

May 2007

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

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TREE MANAGEMENT

Inside this Issue...

Research on Annual Bluegrass Pests

Understanding Take All Patch

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President's message

Spring is always an exciting time for any golf course superintendent as we make the transition from thinking and planning, to implementation. One of the great things about being a superintendent in Ontario is that every year in April and May we essentially get a new beginning. All of the challenges and stress from the previous year are now behind us and hopefully we all learn from our mistakes and past experience, moving forward. As each year progresses we should become better communicators, managers, planners, and more knowledgeable about our properties. In theory, this should result in better golf course conditions for our members, their guests and paying public alike.

The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association can be thought of in the same light. Every year there is a new structure and look to the Board of Directors working towards common goals outlined in our strategic long range plan. At our first board meeting we establish goals for each portfolio moving forward. We also look at our success and failures from the past to help us become better communicators, directors, planners, and to learn much more about our membership.

I would like to thank all of you who recently filled out the conference survey to assist us with planning and better serving our membership in the future. The conference planning committee, chaired by Randy Booker, is well underway with securing speakers for the 2008 event, being held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.

Our first event of the 2007 year took place at North Halton Golf and Country Club on Wednesday March 21st. Special thanks go out to Dean Baker, his staff, and club officials for hosting a fun filled day of curling. As 2007 moves forward we have an outstanding line up of golf events that I urge you to participate in. In the next two months we have the Cam/Am Challenge at Ambassador Golf Club, the Pro/Super event at Devil's Pulpit, and the Spring Field Day at Ariss Valley. I would like to thank both the superintendents and club officials for their support of our association and members.

One of our goals for 2007 is to raise the profile of the golf course superintendents not only within the golf industry, but to the golfing public as well. The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association will be running two ads in the Ontario Golf magazine in the spring and mid summer, to help increase awareness of our contribution to the game of golf. Many thanks go out to Jeff Alexander for leading this initiative.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a successful and prosperous 2007 golf season at your own respective clubs. The OGSA also has a lot to look forward to as we proceed on behalf of our membership.



by Sean DeSilva,
Coppinwood Golf Club



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Green is Beautiful 2007

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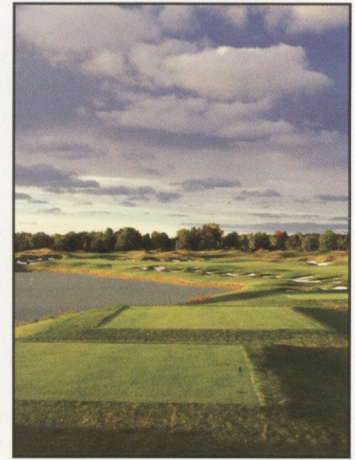
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Ambassador Golf Club

Photo by Clive Barber

Professional Photographer

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Editorial message



by Chris Andrejicka
Co-Editor

Spring in Ontario certainly gets us all excited about the upcoming golfing season doesn't it? Well, spring weather teased us in March and then reality set back in as winter had one last word. I wish to say hello to all fellow OGSA members upon being appointed the new co-editor's portfolio. Going forward for this year John Bladon and I will share

the editor's responsibilities.

Over the course of this past year's conference calendar I had the opportunity to attend a GCSAA chapter editor's session in Anaheim. It was a chance for all chapters who publish newsletters, magazines and other publications to network and get ideas and insights as to what different chapters do to communicate with their members. Well, it didn't take long before the OGSA stood out as having one of the most envied publications with *Green is Beautiful*. Having brought samples to the group, they kept me busy answering questions about the OGSA and our successes as an informed and professional association. I would like to thank our advertisers, those who have written articles; everyone who contributes and makes *Green is Beautiful* the envy of our peers.

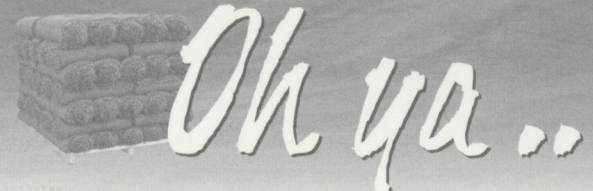
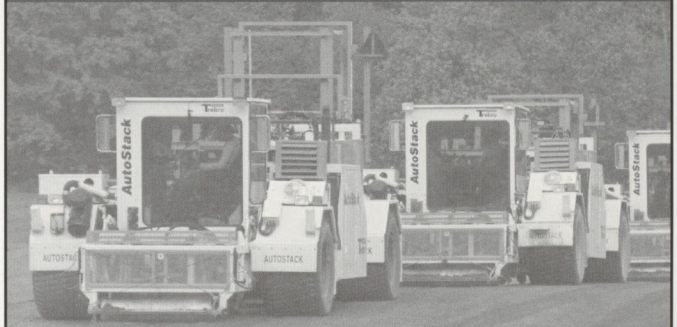
We would like to thank Jason Pummell for his contributions to "Above the hole" over the past year and welcome Rafik Lang-Bismillah as our incoming author of this regular article. Rafik is completing his first year in the Turfgrass Management Diploma course at the University of Guelph, while working on his family's 9 hole golf course just north of Guelph.

This month's issue features a contribution from David Kuypers on an issue which we all deal with, Tree Management. We also have an interesting read concerning the options of leasing your golf course equipment. Paul Grotier and Jason Hanna give us a summary of their two day visit at the inaugural Green Start Academy. The program is designed to further assistant superintendents' careers by teaching about management practices, innovative products, meeting industry experts and networking with peers from across the continent. Our congratulations also go out to Zander Sod who are celebrating 50 years in the business.

Of note, John Kaminski and Tom Hsiang have announced a five-year North American research initiative on annual bluegrass pests. They are requesting turf managers to do an online survey to assist them in this project.

In closing, I would like to mention that we are still looking to publish photos of the oldest turf equipment still in use on the golf course, with the name, a brief description and the year of the equipment. This can be emailed to Dorothy Hills at ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca. I wish everyone good health and a great 2007 golfing season.

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What's new

Audubon International

St. Thomas Golf & Country Club has retained its designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International. Wade Beaudoin, Superintendent, led the effort to maintain sanctuary status on this course and Audubon International has recognized him for Environmental Stewardship. The St. Thomas Golf & Country Club was designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in 1999 and is one of 61 courses in Canada, and 634 in the world to have received this honour.

"St. Thomas Golf & Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program, They are to be commended for protecting the local watershed and preserving the natural heritage of the area by providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Shawn Williams, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

GCSAA Named Association of the Year

The BoardRoom magazine has named the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) as its 2006 association of the year.

Winners in each category of its ninth annual Excellence in Achievement Awards will be featured in the May/June 2007 issue of *The BoardRoom*.

GCSAA Superintendent Certification

OGSA member, Douglas Meyer, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Beaconsfield Golf Club, Inc, Pointe Claire, Quebec, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Meyer has been at Beaconsfield Golf Club, Inc. since 2002. A 31-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 1983. Approximately 2,000 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold CGCS status.

Jacobsen Names G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd. Dealer of the Year

Jacobsen, A Textron Company, named G.C. Duke Equipment Ltd., of Burlington, Ontario, as Dealer of the Year during the company's annual dealer meeting in conjunction with the GCSAA show in Anaheim, California.

This annual award is presented to recognize outstanding performance in sales and customer service. G.C. Duke Equipment has been a 3-time winner of this award since becoming a Jacobsen dealer in 1999.

OGSA Turf Tip Contest

Share your experience with other OGSA members! If you've got a creative tip for solving common golf course problems, we'd love to post it on our website.

For every Turf Tip submitted, you'll get a chance to win your choice of either:

- Free registration to the Spring Field Day Event (June 11, 2007, at Ariss Valley Golf & Country Club); or
- \$100 worth of OGSA merchandise

Guidelines: Your Turf Tip must be submitted with a title, and be no more than 100 words long. Be sure to include your name, the name of your golf course or organization, and the city where it's located.

Deadline for submissions: May 31, 2007.

Send your Turf Tip to Jennifer Pendrith at jpendrith@kawarthagolf.ca

IGCEMA

On September 1, 2006 equipment technicians from around the world met together to form what is known today as the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA). This association was developed to enhance the profession of the equipment technician, mechanic, equipment manager or any other names they have been called over the years. The association prides itself on providing education to these technicians all over the world through various channels.

With technology changing and technicians becoming more and more scarce it was decided that something needed to be done to increase the education and the career awareness of the equipment technician. We encourage every superintendent, greenskeeper, and technician to join our association and help us help you. The association is currently free of charge to join and is certainly worth taking the time to check out. So visit us today at www.igcema.org and let us show you where our profession is headed.

Mark Your Calendars



OGSA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

PRO/SUPER CHALLENGE

HOSTED BY DEVIL'S PULPIT, CALEDON

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

SPRING FIELD DAY

HOSTED BY ARISS VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, ARISS

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007

PRESIDENTS' DAY

HOSTED BY COPPINWOOD GOLF CLUB, UXBRIDGE

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2007

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE BRIARS GOLF CLUB, SUTTON WEST

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

ALEX McCLUMPHA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY PETERBOROUGH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007

ONTARIO TURFGRASS RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY GEORGIAN BAY CLUB, COLLINGWOOD

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007

Note: The OTRF tournament is not an OGSA event.

Please contact Debbie Conrad

for details at (519) 824-4120 x56149 or email: otrf@gti.uoguelph.ca

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.

The regional associations are invited to send their tournament information into the OGSA office and we will post it in our "Calendar of Events" on the website.



Welcome!

**OGSA Welcomes
our newest members**

Paul D. Armstrong Class Supt
Banty's Roost G & CC

Brent Barkhouse Class S
Kwantlen University College

Dave Boehmer Class F
Glencairn Golf Club

Tony Caliandro Class F
Markland Wood CC

Kyungsun Choi Class F
Donalda Club

Evan Coakwell Class F
Glen Abbey Golf Club

Alex Dickie Class C
Dundas Valley G & CC

Tony Evershed Class D
Sandusk Golf Club

Bill Gilkes Class C
Scarboro Golf & CC

Wally Janzen Class D
Quarry Golf Club

Rafik Lang-Bismillah Class S
University of Guelph

Martin Levay Class F
Grand Niagara Resort

James Lockington Class C
Highland Gate Golf Club

Greg MacCullough Class C
King's Riding Golf Club

James Nicholls Class A
Silver Lakes Golf Club

Kelly O'Connor Class S
University of Guelph

Kyle Pernokes Class F
Kawartha Golf & CC

Lesley Thomas Class C
Scarboro Golf & C C

John Watson Class S
University of Guelph

Maple Hill Tree Services
Andrew Frederikse Class E

Muskoka in the City Class E
Al Seymour

What's new

Green is Beautiful Needs Your Support

Do you have any innovative practices you could share with your colleagues?

Do you have an old piece of equipment, in operating condition, still being actively used on your golf course?

Can you provide us with a description, the year and photo of same for viewing in our magazine?

If you have anything you can contribute to the magazine or know of anyone else doing some interesting work, please contact anyone on the Editorial Committee. We look forward to hearing from you.

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jparsons27@hotmail.com

Sports Turf Association News



The Sports Turf Association (STA), Canada's information source for building and maintaining safe and playable sports turf fields, is celebrating 20 years of service in 2007.

Founded in 1987 at Guelph, Ontario, the association membership represents every facet of the turf industry including construction and maintenance management and personnel, provincial and municipal authorities, regulatory agencies, and the supply industries. The diversity of the members ensures that relevant and up-to-date information on every aspect of turf management is available.

For the 20th anniversary chronicle "20 Years of Service" visit the association's website www.sportsturfassociation.com.

Sports Turf Association Renames Scholarship To Honour Dr. Robert W. Sheard

A scholarship established by the STA to further its goal of the promotion of safe, natural sports turf through education and professional programs was renamed at the association's annual meeting to honour Dr. Robert W. Sheard.

The STA Scholarship will henceforth be known as the STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship in recognition of Dr. Sheard's immeasurable contribution and support provided to the Sports Turf Association over the last seventeen years.

The Sports Turf Association is a professional association committed to the promotion of safe, natural sports turf. For further information contact the STA office at 519-763-9431, email: info@sportsturfassociation.com



OGSA SCHOLARSHIPS 2007

Information will be outlined in the 2007/2008 Roster. Check on our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca, under the heading "Benefits" for full details and application forms. Announcements will also be made in our E-Bulletin "Clippings".

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OGSA has also committed to a yearly \$1,000.00 contribution to the Norman E. McCollum Turfgrass Diploma Entrance Scholarship, sponsored by the University of Guelph OAC Alumni Foundation. This is a \$2500.00 scholarship. If you would like information about this scholarship go to www.oac.uoguelph.ca/learning/learn_turfgrass.asp.

Please spread this scholarship information to anyone you know who might be eligible. If you have any questions feel free to contact the office at (519) 767-3341 or toll free (877) 824-6472 or email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca

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TORO Count on it.

From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

From all accounts, turf in most of the region (especially southwestern Ontario) has wintered well. To date there are no reports of problems with winter injury of any type. Many courses opened in March which is pretty rare. There is snow on the ground at the moment and let's just hope that the cold snap over Easter does not result in

any turf injury.

There are a few new developments on the URMULE front. Just a reminder that this is a program for end users of pesticides to request label expansions. Recently the PMRA granted a registration to deltamethrin for use on ants, hairy chinch bug, cutworms and sod webworms on turf. At the time of writing this, the new product label is not available, but it should be available from Bayer sometime in the near future. There are quite a few URMULE submissions that have been made over the past winter and efforts will be made to communicate the details of registrations that have been granted in a timely fashion.

There are a couple of surveys that have been passed on to me with requests that they be circulated to golf course superintendents in Ontario. The first is to document the occurrence and severity of two pests of annual bluegrass, namely, anthracnose and annual bluegrass weevil. The survey is fairly straight forward and should not take that much time to complete. The survey can be found at <http://www.turf.uconn.edu/ne1025.htm>

The second survey is a bit more detailed and is from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). It is too late to participate, but it is something

that you might like to get the results from. It is the third survey in the series. The deadline for participation was March 2007. This survey solicited information regarding nutrient use and associated practices on golf courses throughout the United States and Canada. Also in 2007, the information from the first two surveys — Property Profile Survey and Water Use and Conservation Survey, conducted during 2006, will be submitted to the scientific journal *Applied Turfgrass Science* for review and publication. In early 2008, the Pest Management Survey will be developed and released to GCSAA member and non-member golf course superintendents. This survey will solicit information regarding pest management and associated practices on golf courses throughout the United States and Canada.

With the season underway, so are the turf updates. They began on Friday, April 13, 2007. The name has changed from "Turf Agriphone" to "Turf Updates". They can be accessed by phone at 1-888-290-4441. You can also find them on the OMAFRA website at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/updates.html#turf>. You can use the subscribe feature to get an automatic notification when a new update is posted on the web. New this year, the updates will also be available by podcast.

The 2007 Supplement for the OMAFRA Publication 384, *Turfgrass Management Recommendations* will be available on line shortly. It contains all of the new pesticide products that have been registered for use on turf in Ontario for 2007. It will be available on line at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub384/p384supplement.htm>

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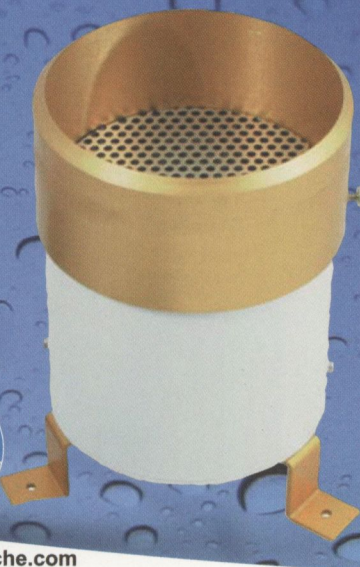
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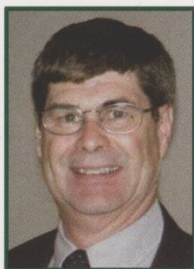
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First Aid

Over the last few months I have written a number of articles about safety on the golf course, and one of the issues that tends to get overlooked is first aid. First aid is one issue that every workplace needs to take seriously. You need to respond immediately if an accident occurs and you need to be able to respond appropriately.

As superintendents you have a responsibility to ensure that there is an adequately stocked first aid kit available, and, as has been discussed before, a clear well communicated emergency response program if an injury occurs.

There are some minimum requirements for the first aid kit that depends on the number of employees you have at your workplace. You can find the minimum requirements in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) Regulation 1101. Call me or the WSIB and make sure you have a copy on site with your first aid kit. It is free! The law requires that you have this document on site!

Every workplace must also have at least one worker trained in first aid on each shift. Depending on the size of your club this individual may be required to have a one or two day training course and the first aid certification is only good for a maximum of three years.

Most employers train at least two people, as this will ensure that there is generally someone available if one of the trained workers is away or unavailable. Employers tend to train some of the management staff, as management tends to be at the club year round and this tends to ensure that there is continuity if a worker leaves.

As part of your first aid responsibilities it is important to

ensure that you have an eyewash fountain and lately the OMoL has indicated that clubs need a shower facility that is working and readily available to the workers in the event of an eye injury or chemical contamination.

As safety conscious employers it is imperative that you go beyond the first aid minimums. It is a good idea to stock extra items that are pertinent to your type of work. Consider the type of work you are doing and prepare yourself for the potential injuries by reviewing your accidents and discussing your needs with a competent supplier.

Here are some of the extra items you might consider having at your first aid station: first aid cream, forceps, sting stop, no bleed, antiseptic solution (peroxide or BZK), 2nd Skintm for burns, finger tip and knuckle bandages, butterfly closures (to close bigger cuts), cold packs or available ice packs, tensor bandages, a CPR disposable or reusable rescue breather, at least one roll of one inch wide adhesive tape and a good quality pair of bandage scissors.

There may be other items that are pertinent to your operation. If you have questions or comments please call and I will help you or direct you to an organization that might assist you.

Spring has sprung the grass has riz, now let's be sure where safety is!! Happy spring!

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THE BIG SWEEP

by Dean Baker, Superintendent
North Halton Golf & Country Club

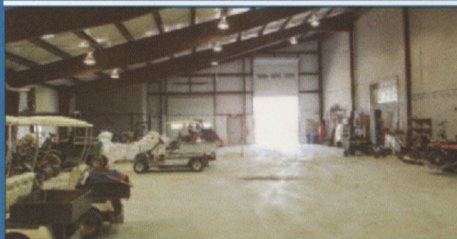
North Halton Golf & Country Club was proud to host the annual OGSA Curling Day on March 21, 2007. After a few years sabbatical from the North Halton Curling Club, the best, and not so best, curlers made their way to Georgetown to test their skills.

It was a full house as 8 teams took to the ice. With many stories to be told it was a great afternoon to see old friends, talk about the upcoming season, enjoy a wonderful lunch and throw a few rocks. At the end of a busy afternoon, it was Mitch Jewell (skip & icemaker from North Halton), Scott Bowman, Craig McCutcheon, Brett Murray & Mark Scenna who took home top prize. As Mitch is no stranger to winning events, it was decided that next year he should maybe just make the ice. Ryan Beauchamp and his Glen Abbey team of Even Coakwell, Wade Beaudoin & Wayne St. Jean (skip) took the other A flight game. Honourable mention goes to the Rhod Trainor team of Kerry Whale, Dorothy Hills & Dave Kuypers and the John Gall team of Greig Barker, Jason Griffin, John Bontje & Greg Fach for their finishing wins. The rest of us...we just had a great time!

Thank you to the OGSA for their support in this Curling Event. The prizes for this event have always been donated which is very much appreciated. North Halton would be more than happy to see everyone back next year. We wish everyone a dry warm spring and a prosperous season. See you on the golf course!



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13th GOLF COURSE HOCKEY CHALLENGE

by John Taylor and Scott Dodson
Tournament Committee

The 13th Annual Golf Course Hockey challenge took to the ice this past January 30th and 31st in Fort Erie, Ontario with 12 teams representing both Canada and the United States, competing for the coveted "Reel Cup."

The teams played two games on the first day in a three team pod and then played two more games the second day matched up by the results of the first day, guaranteeing each team four full games of hockey action.

The hockey was competitive but still fun, as was the Tuesday evening "attitude adjustment party" hosted by Club Car which always is one of the highlights of the event. Post game refreshments were provided by VandenBussche Irrigation and were greatly appreciated by all the participants. Turf Care Products sponsored the ice time for all participants as they have for all 13 years of the

tournament, no small feat considering that the tournament has grown from a 4 team one day tournament in it's first year, to it's current 12 team, two day format. Special thanks to Duke Equipment and Podolinsky Equipment and also Team Michigan who provided draw prizes for the Tuesday evening party.

When all was said and done, Team Northern Ontario came out on top once again with a convincing final win over a much improved Team Ottawa. The "Reel Cup" will again spend the year in cottage country, although its off season travels have become a thing of legend in recent years.

The tournament committee would like to thank all those sponsors who helped make this event happen as well as the timekeepers, referees and fans.



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Zander Sod Co. Limited

Celebrates their 50th Anniversary

In 1957 Fred Zander purchased his first truck and started Zander Sod Co. Limited as a sod delivery service, before the 401 was even paved. In the early days, special seeds did not exist and the turf was not nurtured for two years. It was simply grass that grew in pastures. At that time, the sod was cut, rolled and carried to the truck, loaded and unloaded, all by hand. Zander and his co-worker alternated jobs – one would harvest the turf while the other would make deliveries. Zander's wife was the secretary, taking messages of jobs for the next day, which she would give to Fred when he returned home after his long day. How things have changed! They now grow over 3000 acres.



L-R Claus Zander, Vice President, Fred Zander, President, and Mike Zander, Manager of Bentgrass, in front of the Kettleby office



L-R Fred Zander, President, his wife Steffi Kuhnert-Zander, and his son Claus Zander, Vice President

**Just how much sod has Zander Sod sold?
Enough sod to cover over 13,000
average-sized soccer fields!**

Claus Zander, Vice President of Zander Sod has fond childhood memories of riding shotgun in his father's pick-up truck along gravel roads and through bumpy fields. He recalls getting his little hands dirty helping his father load sod on and off company trucks.

Right from the beginning, Zander Sod Co. Limited has been dedicated to their customers and the sod industry. Their company is based on the foundation of supplying quality product and great service at a competitive price. As much as technology has changed their business, their values have remained the same.

Zander Sod not only prides itself in supplying the best turf, but also ensuring the soil and environment stays healthy for generations to come. With the assistance of an agronomist, they utilize a complete soil management program that addresses the micro nutrient levels in both the soil and the plants. From seed bed preparation right through to harvest, they continuously monitor and adjust to produce only the highest quality grasses. For many years Zander Sod has been active members of a number of local and international association which work to promote and better the turfgrass, landscape and golf industries, as well as protect the environment.

Fred's two sons pride themselves with continuing the family business and maintaining the company's reputation for excellent products and service. For the last few years, the third generation, Mike's sons, have helped out in many departments. Though the business isn't run entirely by family, it feels like it is, according to Claus. "Everyone is like family around here" says Claus. Zander has over seventy employees during the season, most of whom have been with the company for more than a decade. Claus says that one of the key tools to running a successful business is the people behind it.

Zander Sod has grown to be one of the largest sod producers in Ontario. Congratulations on your Golden Anniversary!




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Member profile

Interview with Doug Breen

by John Bladon

Agrium Advanced Technologies



The music charts were being dominated by John Cougar Mellencamp, ZZ Top and Dire Straits and budding musician Doug Breen had no idea the turn his life was about to take. It was 1986 and he had decided not to return to the family farm outside of London, Ontario but stay and work that summer in his university town of Guelph. He responded to a snack bar job posting at Victoria Park Golf Club West and was interviewed by owner/superintendent Ted DeCorso. In Ted's distinct, accented and authoritative words was a direction rather than an invitation. You from the farm? I think you work outside with my son. Ted's son, of course, was David now owner/superintendent at the East course and between Ted's suggestion and David's encouragement, Doug claims his path was forever changed.

After five years with the DeCorsos and four at the Guelph Country Club, under Gary Grosicki, Doug spent two more years building and grooming the Waterloo Golf Academy. This brings us to the present tense and his affiliation with Golf North. Although Doug has spent time plying the superintendent trade at a number of their facilities, including Conestoga and Calerin, he recently graduated from Director of Turf Operations to Regional Director which has him overseeing all facets, including golf shop, food and beverage and turf operations for five of the company's facilities.

When he is not busy at one of the golf courses in his charge, Doug's agenda is indeed full. Aside from penning his bi-monthly, quirk-filled, edition of "Turf or Consequences" for the OGSA, he currently holds a seat on the board. He teaches a pesticide safety course to farmers and has done so since 1991. Coming from a family deeply rooted in politics, he has also taken to serving Guelph-Eramosa Township as a councillor for Ward 3. As if all that wasn't enough, Doug still finds time for his first love, music. He plays in a band "Safe as Milk" who play a mixture of predominantly original music with a splash of cover material. Last and certainly not least, there is his biggest stable of fans, his family; wife Krista of 14 years, son Walker, 9 and daughter Aniela, 8.

How does a golf superintendent become a politician?

"It's not that big of a stretch given the job we all do" Doug laughs wryly. **"Seriously though, I started with some volunteer work, got to know the issues and then was asked to run. It really was that simple."**

Doug has now been through numerous elections having won 3 and lost 2. He reflected back on each of those terrifying election nights.

"It's kind of like crossing the gymnasium floor to ask that girl to dance fearing that you may get turned down!"

At this stage in the game, I'll bet that girl would be jealous. Doug Breen's dance card is clearly full. How many hours in a week again?

"In the Hot Seat"

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Favourite major: | British Open |
| • Best piece of turf equipment ever: | 1980's Jacobsen GK 4 |
| • Favourite architect: | Doug Carrick |
| • Ultimate foursome: | Breen, CS Lewis, Matt Dunigan, Hugh Dillon of the Headstones |
| • Lowest round ever and where: | Conestoga, 89 |
| • Favourite meal: | Panzerotti from Tony's in London, ON |
| • What's in your CD right now: | Arcade Fire |
| • What would you be if not a golf course superintendent: | Playing in a band somewhere |

CANADA WINS THE CAN/AM CHALLENGE!



Submitted by Sean DeSilva & Jeff Stauffer
Photos by John Bladon

After an eight year drought, the team representing Canada won the 2007 Can/Am Challenge, held at the Ambassador Golf Club, over the American team by a score of 26.5 - 24.5!

A very enjoyable day was hosted by Dave Cours, Tom Brydon and the entire team of the Ambassador Golf Club. The golf course was in excellent condition to go along with the sunshine and great weather.

The OGSA would like to thank our American friends of the Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association for participating in the day with us.

The winners were:

1st Team Low Gross Canadian
Thom Charters & Wayne Rath - 65
1st Team Low Gross American
Brian Schwehofer & Aaron McMaster - 68

2nd Team Low Gross Canadian
Chris Andrejicka & Kelly Barnet - 72
2nd Team Low Gross American
Jay Delcamp & Tom Gill - 72

1st Team Low Net Canadian
Vince Murphy & Dan Freisen - 59
1st Team Low Net American
Ron Murdock & Scott Ford - 60

2nd Team Low Net Canadian
Scott Bowman & John Bladon - 61
2nd Team Low Net American
Dan Johanningsmeier & John Nowkowski - 61



L-R Sean DeSilva, President, OGSA and Mike Jones, Director, Greater Detroit GCSA



L-R Tom Brydon, Assistant and Dave Cours Superintendent at Ambassador GC with Chris Andrejicka, OGSA Director



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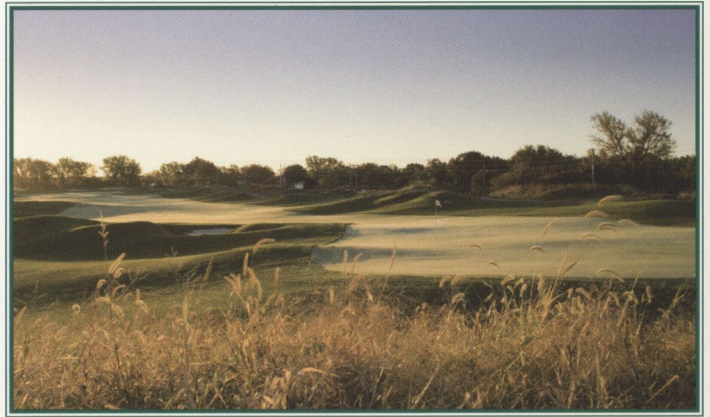


Photo by Clive Barber, Professional Photographer

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Essex

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

Typical opening and closing date
April 1 to November 30

Name of Superintendent
Dave Cours

How long have you been a superintendent?
18 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?
20 years

How many staff?
6 fulltime, 5 part-time, 6 students

How many mechanics and assistants?
Mechanic: Pete Szabo
Assistant: Tom Brydon

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?
7033 yards from the back tees and
5338 yards from the front tees

What is the size and length of driving range and range tees?
300 yds and 30,000 sq. ft of tee

How many bunkers?
91

How many ponds, and/or water come into play?
4 ponds in play on 8 holes

Who was the original architect?
Thomas McBroom

What was the year of original construction?
2005

What major tournaments have been held there?
2007 GAO Final Amateur Qualifier

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
5,400 square feet

What type of irrigation system?
Toro Osmac

What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?
Greens: 140,000 sq. ft.
Tees: 135,000 sq. ft.
Fairways: 32 acres

What is your predominant grass?
Greens: Bent L-93
Tees and Fairways: L-93/SR1119

How many USGA greens and loam greens?
19 modified USGA

What is the predominant soil type?
Sand

What equipment do you have in inventory?
6 Toro Greenmaster 1000 mowers
5 Toro 1600 tee mowers
5 Toro Trans Pro 80 trailer with 04245 ramp
3 Toro Trans Pro 100 trailer
3 Toro Greenmaster 3150
1 Toro thatching reel kit for 3150
1 Toro tri-roller kit for 3150
3 Toro Reelmaster 5400 fairway mowers
1 Toro thatching reel kit for 5400
2 Toro Groundsmaster 3500D Sidewinder
1 Toro Groundsmaster 4500D
14 Toro Workman 2110 utility vehicles
1 Toro Workman 3300D utility vehicle
1 Toro ProCore 648 aerator
1 Toro ProCore 660 fairway aerator
1 Toro Sand Pro 3020
2 Toro spiker attachment
1 Tycrop MH400
1 Toro MultiPro 5700 sprayer
1 Toro enclosed walk boom & trailer
1 Tycrop Pro Pass 180 topdresser
1 Buffalo trailer mount blower
4 Eastman Hover mowers
2 Toro rotary push mowers
1 Toro Z597D zero turn
1 Lely WFR fertilizer spreader
4 Kubota M5700DIHS tractor
1 John Deere Skidsteer

2 Kubota L4330GST tractor
2 Stihl BR420 backpack blower
1 Stihl FS110 weed eater

COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?
Construction and grow-in, maintenance facility

LONG RANGE PLANS

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

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
The bunkers at Ambassador are challenging to maintain with high flashes and steep banks.

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?
Successful construction and grow-in. Named Top 15 best values in the province while being in the top 5 new golf course as rated by Ontario Golf Magazine

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

What type of innovative practices have you performed?
After reading about Dr. Thomas Nikolai's studies, we implemented a rolling program for greens that has saved labour and increased putting green quality. Greens are cut only on alternate days with rolling on the opposite days. This has resulted in excellent turf quality and a consistent putting surface.

Tree Management Strategies

by David Kuypers, A.Ag
Golf Course and Grounds Superintendent
The Cutten Club

Trees serve several useful purposes on a golf course. They define golf holes and make good safety and noise buffers. They provide a change in colour, texture and height in the landscape. However, these benefits do not continue to increase as you plant more and more trees and allow them to get larger and larger. The tree stand on any golf course is always growing and evolving, and if the management of that stand is neglected for even one year, the net effect is not that the golf course is unchanged, but rather the impacts of the tree population on the golf course have been allowed to increase.



Before Tree Management Program

Managing the tree population is a critical aspect of creating a safe, high quality golf course. Creating a reasonable balance between turf and trees is a vital part of having healthy turf that is capable of withstanding the stresses of traffic and modern conditioning practices. On older golf courses, managing tree populations is even more critical, as the stand of trees is older and larger and is therefore capable of having a dramatic impact on turf health. Unfortunately, tree work is often done as an afterthought, if at all, as a response to a catastrophe or is unreasonably constrained by political forces. This article will summarize a comprehensive tree management program that has been successfully implemented at a number of classic golf courses. The program has been implemented here at the Cutten Club and has been in place for 2 seasons, with positive results. The Cutten Club is 76 years old and had an extensive tree planting program in the 70's, 80's and 90's. The

specimens that were planted were relatively small and now many years later, are beginning to decline and are suffering from crowding issues. Many of these specimens were poorly suited for a golf course environment and were planted in poor locations. These trees were also one of the greatest challenges to improving turf quality. The minimal sunlight and reduced air movement were causing the turf to under-perform and the growing environments needed to be improved in order for any improvements to be made in turf quality.



After Tree Management Program

A comprehensive tree program was implemented in order to correct these problems. The program is based on the program that was implemented at Winged Foot Golf Club in preparations for the US Open, which involves evaluating each tree on the property under four categories. The evaluation of the tree is then measured against the value of the tree in terms of aesthetics and strategic importance. By evaluating the tree population on agreed upon, reasonable criteria the emotions surrounding tree programs are diminished. The program is more effective with outside advice. Currently at the Cutten Club a certified arborist is used to evaluate the structural integrity of the trees, a golf course architect counsels the club on strategic impacts and design intents, and the USGA Green Section is involved in the agronomic consulting. Once the evaluation is completed an action plan is developed for the tree that can involve removal, pruning, relocation, fertilization or none of these actions.



A certified arborist should be enlisted to identify potentially hazardous trees on the golf course.

The four categories under which each tree is evaluated before determining how the tree is to be managed:

1. Safety:

Trees, like all living things, have a "life expectancy." As trees approach the end of that life span, they begin to weaken or rot away in sections, which can weaken the tree and pose a threat. Also, older trees can begin to accumulate a great deal of deadwood in the canopy. This deadwood is the greatest potential hazard to golfers. As the deadwood accumulates, the canopy becomes heavier, and strong or consistent winds can cause the trees to topple over. Less destructive, but no less hazardous, is the potential for deadwood to fall out of a tree onto someone or something.

In addition to being a health hazard, poorly managed trees that fall or come apart and injure others or cause damage have been the source of litigation and can therefore be a liability risk for the golf course.

2. Health of Surrounding Trees:

Instead of falling on a person, an old, unsightly tree could potentially fall on a specimen tree, destroying a valuable, beautiful resource. Almost as tragic is the practice of crowding picturesque trees with fast-growing, unattractive pines, which is commonplace at the Cutten Club.

Overcrowding is a more common problem concerning the health of trees. As trees naturally grow larger, they require more air, water, food and sunlight to continue growing. As competition becomes fierce, trees have limited resources, and they become twisted and stunted as they try to position themselves in the sunlight. Such overcrowding creates a situation in which neither type of tree will develop its proper shape. By selectively removing those trees that are crowding others, the overall health of the entire stand of trees will improve.

3. Architectural Considerations:

It is important to note that making judgments about the strategic impact of trees on a golf course is beyond the scope of superintendents, greens committees and the membership. There are many bona fide experts in golf course design, and they should be a part of the discussion on the strategic impacts of trees and tree removal. That said, these same experts should also be consulted BEFORE tree planting, so that trees don't end up negatively impacting the strategy of a golf course. Tom Fazio illustrates the need for architects, "If the greens committee wants to plant a tree, fine. Seldom does anyone question the decision. But try to put a new bunker on a favourite hole and watch the storm of protest. And try to take out that tree that no one cared about when you put it in? All of a sudden it's sacred" (Bryan, 1986, p. 34).

The result of over planting taken to the extreme is the elimination of all strategy because trees have now matured,



Shaded green sites, especially during the morning hours, will underperform turf that receives an adequate amount of sunlight hours.

thus reducing all players' options down to one. In this situation, players standing on the tee are faced with a tree-lined canyon in which their only play can be to hit a straight shot right down the middle because any other routing or shot selection will result in a second shot played from the trees. Playing down fairways bordered by straight lines of trees is not only inartistic but also tedious and uninteresting for most golfers. According to Alister MacKenzie in *The Spirit of St. Andrews*, "Many greens committees ruin one's handiwork by planting trees like rows of soldiers along the borders of the fairways."

Another benefit from thinning out an overcrowded tree stand is an improved pace of play, as players find their ball more quickly and encounter fewer obstacles on their way out of "jail".

4. Agronomic Considerations:

Unfortunately, examples of agronomic reasons for a tree program that restricts overpopulation are numerous, not only at the Cutten Club but also at classic golf courses everywhere.

Trees and turf are mutually exclusive; indeed, they are in fact mortal enemies. They rely on the same food, air, water, sunshine and space to live. Trees planted too close to playing surfaces will enjoy the growing environment that is created for healthy turf as much as the turf itself. This will lead to problems with inconsistent moisture levels and drought, thin and etiolated turf and disease due to shade, and restricted air movement on important playing surfaces. Therefore, trees that affect moisture levels in the root zone, restrict air flow, and eliminate sunlight on greens, tees and fairways need to be managed to reduce their negative agronomic impact. There is no substitute for a proper growing environment. While technological innovation has improved products like chemicals and fertilizers, the fundamentals of healthy turf remain constant. Proper nutrition and sound water management combined with air flow and sunlight will provide the foundation for healthy turf that is capable of producing high-quality playing surfaces.

A proactive, well defined tree management program will identify those trees that are causing poor growing environments and will reduce the negative impact that these trees have on the golf course.

In summary, this strategic approach provides a basis for a tree management program that can be expanded or diminished depending on each specific situation. The program allows each tree to be evaluated under a clear and logical set of parameters. Most important is the realization that by implementing no tree management program of any kind, the situation will only become worse, resulting in a negative net effect on the aesthetics of the landscape and the playability of the golf course.

A FIVE-YEAR NORTH AMERICAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON ANNUAL BLUEGRASS PESTS

by John Kaminski and Tom Hsiang

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) is commonly found on putting greens throughout the temperate regions of North America. While a healthy stand of annual bluegrass can offer an excellent putting surface, managing this species can be challenging. Problems with managing annual bluegrass were widespread during the summers of 2005 and 2006, when temperatures above 30C seemed to become the norm, not the exception. Besides its vulnerability to environmental stresses, annual bluegrass is also susceptible to a variety of diseases and is prone to damage from routine cultural practices, such as low mowing, topdressing and vertical cutting. One disease in particular has drawn the attention of university researchers: anthracnose basal rot.

In response to this situation, toward the end of 2005 some 22 turfgrass researchers from the Northeast and elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada gathered their wits and their resources to launch a new Multi-state Regional Research Initiative (for a list of researchers refer to: <http://www.nimss.umd.edu/homepages/outlineAppE.cfm?trackID=7316>). However, to make this research effort a success, we are asking golf course superintendents from across North America to participate in a survey to provide valuable baseline information for this project. The Annual Bluegrass Pest Survey takes only 5 to 10 minutes to complete online, and it can be found at <http://www.turf.uconn.edu/ne1025.htm>. Whether you have or have not experienced a problem with anthracnose, please help this research effort by filling out this survey today!



From a distance, turf infected with anthracnose basal rot looks patchy, with areas that have died back, and areas that are discolored due to infection.



This plug of annual bluegrass shows heavy infection by anthracnose basal rot with many yellowed leaf blades. The individual plants are easy to pull out because of rot at their base.



An individual turf plant showing blackening and rot at the base due to anthracnose basal rot.

The anthracnose (and annual bluegrass weevil) project will attempt to answer several questions over the next 5 years. Four main issues that will be addressed include:

Objective 1) Fill critical gaps in our understanding of the anthracnose pathogen and of ABW.

An important component of this project is improving our understanding of the biology and ecology of the major disease pathogen and insect pest that impact annual bluegrass. A first step will be defining the current geographic distribution of anthracnose. Researchers will use various methods to establish differences among strains of *Colletotrichum cereale* (= *Colletotrichum graminicola*), and they will conduct experiments to elucidate important biological aspects of the pathogen. Laboratory and field experiments will establish how and where the pathogen survives unfavourable periods and how and when infection occurs. Knowledge obtained from these basic studies will provide valuable information for strengthening our understanding of the host-pathogen interactions.

Objective 2) Identify and develop new control options for suppressing anthracnose.

Research will be conducted to increase the list of management options used to mitigate the impact of anthracnose. New biological, biorational and chemical control products will be evaluated. Other studies will focus on improved use of current products through better pesticide combinations, timing regimes, and resistance management strategies. The frequency and mechanisms of *Colletotrichum* resistance to commonly used chemistries will also be examined.

In addition to biological and chemical controls, coordinated field and greenhouse studies will evaluate the role of cultural practices and the potential for host plant resistance. Researchers will determine the influence of nitrogen rate and source, plant growth regulators, and other cultural practices (e.g., mowing, verticutting, irrigation, etc.) on disease severity. A wide range of diverse annual bluegrass cultivars will also be assessed to determine their potential benefits on newly established putting surfaces. Other advanced cultivars will be evaluated for resistance to anthracnose. Results from these field and greenhouse studies will provide valuable information applicable to managing this disease on golf courses.

Objective 3) Develop improved IPM decision tools for managing anthracnose on golf courses.

In addition to determining management strategies that directly affect anthracnose severity, researchers will attempt to determine the influence of environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, leaf wetness, etc.) on anthracnose. Using information gathered from field and greenhouse studies, a predictive model for anthracnose will be constructed from environmental variables and key management factors. Results from these investigations will allow turfgrass managers to forecast anthracnose development and therefore implement the appropriate disease management strategies prior to the onset of severe damage.

Objective 4) Develop best management practices for annual bluegrass on golf courses to help reduce economic and environmental costs.

Following the collection and interpretation of research results obtained from these studies, pertinent findings will be shared directly with golf course superintendents. Results from all participants in this study will be combined to develop a best management practices publication for annual bluegrass. Research findings will also be distributed in the form of publications, annual meetings and symposium sessions, and regional workshops through the Northeast.

Ultimately, this project will allow researchers from around the region to work together to solve a problem facing golf course superintendents. By combining our efforts, we hope to speed the gathering of information and avoid overlap and duplication of research efforts. Finally, the consolidation of information from all researchers in a single location (visit the projects website listed above) will make it easier for golf course superintendents to find information about relevant research in their region.

Although this project involves numerous turfgrass researchers, the participation of golf course superintendents will be essential to the success of the project. Researchers are optimistic about finding improved management strategies for suppressing anthracnose. Results obtained over the next five years will play a key role in our understanding and managing these pests. For more information about this project, contact John Kaminski at the University of Connecticut (john.kaminski@uconn.edu) or Tom Hsiang at the University of Guelph (thsiang@uoguelph.ca)

Dr. John Kaminski is an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut working on turfgrass diseases, and Dr. Tom Hsiang is a Professor at the University of Guelph also specializing in turfgrass diseases.



Insects Harming Your Trees?

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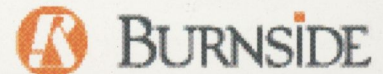
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TWO DAYS AT THE INAUGURAL GREEN START ACADEMY PESTS

by Paul Grotier, Assistant Superintendent, Donalda Club and Jason Hanna, Assistant Superintendent, Credit Valley Golf & C.C.

Last year Bayer Environmental Science and John Deere One Source combined their efforts, inviting assistant superintendents to a two-day educational event entitled, *The Green Start Academy*. The program, September 28-29, 2006, was designed to help further assistant superintendents' careers by teaching about best management practices, innovative products, meeting industry experts and networking with peers from across the continent. The educational event was held at the Bayer Environmental Science Training and Development Center in Clayton, North Carolina.

Day one of the event was spent at the Clayton Research Facility. Seminars addressed issues about water and nutrient management, as well as exposing assistants to the increasing role public relations will play in their careers. To help participants gain a better understanding of the function of a research facility in development of some of the products used on the golf course a portion of the day was spent touring the laboratories and over 200 acres of expansive property. The property contains several research plots designed to evaluate formulation and efficacy for various fungicides, PGR's and herbicides.



Aerial photograph of Clayton Research.

market. Many products can go through years of development and trials to be dropped if it does not fit the criteria it is designed for. This process can be a real economic gamble for the major stakeholders involved in this process.

At the conclusion of the day, participants had the opportunity to listen to some of the biggest names in the business discuss issues superintendents and their assistants face on a daily basis. Bruce Williams CGCS, from the Los Angeles Country Club discussed leadership and covered topics such as working with migrant workers and where the turf industry will be 10 or 15 years from now. Bob Farren, CGCS from the Pinehurst Resort discussed professionalism and provided real-life examples from his many years of experience. Both superintendents were excellent speakers and provided a wealth of information learned from their careers and experiences. Listening to these speakers made us realize how important it is for superintendents today to not only be well versed in the science of turf, but be dynamic in working with committees, owners, employees and the public to understand the big picture in being part of a management team with a successful operation.

Day two of the Green Start Academy continued at the Clayton Development and Research Centre with a southern styled breakfast. Breakfast allowed us the opportunity to reflect on what we had learned the previous day and continue to meet and network with other assistants. Many agreed that a highlight of day one was the many candid conversations we had about issues facing assistant superintendents in the current marketplace.

The morning commenced with a presentation by Nick Hamon, Director of Developmental and Technical Services for Bayer Environmental Science. Hamon provided an overview of the pesticide market, including the cost and the work involved in developing new pesticide chemistries. According to Hamon, hundreds of millions are spent on research and development annually. As well, each year, millions of new chemistries will be created, while only a small handful will go onto further development to potentially make their way to golf courses across North America.



View From Par 3

Accompanying the research plots are four golf holes used extensively for research purposes. Located in a transition zone between warm and cool season climates the Clayton Research Facility allows researchers to grow both Bermuda and Bent grasses. On one of the four holes, the approach and collar are composed of tifspport Bermuda grass, while the green is A-1 Bent grass—a scenario not readily found on most golf courses. Throughout the tour, facility superintendent Gary Ryan explained the contrast between his current position and that of his previous one as a local golf course superintendent. Ryan comments that at first it was difficult to alter his management practices to promote thatch development or prolong leaf wetness for as long as possible to provide researchers with ideal conditions to conduct their experiments. Also few superintendents set out to inoculate their turf with various diseases or spread weed seeds throughout areas on their properties. It was interesting to see first hand the amount of work behind developing chemicals in the field before they go to



Explaining the aerification procedure

Following the presentation was a John Deere Solutions tour. Tracy Lanier, of John Deere demonstrated the difference between effective height of cut, versus bench height of cut. The bench height of cut was explained as "the height at which the bedknife is set above a firm level surface" and the effective height of cut as "the actual height at which grasses are cut." Conditions impacting effective height of cut are the weight of the cutting unit and attachment, soil conditions, roller shape, surface area and grass type. For every additional 10 lbs of weight added to a mower, the result is a .005" height difference. Brad Aldridge, also of John Deere, then discussed aerating, verticutting and top dressing. His cultural management

demonstration using an Aercore attached with a verticutting unit impressed many by the amount of material pulled out of a green with just one pass. Apparently, when combining verticutting with aerifying followed by topdressing, the healing process is hastened and verticutting slits and aerifier holes heal faster than when done separately.

The afternoon included a tour of John Deere's Turf Care Factory in Fuquay-Varina. Production at this site started in 1997, only one year after the land had been purchased. The site was specifically chosen due to the proximity to John Deere's market in the Eastern United States. In total, 110 acres of land is utilized, where a 220,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant is located. At this facility, thousands of parts arrive daily to be assembled into various golf and commercial mowing equipment. The plant employs 300 manufacturing staff, with incentive programs implemented to help maximize production goals and to maintain quality control. We were fortunate to see the mechanization and automation of the manufacturing process with parts traveling from one end of the warehouse to the other on conveyor belts and overhead transportation systems.

The two-day event was a great learning experience, and a good opportunity to meet many new people. The camaraderie between all assistants being able to share and discuss common challenges, goals and ideas will not soon be forgotten. Thank you very much to Bayer Environmental Science and John Deere One Source for hosting and sponsoring the Green Start Academy.

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ONCE UPON A TIME.....

by Tim Trimper
Maxium Golf Leasing

There was a superintendent that was a magician at keeping equipment running long past its useful life. While it was good for the chicken wire and duct tape business, it eventually resulted in this particular golf course spending more annually on repairs & maintenance than it was on new equipment acquisition.

Part of the solution was making a philosophical change to the way in which they acquired their equipment by entering into a long term lease plan. This behavioral change enabled the club to update the fleet of turf equipment so all pieces were current while spending relatively close to the same dollars overall. Instead of spending \$40,000 on repairs and maintenance (r&m) and \$30,000 on acquisition they were now spending \$50,000 on acquisition and \$20,000 on r&m.

Ultimately this course was able to improve its course conditioning and maintenance practices. Now, several years later, they find themselves in the very competitive private club market, in a position to better control their future and continue to attract new members. As a footnote, after the retirement of the "magician", the club was able to attract arguably one of the finer superintendents in the marketplace due in part to the "current" condition of the maintenance equipment and the course's progressive attitude towards equipment replacement and turf practices.

With the combination of an ever increasing competitive environment where the golfer has more choices than ever before, superintendents and general managers feeling their budgets being squeezed and the continual advances in technology, today, more than ever, leasing is the answer.

WHY LEASE?

Whether it's turf equipment, golf cars or non-core assets such as computer equipment, irrigation components or technology the fundamental reasons to lease hold true.

Pay For Usage: Leasing avoids large capital expenditures and allows the club to pay for the equipment as you use it rather than paying up front. The monthly payments can be customized to match the club's revenue stream to maximize cash flow.

Upgrade Affordably: Leasing dollars go much further than cash allowing a club to upgrade with newer equipment sooner and more often. An average annual capital budget of \$60,000 when applied to a lease plan would accommodate over \$250,000 in equipment based on a 5 season lease term.

Lifecycle Management: Leasing encourages the club to plan the timely replacement of equipment to help avoid the mistake of keeping equipment beyond it's useful life and help prevent costly repair, maintenance and down time.

Flexibility: Leasing provides maximum flexibility with the customer enjoying all the rights of ownership with the flexibility at expiry of exercising their purchase option if they want to keep the equipment, continue to lease the equipment or apply the equity to lower the cost of new equipment and trade it in on a new package.

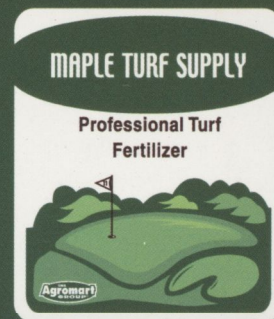
NOT JUST GOLF CARS & TURF EQUIPMENT

There exists a need to fill the gap left between traditional bank loans and specialized mortgage funders. Many clubs are re-examining the feasibility of lease financing for projects such as course & clubhouse expansion, bunker renovation, irrigation upgrades and even debt consolidation. In many cases clubs can be offered flexible payment terms and longer amortizations without tying up their existing bank lines.

No matter what the structure of your club or the financial situation, there are benefits to leasing that should be considered. It would be prudent to research all financing options when acquiring equipment. If your club does not have a comprehensive equipment replacement program in place, now is the time to build one. This plan will help manage the conflicting goals of achieving customer satisfaction, improving course conditions, upgrading equipment and at the same time managing a budget and remaining competitive.

PIECE OF CAKE?...at least we're not suggesting you do it with chicken wire and duct tape.

Tim Trimper is a Vice-President of Maxium Golf Leasing which provides structured lease financing to the golf industry across Canada. For details contact Maxium Golf Leasing at 905-780-6150



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ONTARIO REGULATIONS 94/102 AND 94/103: IS YOUR COURSE IN COMPLIANCE?

by Michael Gailius

Golf Course operators in Ontario are increasingly under the gun to clean-up their trash—or at least separate it. With less than a year left to achieve its stated goal of diverting 60% of waste away from landfill, the provincial government is looking to Ontario's commercial property owners, including our golfing community, to close the gap.

Golf course operators are required by law to apply the same waste-separation practices at their facilities as they do at home, namely, to get all recyclable material out of the waste-stream.

The legislation, Ontario regulations 94/102 & 94/103 require businesses which fall into several categories to create and maintain waste audit records and waste-reduction work plans. Course operators who are found to be non-compliant will now be subject to fines ranging from a few hundred dollars to several million dollars/day. According to the MOE, Golf courses are included as "commercial properties over 10,000 sq. m."

Although the commercial 3R's regulations have been on the books for over a decade, little has been done to enforce them. Since March of 2006, however, the MOE has dispatched over 200 Enforcement Officers (EO's) to specifically inspect commercial properties, Golf courses included, whereupon they may ask to inspect the aforementioned waste audit records, reduction work plans, interview personnel, tour the property, review records, collect samples, take photographs, and copy documents relevant to facility operations and waste management systems.

As of September 2006, the Ministry had conducted 125 inspections since March 2006 and handed out 70 Provincial Officer Orders. "At this point in the blitz, the intent is to go out and advise owners and managers what is required of them," explains Kate Jordan, a ministry spokesperson. "The idea is to work with management."

In order to comply with the provincial regulations, superintendents can no longer think of outgoing waste as simply a collect-and-haul commodity. The new reality calls for a partnership between management, hauler and the province to minimize material destined for landfill.

Depending on the service-level of each property, waste may be generated from several sources: administration office, restaurant, snack-bars, pro-shop, maintenance facility, and material brought onto the course by users.

"Understanding the particulars of what operations-generated material are recyclable and how to effectively implement a recycling program can be confusing at first, but once in-place will make a major impact on a course's total waste output,"

suggests Craig Busch, of Busch Systems, a recycling specialist based in Barrie, Ontario.

"Because trash is taken to landfill, whereas recyclable materials are taken to be separated, broken-down and reconstituted into fresh material, a clean sort has to start at the source because nobody's going to sort this stuff once it has become intermixed. It's much easier to start at the beginning with the person who is throwing something out. Make sure the article is separated right there, and maintain that separation all the way to the curb. Your disposal service-provider can then make sure everything goes to the right place."

Superintendents should be opting for multiple receptacles that make it easier for users to separate and discard waste. When asked how recyclable materials are currently separated, many superintendents claimed that plastic, glass and aluminum containers are hand-picked from collected garbage bags. Not only does this practice not comply with provincial regulations, but it also creates a significant safety hazard.

Course managers are encouraged to develop policies that respect that since different waste materials must now travel to different physical locations, source-separation is key. Source-separation also simplifies documenting your course's waste output, as required by the legislation.

"Although implementing a course-specific recycling program may be a superintendents responsibility, it's not his or her job...it's ours," says Busch. "We create waste diversion solutions for restaurants, offices, institutions and businesses every day."

Graeme Capaldi of Environmental Reporting Systems Limited, an independent consulting service, has been conducting waste audits and providing businesses in Ontario with recommendations for waste reduction since 1994. "Progressive businesses have shown that comprehensive programs will exceed the provincial target, reduce overall waste costs and improve their overall corporate image," he says.

Your course's waste disposal service provider can also help with an audit, and work with management to implement the systems necessary to satisfy the current MOE regulations.

Michael Gailius is a Customer Service Representative with Busch Systems International, and can be reached via e-mail @ michael@buschsystems.com. For more information, visit www.buschsystems.com

TEA ANYONE?

by Mark Durrand
Previous Superintendent at Bluewater GC
Currently sales rep for Master's Turf Supply,

As the superintendent of the little 3200 yard nine hole course in Bayfield, Ontario, the budget to apply chemicals on thirteen acres of poa/bent fairways was out of the question. With compost tea applications only costing between \$20 - \$25 per acre, it is certainly a practice worth looking into. Dollar spot is the main disease that occurs on the fairways at Bluewater, and after many months of researching data on compost teas, I felt confident that compost tea applications would suppress dollar spot and improve the overall quality of the turf. This past season, I applied three applications on three of my most dollar spot prone fairways, and I observed little disease occurrence. Two other untreated fairways had above average occurrence, and the rest of the untreated fairways were average. There was also a definite difference in turf colour and turf density on the fairways treated with compost tea. My practice green was designated as my research green where I applied compost tea applications once a month. This green is certainly the most difficult green for me to maintain as surrounding large trees and high traffic cause major problems for this 1000 square foot green. Over the course of the year, only two small patches of brown patch, and three small patches of dollar spot occurred. As for the tees, I applied five applications on seven of twenty-seven tees and very little dollar spot occurred. Seven untreated tees needed chemical applications twice to suppress dollar spot and the rest of the tees had little dollar spot occurrence.

The idea of compost tea applications has been used in the turf industry for many years. It's low cost and "environmentally friendly" method of disease suppression is of interest to many turf managers. Generally speaking, inconsistency turns them away.

The key behind good quality compost tea is using good quality compost. The compost should be tested by a certified soil food web laboratory that can measure bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematode levels. Another important element to enhance results is using a quality tea brewer that has been tested and provides consistent results, brew after brew. The 50 gallon tea brewer that I am using was designed by Jim Crockett of

JayBee Brewers in Kelowna, B.C. This brewer and compost blend has produced excellent numbers

of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes on a consistent basis. This past summer, a fellow tea brewer performed a test of my tea and the results were great. By using a powerful microscope we were able to see actual bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes moving around in the Petri dish. This definitely gave me more confidence to continue with future applications.

Compost tea brewing is a process of extracting beneficial microorganisms and soluble nutrients from compost. As continuous herbicide, fungicide, and insecticide applications are performed, the populations of bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes are being destroyed. What are we doing to replace these microorganisms? Nothing. We add N,P&K and micronutrients to the soil which is already rich in these nutrients. Unfortunately, a large amount of these nutrients are unavailable to the plant because the populations of microorganisms aren't there to convert these nutrients into available forms. By using compost teas we are adding biology to the soil and allowing the soil to function the way that it was designed to function, naturally. Obviously, this will not be the end-all, cure-all to disease in turf, but compost teas can play a huge part in a plant nutrition program.



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Above the hole

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

Australian professional golfer Bruce Crampton is reported to have said "golf is a compromise between what your ego wants you to do, what experience tells you to do, and what your nerves let you do". There is perhaps no better metaphor for life, education and professional growth than this statement.

I fell in love with golf: not the game, or the competition, but the experience. The way early morning dew sparkles with the first rays of sunlight, the simplistic beauty of a perfectly cut green or fairway, and the unique feeling of being able to witness the emergence, growth and evolution of a course through your own labour. This love affair has not been characterized by rash, passionate actions. Rather, I have approached it as something to be studied, learned and yet ultimately enjoyed. I have had the unique opportunity to work and experience the golf industry from a variety of perspectives. My last 6 years have been spent absorbing all the experiences and knowledge I could while helping to manage my family's 9-hole course north of Guelph. It is an experience which has enabled me to make use of many of the skills I acquired during my undergraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Guelph, while simultaneously launching me into the more focused Turfgrass Management Diploma.

I have learned some valuable things from my experiences on and off the golf course, lessons that have stuck with me.

1. It is never too early to start work.

Life is full of due-dates, schedules and checklists; they all must be eventually accomplished, so jump on them. More than anything else I have learned it is that things cannot be late. Whether it is work or school, deadlines are critical. I have learned the importance of starting and completing work in a timely fashion the hard way. Excuses cannot be made for failing to accomplish something on time. Therefore, I endeavour to start things early, because if they are finished earlier more can be accomplished.

2. Everybody has something to teach you.

There are few things in life that can be accomplished

on ones own. In an academic setting the educator is easy to identify; in the real world they are not announced or heralded. I have experienced as much, if not more from people who would never have called themselves 'teachers', as I have from teachers. Education is an ongoing and cumulative experience that can only be achieved by being receptive to that which others can offer. Having the knowledge to do something is only half the battle, being able to do it under any conditions and within certain limitations is what enables someone to have the wisdom to act accordingly.

Those are my commandments; a list that is neither exhaustive nor complete, but none the less a solid foundation upon which to grow. As in a game of golf, I will have to continue to battle my ego and nerves. However, the experiences and knowledge I have gained, and will continue to gain, will allow me to be better prepared to make the best decisions.

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Understanding Take-all patch



by Katerina Jordan,
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Last spring at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute Diagnostic Laboratory, we saw more samples of take-all patch than we had ever dealt with in the past. The samples began coming from the western provinces, but by mid-May, we started seeing the disease in Ontario as well. Considering how devastating this disease can be I wanted to focus this article on the biology of the pathogen and disease, as well as on prevention, diagnosis and cultural management of take-all patch.

Take-all patch, caused by the fungus *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, is an important disease of numerous cereals and grasses, and is known to lead to significant yield reductions in wheat crops. There are three different varieties or biotypes that are known to be pathogenic: *G. graminis* var. *tritici*, which infects wheat and other cereals crops, *G. graminis* var. *graminis*, the causal agent of Bermudagrass decline, and the one we deal with on turf here in Ontario, *G. graminis* var. *avenae*, which attacks oats and cool-season turfgrasses, especially bentgrasses. The fungus infects the roots and crowns of its host, generally killing the plant – hence the name take-all.

The fungus overwinters as mycelium in infected plant tissue or in the thatch layer. Ectotrophic mycelium, or runner hyphae, grow on the surface of the root tissue, and once conditions for infection are present (cool, wet weather typically found in the spring and fall), the fungus initiates infection of the root cortex. The fungus spreads from infected to healthy host plants by mycelium, although long distance spread can also occur through movement of infested soil or plant material. Symptoms begin as small, circular patches of reddish or brown turf, and can sometimes be confused with *Microdochium* patch (aka *Fusarium* patch) as they both often occur under the same conditions. Depending on the environmental conditions, the patches usually start out small, but often increase in size, leaving behind large areas of dead turfgrass, especially in pure bentgrass stands (Fig. 1). The dead patches will often fill in with non-host species such as broadleaf weeds or annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). On a mixed stand of turf, symptoms take on less of a patch-like appearance, and upon close inspection, only the bentgrasses are typically affected (Fig. 2). Often, if the plant is otherwise healthy, symptoms from take-all patch do not appear until late spring or summer when the turfgrass is under stress. However, if the conditions are ideal, symptoms can be seen in the spring soon after green-up, or into the fall. The disease also typically appears in the same areas year after year and if left unchecked, patches can reach up to 1 m (3 ft) in diameter.

Take-all patch is typically seen on newly constructed sand-based greens, or on sites that have been recently fumigated. If left untreated, the disease often disappears about 5-7 years after appearance, a phenomenon known as “take-all decline.” It is hypothesized that *G. graminis* is a poor competitor in the soil, and the decline phenomenon occurs due to the build-up of antagonistic microorganisms in soil. However, we have seen take-all patch occurring in older greens (10 years or older) and on native soil root zones, particularly if the environmental conditions are conducive to development of the disease.

Management of take-all patch is rather difficult as there are currently no chemicals registered for control of take-all patch in Canada. However, proper soil and root management can

reduce incidence and severity of the disease. Take-all patch thrives under wet conditions, so adequate drainage is key in disease prevention. Ensure that you are not over-watering your turf, and if your soil type leads to poor infiltration, core aeration followed by sand topdressing can help to increase pore spaces in the soil. In addition, aeration will help reduce thatch levels, and as thatch acts both as a reservoir for overwintering mycelium and reduces the health of the plants, removal of excess thatch is key in both prevention and management of the disease. This can be done both with core aeration and with aggressive verticutting, although make sure that you do not do either when the turfgrass is stressed or the disease is active as it will take longer for the turf to recover. Increasing your height of cut is also recommended to allow for deeper rooting and to decrease stress on your turfgrass. As high pH (> 6.5) is strongly associated with development of take-all, the use of an acidifying fertilizer such as ammonium sulfate is recommended to reduce symptom development. If the disease is severe where the pH of irrigation water is at 7.5 or higher, it may be worthwhile to consider acid injection systems, although research on the efficacy of this practice has not been conducted. Also avoid the use of alkaline topdressing sand and nitrate forms of nitrogen as both may exacerbate the disease. Studies have also found that the addition of manganese to Mn-deficient soils reduces disease development, although care must be taken not to apply Mn during hot weather due to the potential for phytotoxicity. The recommended rate is 2.2 kg/ha (2 lbs/ac) annually, generally applied as manganese sulfate.

The purpose of this article is to introduce you to this potentially devastating root disease, and hopefully to help a bit with management methods you can employ if you think take-all patch may be leading to the death of your bentgrass turf. As always, if you have any questions about this or any other turfgrass disorders, please feel free to contact me.



Figure 1. Patches of dead bentgrass turf characteristic of take-all patch (Photo courtesy Greg Staugh)



Figure 2. Symptoms of take-all patch on mixed turfgrass stand, with only bentgrass affected (Photo courtesy Pam Charbonneau)

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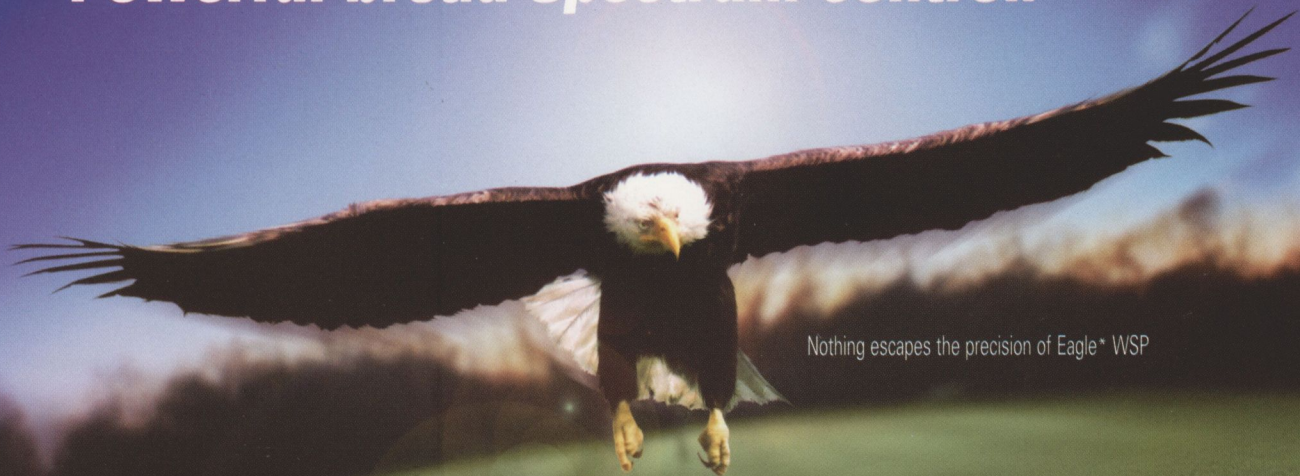
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On the REEL side of things



Mike McGrath
Equipment Technician, Greystone Golf Club

Hydraulic oil - Keep it in your machine and off the green


Every morning your fleet leaves the shop you are threatening the health of your turf with hundreds of litres of the most effective "Roundup" ever created - hot hydraulic oil. Whether you use conventional or organic based oil, the inevitable effect is still the same, dead turf. This risk is virtually impossible to eliminate, but there are some techniques to help reduce the potential occurrence of leaks.

In my experience, most leaks happen first thing in the morning or late on a hot afternoon. I'm sure that every superintendent has seen the first fairway covered in oil at least once in their career. The early morning leak is generally a result of a higher pressure in your cutting circuit. This pressure is created by a resistance to flow. A reel mower will effectively seize up overnight due to rust caused by a build up of water, fertilizer and organic material which will hold the reel against the bedknife. Consequently, a pressure surge will occur in the hydraulic lines when the cutting circuit is first engaged. If you consider that most mowers link all cutters together in the same hydraulic circuit, this can produce a massive amount of pressure in the lines. To help ensure that your day does not begin with a leak, training your operator to give each cutter a quarter turn before he or she leaves the shop will loosen the reel from the bedknife and greatly diminish leak probability. This also gives the operator a good opportunity for a full circle check of the machine, paying particular attention to any visible oil leaks or puddles.

The late day leak is no way to end a shift. During the course of the day oil becomes very hot causing hydraulic

hoses to soften. It is very rare for a new hose to leak, so what you are looking for is an old, worn or damaged hose. Wear points are located all over the equipment, particularly in areas where a hose is in contact with other parts of the machine. While your equipment technician is servicing the machine, examining the hoses is time well spent. More thorough inspections should be done annually, cutting away all pull-ties and separating lines looking for wear between them. Be mindful that there are many points where lines come into contact with the chassis and this will generate small, obscure wear patches whereupon a leak will gradually develop. Replacing hoses that are starting to display signs of deterioration is not always within budget. A commonly used "quick fix" is the garden hose patch, a technique that is not recommended. This technique traps grass clippings and moisture causing more damage. Hydraulic hose supplier's stock plastic hose wrap which can be used to protect the hose from further damage.

Despite your best efforts to prevent this menace from rearing its ugly head, the chance of a leak is still ever present. The trick is to have your operator notice the leak as soon as possible to avoid extensive damage. Dyes are available which colour hydraulic oil a dark red. This dramatic colour change makes any leak more noticeable. Hopefully, on the next turn, your operator will spot the problem and shut down the machine before further damage is caused. Incorporate this trick of the trade and watch leak potential fade!



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Off the fairway ...

Spring Jobs



by Daisy Moore

Spring jobs arrived early this year with a rather abundant supply of greenery exposed after the snow melted. Blame it on the late onset of winter when certain plants had the opportunity to advance and prosper. Included in these are fall germinating plants, mainly biennials, and ground covers like periwinkle. It will be a

banger year for forget-me-nots and dandelions for sure. Kentucky bluegrass survived well over the winter as well and I've noticed a higher than usual population invading my flower beds. This is great news for turf-grass managers but means extra work for gardeners.

We notice a lot about our gardens in the early spring. Before growth fully expands we can get a good sense of pathways through the garden, by the eye and by the foot. Even in these early stages there are plants of differing form, size and shape that combine together to make an appealing garden. For example, a garden containing Hosta alone will look poorly in the spring versus one that mixes Hosta Ferns, Hellebore, sedges, spring ephemerals or other plants of differing growth habit. A couple of plants that are suitable to the woodland garden or semi-shade and flower early are Barrenwort (*Epimedium sp.*) and Foamflower (*Tiarella*). They grow well in mass plantings, with each other and with other shade plants. Another method to break-up a bland appearance in early spring is to include a shapely shrub of some sort into a bed of ground cover. Amelanchier, dogwood, ornamental willows or Japanese maple would be a few good choices. The shrub will take the eye away from what is lacking at ground level. Similarly, a garden of strictly ornamental grasses will look excessively brown and disheveled in the spring versus a garden that combines spring and summer perennials with the grasses. The key to season-long beauty in the garden is to combine plants for every season.

Also in the spring we notice plants that don't deserve to be where they are or have out grown their boundaries. We find

trees and shrubs that have long since died and wonder how and when that happened. We also see areas that are balanced and inviting and take pleasure in that. We make mental and, if possible, written notes about some of our early observations and vow to act on our ideas. We sometimes remember that we had planned on just that idea the previous year. No worries though as we have the entire season ahead of us.

Over time, shrubs, trees and gardens demand more space. Deciduous shrubs in particular can get alarmingly large as they mature and it is important to accommodate them as they grow or prune them to keep them in check. Pruning many deciduous shrubs is ideally done before bud break or soon thereafter. Without the leaves you can decipher what needs to be cut back or off and how much space the shrub will need for the coming year. Common landscape shrubs like Spirea, Viburnum, Lilac, Potentilla, shrub Roses, willow and dogwood, to name a few, will all look and perform better if they are trimmed in the early spring. This means cutting off dead or damaged limbs, thinning out branches that are growing too close together, removing sucker growth and generally shaping the shrub so that the new growth has room to grow and flower.

If a garden looks overgrown or a plant looks out of place in the early spring, then thin the perennials (divide) and relocate plants to other areas of the property or to other gardens. With any luck you had the foresight to make new beds in the fall or enlarge existing beds so that there is room for all these new plants. In my garden I have recipient areas for plants that require sun, shade or miscellaneous prairie plants. These plants can then be used at other times in other areas.

I enjoy the garden in the early spring probably more than any other time of the year. It is the calm before the storm, text book puttering and a wonderful feeling about the opportunities that lie ahead.

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

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

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Looking back

35 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

In 1972 the Board of Directors were as follows; **Bill Hynd** (pres.), **Jim Wyllie** (vice), **Ross Haines** (sec), **Bob Heron** (tres.), **Bob Lamb**, **Ron Allen**, **Roy French**, **Paul Dermott**, **Helmut Kopp**, **E. Charman** and **John Arends** (past pres.). The editorial committee consisted of **Bill Hynd**, **John Arends**, **Ross Haines** and **Helmut Kopp**.

New Members: **Paul White**, Kanawaki Golf Club; **Jacob Hallman**, Chestly Lake Camp Association; **C. P. Smith**, Brooklea Golf Club; **C. Miller**, C. A. Miller Construction Ltd.; **Bill Robinson**, Turf Supplies; **Cameron Cairncross**, Foxwood Golf Club; **Paul Dodson**, Mississauga Golf and Country Club; **Les Kelly**, Royal Ottawa Golf Club; **John Hutchinson**, Warkworth Golf Club; **Lamont Anderson**, Midad Golf Club; **Hugh Kirkpatrick**, Conestoga Golf Club; **Stewart Mills**, **R. Allen**, Highlands Golf Course; **Ron Weire**, Welland Valley Golf Club; **Dennis Pellrene**, Glen Abbey Golf Club; **Walter Windjack** and **Edward Rubski**, co-owners of Brock Golf and; **Calvin Fairhall**, Westmount Golf Club; **D. Elliott**, Westhill Golf Club; **Nick Panasiuk**, Hideaway Golf Club; **A. C. Pratt**, Bracebridge and **B. S. Evans**, Agincourt.

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held on January 10th at Northwood Country Club, hosted by **Gord Witteveen**. The registration fee was \$10.00 which included lunch and dinner. On March 17th the RCGA Conference was held at the Skyline Hotel.

Gord Witteveen was nominated as a director of the GCSAA at the forthcoming conference in Cincinnati. **Kimmo Salonen** broke his leg while skiing in Austria. **Ron Allen**, Superintendent at Donalda Golf Club, received the highest marks at the University of Guelph Short Course.

Jack Abbot, an Honorary member of the OGSA passed away on February 9th. He farmed the property known as the Islington Golf Club which was built in 1924. He supervised the building of the course and continued as superintendent at this club from 1924 to 1938. He then accepted a position at the Rosedale Golf Club from 1939 to 1950. Following a brief retirement he returned to Islington as superintendent until 1960 when he finally retired at the age of 76. He was one of the originators of the OGSA.

A meeting was held at St. George's Golf Club on March 16th and the speaker was **John Campbell**, Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. On April 11, there was a combined meeting between the OGSA and Western Greenskeepers Assoc. at Cherry Hills Golf & Country Club hosted by **Charlie Benm**. Cherry Hills is the host for this year's Canadian Open held from July 6 to July 9. On April 17, there was a meeting held at Essex Golf Club, hosted by **Dave Moote**. In June, the Galt Country Club and the University of Guelph held the Spring Field Day, hosted by **Paul Scenna**. **Bill Hynd** was first low gross, **Bob Hall** low gross and **Hugh Kirkpatrick** was third low gross. **Bob Heron** was first low net and **Helmut Kopp** was second low net. On May 9th, there was a meeting at the Oakdale Golf Club, hosted by **Bob Moote** and the speaker was **Robbie Robinson**, Golf Course Architect. First low gross **Bob Heron**, second **G. Tombs** and third low gross **Whitey Jones**. First low net was **Keith Nesbit**, second **Dan Uzelac** and third **Cam Cairncross**. **John Grightmire** hosted a meeting at Rosedale Golf Club. On November 7th, there was a meeting held at the Summit Golf Club and December 5th the annual meeting was held at the Aurora Highlands. In August, the Pro Superintendent Day was hosted at Islington Golf Club.

On July 21st, Brantford Golf Club and Vince Piccolo hosted the Greens Chairman/Superintendent Golf Tournament. The Brantford Golf & Country Club opened in 1879, is the fourth oldest club in Canada and has had Vince as its superintendent for the past 15 years. The club's official dress at the time was red jackets trimmed with brass buttons and membership was exclusive. Of note, Brantford was one of the first golf clubs to have irrigation.

There was a warning sent out to all members of the OGSA regarding gambling at meetings: "The Board of Directors of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association has requested that all gambling in club houses be stopped unless the host superintendent so wishes at his club. Please respect this rule."



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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

Beer Carts

There was a time, long, long ago in the last millennium (around 1992), that if a fellow on a golf course wanted a swig of his favourite beverage, he had to quickly slip into the clubhouse between nines, spill most of it on himself, rush back to the tenth tee, and chug the rest of it before the eleventh. That was it, until the round was over and he made his way into the nineteenth hole. The answer for most golfers, was to load up their golf bag, or cart, or both, in the parking lot, so that they would have a steady supply of fuel for the entire round. That was how it was done for about 400 years. Then it occurred to someone that if Mohammad couldn't come to the bar, then perhaps the bar should come to Mohammad, and the beer cart was born. I suspect that the idea was first proposed about 275 years ago, but it took that long for the LLBO to make up their mind whether it was OK to allow it.

Now, less than two decades later, the beer cart is as much a part of the golf course furniture as a ball washer, a bench, or banana peels in the garbage on ladies day. For most courses, sixty to seventy percent of food and beverage revenue is generated from that golf cart, and it got me thinking that we've only just scratched the surface of the things we could be selling on the course. I played in a tournament last summer where the golf cart had complimentary lobster tails, shrimp, and crabs legs on it. I'm not much on lobster tails, but I could definitely see myself supporting a KFC cart. How many times have you been standing on the fourth tee, and thought to yourself, "Man, could I go for a steak burrito"? Happens to me all the time.

I think there are some serious opportunities here. What would McDonald's pay for the chance to sell burgers from a McCart? And Burger King could be just a little further down the way, in a slightly poorer location on a cart that breaks down a lot, selling arguably better food, but staffed by disinterested teenagers who can't ever seem to get your order right (no breakfast after 10:30). And there could be a Wendy's cart that everyone really likes, but they never go to, for no reason that they can think of. A Tim Hortons cart would make a killing.

But fast food is the tip of the ice burg. I see bank machine carts, lottery kiosk carts, off track betting carts, slot machine carts. Why not a Freedom 55 cart to help you with your retirement plan? Therapeutic massage seems popular. There's a place called Super Relaxing Massage near us that's so busy that they have to be open all night,



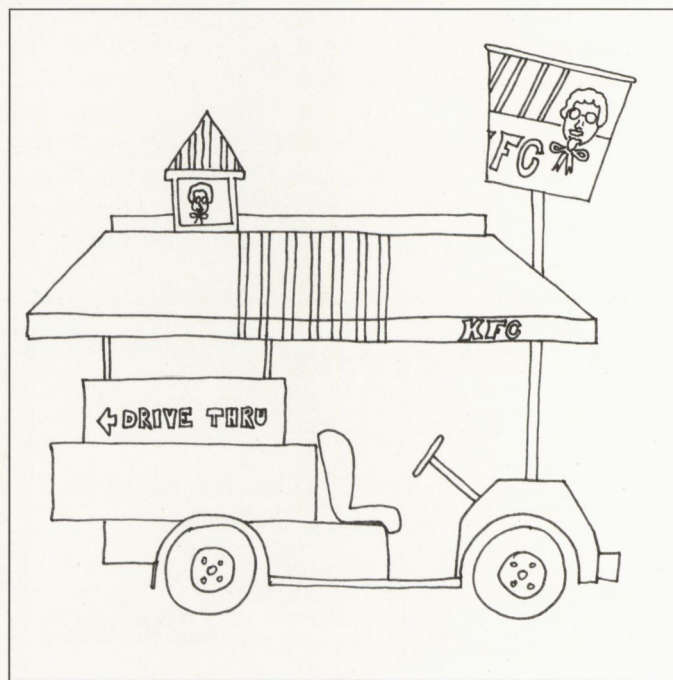
so let's have a Super Relaxing Massage cart. We could have a magazine cart, driven by an angry sixty-year-old woman who yells, "No reading!" every so often.

How many times have you been walking up the sixteenth fairway, and someone in your foursome suddenly remembers that it's his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary? If there was a gift cart with flowers, jewellery, chocolates and whatnot, then he could relax and enjoy his last three holes without having to fuss about running to the mall on his way home.

Do you ever feel bad playing golf on Sunday morning instead of going to church? Now all you backslidden heathens can attend the inter-faith, non-denominational, chapel-on-wheels cart. It puts the *fore* back in *fore*-mulaic religion!

We could provide on-course services for everything from cell phone sales, to laser hair removal. Candy floss carts for the kids. Hot dog carts. Pizza delivery carts. High-end restaurants always have a dessert cart, why not us? There's nothing like a big piece of cheesecake on the fourteenth hole to make the walk more pleasant.


The possibilities are endless. Now that we've discovered the potential for on-course sales, the only thing holding us back is good taste, and we all know how long that will stand up against potential profit. So I say join the dark side. I'll be sending out the rolling mall tomorrow.



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