmer weather and no snow, should we be doing

something in our gardens and should we be worried? We are all presuming that something is amiss because, after all, this is Canada and we do expect a winter.

The answer to the big question of course is we (modern society) have to change our behaviour or we will be washed into the sea by the melting glaciers. This I did not get into during the interview because clearly that is not what they are asking a gardening expert to provide.

The more immediate concern seems to be that with warmer winters, plants may be tricked into breaking bud and responding as if it is spring. Although there might be the odd casualty, plants are "smarter" than we think and will safely rest until the days are longer, the sun is stronger and they've been chilled for a while. This process is called vernalization. The best advice is to sit back and observe, learn and then modify our gardening practices to accommodate the shift in weather patterns. We can hope that the changes will be gradual enough that nature itself can adjust.....with a little help from us.

I have a lot of faith in the resilience of nature and natural processes. Biological systems have evolved over eons to cope with climatic shifts in order to survive. Plants in a temperate climate (ours) have evolved the need for a dormancy period in order to physiologically trigger flowering, fruiting and/or seed germination. During dormancy, growth and development are suspended for two reasons. Number one: while dormant the plant can pull in its sails so to speak and lay low during periods of inclement weather (for example, drying winds, freezing temperatures, low light). Number two: the rest period allows the plant to conserve energy and re-align its resources for better times ahead. Without this rest, flowering and ultimately the livelihood of the plant will suffer.

Dormancy is closely associated with environmental conditions, among which are photoperiod and decreasing temperature. These triggers cause a change in the

metabolism of plants and the production of plant hormones that control plants' life cycle. The saving grace here is that it is not temperature alone that controls the growth of our plants. Day length, the angle of the sun in the sky and the quality of light all play a role as triggers in plant hormone production and plant response. This means that unless mankind finds a way to re-align the poles, we are safeguarded just a little bit against the potential botanical changes brought by global warming.

Some species will thrive and expand in a warmer climate whereas others, namely our native North American flora and fauna, are likely to suffer. A large majority of our garden plants have been introduced from areas with less of a winter than we have. The concern is usually whether deliciously ornamental horticultural specimens will be hardy enough to flower, not that the winter will be long enough or cold enough. With that in mind, milder temperatures will be a boom for the glory of the garden. 2006 was a boom year, so why won't 2007?

I was asked a number of times during the month of December whether or not the warm weather was good for business. "You must be getting a lot of work done in this weather." Well no, actually. It generally wouldn't occur to gardeners to be working outdoors in the winter months and this is the first time that I know of that it could even be possible. But I wouldn't anyway. The garden needs the rest and so do I.

As property managers we are wise to ask ourselves about the likely outcome of warmer temperatures since all of science points to global warming. What we need to do to combat the effects is difficult to say because it is impossible to know how biological systems will respond. Based on what we know, however, I can safely advise that we need to steer clear of invasive exotic plants, be vigilant in monitoring for foreign bugs or bizarre responses and do our utmost to bolster and protect North American species.

The answer to the more important part of the question of what to do is to be responsible citizens and stewards of the environment and convince others to do the same. Hummers just have to go.

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

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Looking back

40 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

In 1967 the directors of the OGSA were: **Bob Moote** (pres.), **Dave Gourlay** (vice), **Bill Hynd** (sec.), **Dave Moote**, **Gord Witteveen**, **I. Williamson**, **John Grighmire**, **Whitey Jones**, **Jim Wyllie**, **Alex Chisholm** and **Herb Creed**.

New members were: **Carl Disney**, Whitby Golf Club, **Ross Haines**, Humber Valley Golf Club, **Paul Dermott**, Chinguacousy Country Club, **Fred Klomp**, Detonia Park Golf Club, **Ed Ortlieb**, Bayview Golf Club, **Mike Donahue**, Don Valley Golf Club, **Louis Formosa**, Lake View Golf Club and **Jerry Rietveld**, Pleasant Valley Golf Club.

Meetings were held at Credit Valley Golf Club, hosted by **Doug Suter**. First low gross was **Bill Hynd** with an 83 and the guest speaker was **George Clifton**, the pro at Pine Valley Golf Club.

The GCSAA Conference was held in Washington on February 5th and **Keith Nisbet's** name was submitted as a candidate as director in the GCSAA.

On February 15th, there was a Western / OGSA joint meeting held at Dundas Valley Golf Club. **Fred Grighmire**, Superintendent, was absent because of a car accident but his son **John**, from the Beverley Golf Club, acted as host on his fathers behalf.

The RCGA Turf Conference was held at the Skyline Hotel on March 15th. The CGSA annual dinner was held at the Northwood Golf and Country on March 31st. The Greensmaster, formerly belonging to the OGSA, was sold to the CGSA for the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar) It will be the official publication of the CGSA.

On June 12th, there was a meeting held at St. Georges Golf Club, hosted by **Bill Hynd**. St. Georges will be the 1968 host of the Canadian Open and the course was lengthened to 7,000 yards, by building 4 new greens and some new tees. The

McClumpha Tournament was held at Aurora hosted by **Whitey Jones** with **Bill Bowen** winning the tournament with a 76. There was also a meeting at Westmount Golf Course hosted by **Herb Creed**, in August.

On September 19th, the first Turf Conference organized by the OGSA was held at the Oakdale Golf Club. **Bill Hynd** also won the Western's Taylor Barnes Tournament at the Port Colborne Golf Club, hosted by Superintendent **Bill Robertson**.

On November 14th, there was a meeting held at Markland Wood Golf Club hosted by **Bruce Woolley**. **Bill Hynd** was the winner of the CGSA tournament held at Carling Lake (Bill Hynd had quite a year!). On Tuesday November 28th, Manley's Annual Conference and Equipment Show was held.

Jim Wyllie, Sr. former Superintendent at Bayview Golf Club, passed away at the age of 57 on January 17th, after a short illness. **Alex McClumpha** also passed away. Alex was farming the old York Downs site when it was purchased for a golf course. He then worked for the architect as the course was being built and stayed on as superintendent. Alex later moved to the Elms Golf Club in Weston and later Thornhill Golf Club, where he retired in 1963.

Congratulations were sent out to **Bill and Alice Hynd** on the birth of their daughter. **Rene Muylaert**, who for 5 years was the superintendent at Chinguacousy Country Club, then left the business as a golf course superintendent and became a golf course designer.

Correction from December 2006 issue. Jim Wyllie did not receive his 25 yr. plaque in 1986. Jim joined the association in June of 1957 and will be a 50 year member in June of 2007.

The way we were... answer from page 15, Gordon Witteveen

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

So, is the earth warming up?

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've likely heard that there are people who think the planet is warming up. Even if your only exposure to the media is lining the bird cage with newspaper, accidentally catching a few seconds of news on the radio while you're changing CD's in the car, or passing CNN as you pilot the TV remote between hockey and football, you've no doubt heard more than a few talking heads discussing the issue. They all sound more or less like this:

"The planet's warming up."

"No it isn't."

"Is so."

"Commie tree hugger!"

"Heartless pawn of the oil industry!"

"I know you are, but what am I?"

"Redneck-says-what."

"What?"

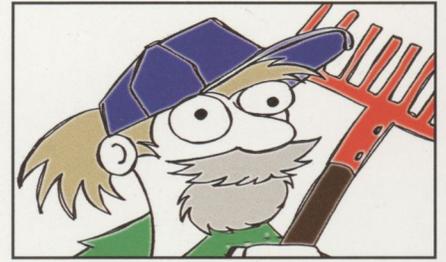
"You're a Redneck! You just admitted it!"

And so forth. On any one of the forty-seven all news channels, this kind of witty repartee can be seen pretty much twenty-four hours per day.

In the United States, it's somehow become part of the lexicon of party politics. The Democrats are saying that the Republicans know full well that the planet is warming up, but that they're in bed with "Big Oil", and they're just ignoring the problem to line their own pockets and gain political favour. In their defence, the Republicans first said that the planet wasn't warming up at all, then that it *is* warming up but that it isn't humans' fault, and most recently that global warming was invented by hippie Democrats to sell more windmills. Another typical defence is the 'fuzzy science' argument. The crux of this one, is that the scientific community is not 100% in agreement on the issue, so until they are, there's no need to fuss about that black smudgy layer that hovers over every major city in the world. There is an outside chance that all that pollution is actually being caused by something other than the city itself, perhaps the surrounding farms, forests, and golf courses? Ironically, this was the same argument used by Dixiecrats to defend the tobacco industry fifty years ago.

In Canada, we take the typically Canadian position, where all parties claim to be the only party who *really* cares about global warming, but will never actually do anything about it. Oh sure, there'll be a Royal Commission (or ten) to study the issue and write a policy paper in both official languages, but unless it looks like the Green Party might actually win a seat, they will simply collect dust in Ottawa among the multiple reports recommending that the military should have better muskets, trucks built after the Korean war, helicopters that fly, and submarines that only sink when you want them to.

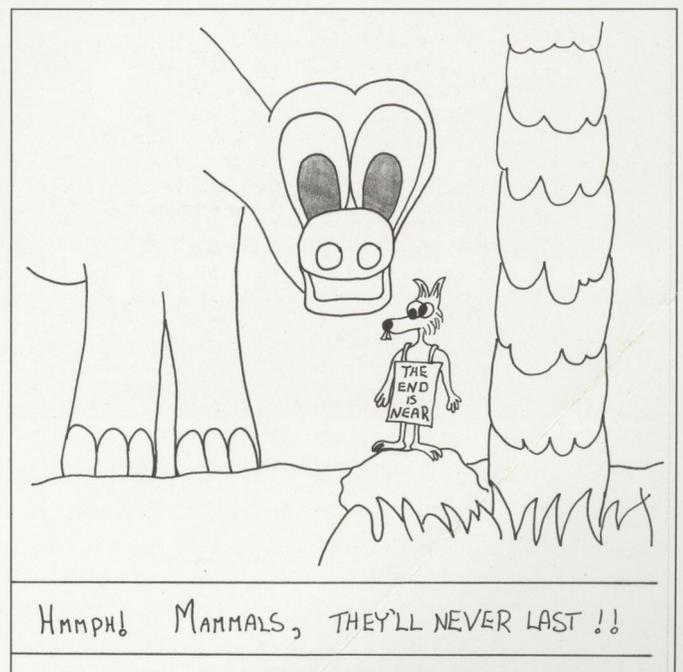
Now there's likely an argument to be made that Canada would actually benefit from global warming. A couple degrees warmer on average has got to sound pretty good to someone from Winnipeg, so one can understand why there would be some complacency here. But if you were from someplace like



say, Texas, I would think that there'd be some serious worry about warmer temperatures. An extended golf season in Muskoka would certainly make some people I know pretty happy, but if Al Gore is right, and there's going to be storms all the time, then that doesn't help us either. Not to mention all those insects and turf diseases migrating north.

Al's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth", has been shown to every school kid in North America, so it's got my kids scared to death that the Grand River's going to back up and drown them in their sleep. Every twenty years or so, American liberals fund a movie to scare the crap out of a generation. This is theirs. For me it was "If You Love This Planet". Had me lying in bed at night waiting for the Soviets to launch a full scale nuclear attack on Putnam. Before that, it was "Silent Spring", which spawned the not so silent anti-pesticide movement. A generation before that, kids were shown 18mm films about how to properly hide under your desk if the "pinkos" dropped an atomic bomb on your school. Rockwood still has an air raid siren in the old fire hall. I remember a Newsweek from 1974 that warned of an impending ice age. Apparently they never got funding for a movie because you never hear about it any more.

So is the earth warming up? Well here's what we know. There used to be two miles of ice on top of Guelph, there's a map of Antarctica drawn by the Turks in 1510 without *any* ice on it, there used to be a rainforest where the Sahara desert is now, and there were once woolly mammoths, woolly rhinos, and woolly people. I'm not sure, but what say we ease off on the pollution anyhow, just to be on the safe side? As one of the last of the woolly people, I think it's in my best interest.



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