

February 2008

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## Bathurst Glen Golf Course

Inside this issue...

**Recruitment Challenges**

**My Role As Assistant Superintendent**

**Ontario Golf Course Management Conference**

**and Trade Show**

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL  
PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT No. 40027105

*Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to  
The OGSA, 328 Victoria Rd. S., Guelph, ON N1H 6H8*



Heritage in a liquid.

## You get the feeling turf was just waiting for this.

Greens, tees and fairways have been thirsting for new Heritage MAXX fungicide. This long-lasting systemic fungicide is now faster acting thanks to the MAXX formulation. Micro-sized particles and optimized adjuvant system allow for faster foliar intake and better root uptake.



Call 1-888-368-4211 x5525 to contact your local Syngenta Turf Specialist and learn more about Heritage MAXX.

 **Heritage**  
MAXX®

- [www.syngenta.ca](http://www.syngenta.ca) - [www.greenpartnersonline.com](http://www.greenpartnersonline.com) - [www.engageagro.com](http://www.engageagro.com) -

## President's message

It is an honour to be given the opportunity to serve as president of a group of people whom I respect a great deal; OGSA members. The work that lies ahead over the next year will be accepted and given the attention it deserves, as our association continues to grow and encounter many challenges.

At this time, I would like to thank Randy Booker and the conference committee for a great job with the 2008 version of the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show, held at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. An excellent educational program combined with excellent representation of our exhibitors in the trade show made for an enjoyable week! A sincere thank you to all who exhibited again this year and to the new exhibitors on the show floor, as it is your continued support that makes the conference what it is and what it will be for many years to come. A special thank you to our OGSA team lead by Dorothy Hills, for without their assistance and hard work, many things would go incomplete. Also, to Ken Cousineau and the CGSA team for another well executed plan for the conference. The relationship between the OGSA and the CGSA remains strong and we look forward to many more conference relations.

Our Annual General Meeting was conducted on Thursday January 17, 2008 and on behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome two new directors to the team, Phil Brown and Stu Leachman. We look forward to your input and involvement during these exciting times at OGSA. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the valuable efforts of Bob Burrows who now leaves the board. Thank you Bob and allow me on behalf of the OGSA membership, wish you all the best in your new position at Banff Springs. Congratulations and thank you to Sean DeSilva, our outgoing President, your leadership this past year was admirable and I wish you the best in your new position at Coppinwood.

There are changes at times with everything in life and there will be changes with our magazine, *Green is Beautiful*, beginning in the fiscal year 2008/2009. The main change will be the number of issues printed and distributed. This decision follows careful and lengthy discussions, and is due to a myriad of reasons. As we have experienced for many years, acquiring articles submitted on time has lead to issues weaker in content and fewer pages than others. By reducing the annual number of issues, we will maintain strength in professional presentation, content, and overall magazine strength. We have received many awards in the past because of its strength in content and presentation and the board feels that to continue this level, we must recognize the challenge and address it responsibly. There will be communications sent out to our membership, advertisers and industry suppliers over the next number of weeks in *Clippings* and other formats, to fully explain our plans for transition from 6 issues per year to 4 issues per year.

The board, with the help of our office staff, are currently preparing a new approach in maintaining and growing a stronger relationship with industry representatives and their involvement with our magazine, our roster, our website and attendance at our events each year. Through recognizing and acknowledging their concerns, our board is working towards implementing a program that will meet the advertising needs of all our associate members.

We, as a board, will continue to work hard to maintain the vision and follow our mission statement while representing our membership in the highest level possible. We look forward to the year ahead and will appreciate any input you may have.



by Jeff Stauffer  
Credit Valley Golf & CC



### ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
328 Victoria Road South  
Guelph, ON N1H 6H8

Ph: 519-767-3341  
Toll Free: 877-824-6472  
Fax: 519-766-1704  
Email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca  
Website: www.golfsupers.on.ca

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jeff Stauffer  
Past President: Sean DeSilva  
Vice-President: Randy Booker  
Treasurer: Jeff Alexander  
Secretary: Chris Andrejicka  
Directors: Jarrod Barakett  
Doug Breen  
Phil Brown  
Rob Gatto  
Scott Heron  
Stu Leachman  
Jennifer Pendrith

Executive Mgr: Dorothy Hills  
Office Staff: Pat Thomas  
Deborah Badger



### GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL EDITORIAL

#### COMMITTEE

Dorothy Hills  
Greig Barker  
Tom Brain  
Andy Sandilands  
Paul Grotier  
Jason Hanna  
Scott Horsburgh  
Justin Parsons

#### Green is Beautiful 2008

Although every effort is made to check material for publication, the association is not responsible for material published on behalf of its contributors.

All rights are reserved by the publisher and any reproduction in whole or part without the written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

Although some trade names may be mentioned in articles contained in this publication, no endorsement is intended or implied by the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association.

**Brett Murray**  
Manager

**Direct Line 416-659-1020**  
Fax Line 519-941-0931

P.O. Box 218  
Orangeville, ON  
L9W 2Z6



**H & M TURF Ltd.**  
Country Club Line

brett.murray@sympatico.ca

"Green is Beautiful"  
is Printed on  
Recycled Paper



# Contents

<b>BATHURST GLEN GOLF COURSE</b> .....	18
Above the hole .....	22
Editorial message.....	5
From roots to shoots .....	8
Golf course highlight - Bathurst Glen Golf Course .....	17
Health & safety.....	9
Looking back .....	33
Member Profile - Dennis Pellrene .....	16
My Role As Assistant Superintendent .....	20
Off the fairway.....	27
OGSA's 2008 Conference .....	10
President's message.....	3
Recruitment Challenges .....	24
Turf or consequences.....	34
University of Guelph update .....	28
What's new .....	6

# Advertisers

<b>Agrium Advanced Technology - Pro Turf, NuGro</b> .....	31, 35
<b>Almack Agronomic Services Inc</b> .....	26
<b>Aquatrols</b> .....	31
<b>Bartlett Tree Experts - Canada</b> .....	7
<b>Bayer Environmental Science - Backed By Bayer</b> .....	30
<b>Bayer Environmental Science - DeltaGard® SC</b> .....	21
<b>Bayer Environmental Science - Roval® Green GT</b> .....	32
<b>Braemar Building Systems</b> .....	20
<b>Burnside Golf Services</b> .....	7
<b>Custom Turf Outfitters</b> .....	33
<b>DCS Agronomic Services</b> .....	26
<b>Douglas Wood Large Tree Services</b> .....	26
<b>Fast Forest</b> .....	26
<b>Fish Farm Supply Co.</b> .....	26
<b>GC Duke Equipment Ltd.</b> .....	22
<b>Green Horizons Group of Farms</b> .....	31
<b>H &amp; M Turf Ltd.</b> .....	3
<b>Hutcheson Sand &amp; Mixes</b> .....	8
<b>Manderley Turf Products Inc.</b> .....	9
<b>Maple Turf Supply</b> .....	9, 26
<b>Master's Turf Supply Ltd.</b> .....	26
<b>Ontario Seed Company</b> .....	7
<b>Plant Products - BASF</b> .....	23
<b>Syngenta - Heritage Maxx</b> .....	2
<b>Turf Care Products Canada - Irrigation Div.</b> .....	5
<b>Turf Care Products Canada</b> .....	36
<b>United Agri Products Inc.</b> .....	31
<b>Vanden Bussche Irrigation</b> .....	25
<b>Zander Sod Co. Limited</b> .....	7

# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

Skyline from  
Sheraton Centre Toronto  
*Photo by Dorothy Hills*

**OGSA is committed to  
serving its members,  
advancing their profession,  
and  
enriching the quality  
of golf  
and its environment.**

*Layout, Design & Printing provided by*  
**G-R-A-P-H-I-C SERVICES** PRINTERS & LITHOGRAPHERS

Tel: 519.763.5745 • Fax: 519.763.9532

32-34 Essex Street • Guelph, Ontario • N1H 3K8

e-mail: [info@graphicservices.ca](mailto:info@graphicservices.ca) •

[www.graphicservices.ca](http://www.graphicservices.ca)

# Editorial message

by Dorothy Hills

With another successful Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show behind us we look forward to the many other education opportunities before us and the promise of spring, with a new set of challenges and prospects.


This issue presents an overview of the conference events, including photos of our award winners, and a big thank you to our many sponsors, without whom the conference would not be possible. We feature an article and golf course highlight on Bathurst Glen Golf Course, which was recently acquired by The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority. Our profile is on Dennis Pellrene, 2007 recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award. At this time of the year we are probably all thinking of the upcoming golf season and filling those vacant staff positions. Recruitment is always a challenge but the article by Paul Grotier and Jason Hanna offers some innovative options and solutions. Our regular contributors provide an interesting read on topics ranging from dealing with repeated traffic and wear on areas other than the greens and fairways, to building natural plant communities and keeping the flu at arms length.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the board and editorial committee to thank John Bladon for his many

contributions to the magazine, as both editor and co-editor over the past 5 years. John has contributed much time and effort to ensure the integrity and professionalism of *Green is Beautiful*, but has decided to resign from the editorial team to pursue his many writing opportunities. Thank you also to Chris Andrejicka, who has served as co-editor over the past year, and has now moved into the position of board secretary for 2008.

We would like to thank our members for your many contributions to the magazine and encourage you to keep those articles and photographs coming in. If you have any ideas or suggestions don't hesitate to contact any of the following individuals on the committee:

Dorothy Hills [ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca)  
Greig Barker [greigbarker@hotmail.com](mailto:greigbarker@hotmail.com)  
Tom Brain [bgcturf@skyline.net](mailto:bgcturf@skyline.net)  
Paul Grotier [p\\_grotier@hotmail.com](mailto:p_grotier@hotmail.com)  
Jason Hanna [jhanna@creditvalleygolf.com](mailto:jhanna@creditvalleygolf.com)  
Justin Parsons [jparsons27@hotmail.com](mailto:jparsons27@hotmail.com)  
Scott Horsburgh [shorsburgh@plantprod.com](mailto:shorsburgh@plantprod.com)  
Andy Sandilands [asandilands@blackdiamondgolfclub.ca](mailto:asandilands@blackdiamondgolfclub.ca)



**TURF CARE**

**2007 NEW Product!!**

**The Toro GDC System**  
**Imagination has never been so affordable.**

**Introducing the Toro GDC System, the easiest and most powerful decoder system available for golf course irrigation.** The Toro GDC System uses proven technology from the aerospace and aviation industries to provide a reliable and affordable irrigation solution for the complex designs of today's golf courses.



**Turf Care Products Canada**  
200 PONY DRIVE, NEWMARKET, ONTARIO L3Y 7B6 • PHONE (905) 836-0988 • FAX (905) 836-6442

<b>London</b> Ph: (519) 668-7664 Fax: (519) 668-3722	<b>Mississauga</b> Ph: (905) 890-6290 Fax: (905) 890-5598	<b>Scarborough</b> Ph: (416) 298-2101 Fax: (416) 298-8758	<b>Gloucester</b> Ph: (613) 822-1881 Fax: (613) 822-2099
--	---	---	--

## The Toro GDC System

- **Design without complicated calculations.**  
One cable can have up to 800 stations and be up to 2.7 miles long.
- **Lower installation costs.** The Toro GDC System minimizes wire usage and reduces overall system costs.
- **Reduce maintenance and downtime.**  
Reduce troubleshooting time; activate 50 stations simultaneously.
- **Count on the Toro NSN Support Network.**  
The first dedicated support network in the irrigation industry. For more information, contact your local Turf Care sales representative.

**TORO**

**Count on it.**

[www.turfcare.ca](http://www.turfcare.ca)

# What's new

## 2008 MEMBERSHIP STICKERS

2008 stickers are now available for placement on your membership certificates. If required call the OGSA office at (519) 767-3341 or toll free (877) 824-6472 or email Pat at [ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca). Stickers will be mailed upon request, with the mailing of the membership update form in February.

## NEW MEMBER DRAW

Congratulations to John Watson, student at the University of Guelph. John's name was drawn from all our 2007 new member applicants, and he will receive a complimentary 2 day pass to the 2009 conference.

## 2008 OGSA EVENTS

CAN/AM Challenge	TBA
Michigan Golf Superintendents Association	
Pro/Super Challenge	Thursday, May 29 <sup>th</sup>
Batteaux Creek GC	Host Supt. Paul Mickalko
Spring Field Day	Tuesday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Muskoka Lakes G&CC	Host Supt. Jim Flett
Presidents' Day	Monday, July 21 <sup>st</sup>
Deer Ridge Golf Club	Host Supt. Jarrod Barakett
Assistants Tournament	TBA    September
Alex McClumpha	Monday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>
Oxford G&CC	Host Supt. Jerry Richard

Dates and details of the above events will appear on our website under both "Events" and "Calendar of Events," as they are confirmed and further details are available. All events will be announced in our e-bulletin *Clippings* when registration is open. For your convenience, on line registration will be available again this year.

In addition to the above golf events, OGSA will be hosting a social event at the CGSA Fall Field Day, on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, to be held in Collingwood, Ontario this year. Mark your calendars now and watch for exciting details, coming soon.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the 2008 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. Nominees Philip Brown, Superintendent at The Summit Golf & Country Club and Stuart Leachman, Superintendent at Diamond 'In the Ruff' Golf Course, both joined the board by acclamation.

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

This year's board consists of: Past President, Sean DeSilva; President, Jeff Stauffer; Vice President, Randy Booker; Treasurer, Jeff Alexander; Secretary, Chris Andrejicka; Directors, Jarrod Barakett, Doug Breen, Phil Brown, Rob Gatto, Scott Heron, Stu Leachman and Jennifer Pendrith.



L-R back row: Phil Brown, Stu Leachman, Scott Heron, Jarrod Barakett, Rob Gatto, Doug Breen, Jennifer Pendrith  
L-R front row: Sean DeSilva, Randy Booker, Jeff Stauffer, Jeff Alexander, Chris Andrejicka

## OGSA ROSTER INFORMATION

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

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

Associate members are offered the opportunity to advertise in the "Roster" again this year, and they will be receiving an advertising package, by mail. Don't hesitate to contact Dorothy if you require further information.

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

How would you like to be part of Ontario's leading golf course management magazine? The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association's official publication, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an opportunity to all turfgrass student interns. The column "Above the Hole", authored by University of Guelph Turfgrass intern Rafik Lang-Bismillah is open to a new intern as of April 2008. The magazine's Editorial Committee will be reviewing submissions from Ontario based Turfgrass interns in February 2008. Basic requirements include;

1. You are in the first year of your education of Turfgrass Management.
2. You have a desire to excel in the Golf Course Management Business.
3. You have an aptitude for writing.

## How do I apply?

We ask that each applicant submit an article entry. The article will be based on your growth and experiences as a student/intern. Each entry should be 550 words in length and electronically submitted to the OGSA office by February 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 - to [ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca) Please email in with the subject line **Above the Hole**, together with your contact information. The successful applicant will receive one year paid student membership to the Association as well as a writing opportunity in *Green is Beautiful*. This is a great mechanism to express yourself within the industry of your future and differentiate yourself from other interns. *Green is Beautiful* looks forward to having you on Board !



### Why Prune Your Trees?

At Bartlett we believe that you should prune for a specific purpose. We recommend pruning to improve:

- Safety • Health
- Structural Integrity
- Damage Correction

Skill, knowledge and experience are required to prune properly. So don't entrust your landscape to anyone but experts – Bartlett Tree Experts.

*Call for your free inspection today!!*

Toronto • (416) 657-2059  
 Bracebridge • (705) 646-8733  
 Gravenhurst • (705) 687-0696  
 Huntsville • (705) 789-0929  
[www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com)

BACKED BY THE BARTLETT TREE RESEARCH LABORATORIES AND EXPERIMENTAL GROUNDS, CHARLOTTE, NC



*Serving the Needs of the Golf Industry*

#### We can help with:

- Approvals for Golf Course Development and Operations
- Irrigation Water Supply
- Sewage Treatment and Disposal
- Environmental Management Plans
- Building and Clubhouse Design Services
- Irrigation Design and Consulting
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Drinking Water Assessment

Toll Free: (877) 799-8499  
 E-mail: [vcirone@rjburnside.com](mailto:vcirone@rjburnside.com)  
 Website: [www.rjburnside.com](http://www.rjburnside.com)



Offices located throughout Ontario  
 Members of OGSA, CGSA and Golfmax Suppliers to the NGCOA



**Welcome!**  
**OGSA Welcomes**

#### our newest members

- Ron Biggs** Class F  
The Briars Golf Club
- Paul Robert Brown** Class D  
Turtle Creek GC
- Billy-Joe Carey** Class F  
Taboo Resort
- Mike Claydon** Class F  
Golf North
- Kevin Collier** Class C  
King Valley Golf Club
- Dave Cowan** Class D  
Simcoe Shores G & CC
- Cary Davis** Class F  
Black Diamond Golf Club
- Todd Doig** Class D  
Seaforth Golf Course
- Stephen Fierheller** Class F  
Toronto Golf Club
- Darwin Howard** Class F  
Taboo Resort
- Jamie Laird** Class C  
The Cutten Club
- Cory Lloyd** Class F  
Westview Golf Club
- Michael McDevitt** Class F  
Copper Creek Golf Club
- Adam Mullen** Class F  
Copper Creek Golf Club
- Brad Normand** Class F  
National GC of Canada
- Peter Purvis** Class Supt  
Guelph Turfgrass Institute
- Michael Schneider** Class F  
Wyldewood G & CC
- Robin Stafford** Class A  
Islington Golf Club
- Darryl Thomas** Class F  
Taboo Resort
- Kyle Whitham** Class C  
Goodwood Golf Club
- Steve Williams** Class Supt  
Royal St Kitts Golf Club
- Custom Turf Outfitters** Class E  
Kennedy Court
- Fish Farm Supply Co.** Class E  
Julia Webber
- NMP Golf Construction Inc** Class E  
Normand Poirier



#### SUPPLIERS of TOP QUALITY TURF PRODUCTS



No. 1 Kentucky Bluegrass  
 Five varieties of Bentgrass  
 Extreme Fescue

(877) 727-2100

(905) 727-2100

[www.zandersod.com](http://www.zandersod.com)



PO Box 7  
 Waterloo, ON N2J 3Z6  
 Tele 519-886-0557  
 Fax 519-886-0605  
 1-800-465-5849  
[www.oscturf.com](http://www.oscturf.com)

### Premium Products for all Your Turf Needs



## From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau  
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Happy New Year everyone! With the early snowfall in November, many golf superintendents were caught without protection, snow mould protection that is. There were some heroic attempts to shovel snow, melt snow with dark coloured sands and probably other creative attempts to get rid of the snow and ice that fell in late November. All of this to allow

superintendents to get their snow mould protection down. The year started with a loss of snow cover in many areas and gave golf superintendents a narrow window within which to get out their spreaders or sprayers and apply their preventative snow mould applications. We at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute got caught and the superintendent of research plots, Peter Purvis, was rushing around the week of January 7<sup>th</sup> to apply fungicide to our research greens. Dr. Hsiang and his students and technicians were in the same boat. All the turf is safely put to bed for the rest of winter. Pink snow mould did have a chance to get started, so there will no doubt be some pink snow mould evidence when spring comes.

As many of you may have already heard, one of Premier Dalton McGuinty's re-election promises was to ban the cosmetic use of pesticides province wide. The Ministry of the Environment will be the lead Ministry and announcements have been made that legislation will be introduced in the spring of 2008. At the moment, the Ministry of the Environment is working behind the scenes to come up with background information to be able to draft legislation by spring. I will attempt to keep golf superintendents in the province posted on the developments and the implications for you.

A group of us from GTI had the opportunity to attend the Crop Science Society of America meeting in New Orleans in November. There were well over 200 scientific presentations on turf research given over the four day meeting. I wanted to pass on a couple of the results of the research presented that could be relevant to golf course superintendents in Ontario. Dr. Michelle DaCosta, University of Massachusetts, and her colleagues have been doing quite a bit of work on velvet bentgrass. One study compared the wear tolerance of velvet bentgrass and creeping bentgrass. Overall, the velvet bentgrasses were significantly more wear tolerant than the creeping bentgrasses. Superior wear tolerance with velvet genotypes was closely associated with a more upright tiller and leaf growth-habit, higher shoot density, and greater total cell wall content and cell wall constituents. Total cell wall content and cell wall constituents accounted for as much as 90% of the total variation in wear tolerance in the field. One of their findings, however, was that the velvet bentgrasses were more susceptible to basal rot anthracnose.

On the subject of anthracnose, research conducted by Dr. Jim Murphy and Dr. Bruce Clarke, at Rutgers University, dispelled the belief that frequent sand topdressing increases the incidence of basal rot anthracnose. The effect of sand topdressing rate (0, 0.3 and 0.6 L m<sup>-2</sup>) and frequency (every 7, 14 and 28 days) on anthracnose severity was evaluated in North Brunswick, New Jersey. Contrary to the common perception, their data indicate that sand topdressing does not generally increase anthracnose and can enhance recovery from this disease. The theory may be that the sand topdressing keeps the thatch drier and better drained or that the sand protects the crowns from wear and abrasion that might increase disease incidence.

[www.hutchesonsand.com](http://www.hutchesonsand.com)

# CONNOISSEURS OF SAND.

An industry leader since 1985, Hutcheson Sand & Mixes provides a wide variety of products and services for your construction, renovation and maintenance needs.

- LABORATORY TESTING • ROOTZONE MIXES
- TOPDRESSING MATERIALS • BUNKER SAND • AGGREGATES

OUR SAND MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.



Tel: 1-800-461-5521/705-789-4457 • Fax: 705-789-1049 • Email: [info@hutchesonsand.com](mailto:info@hutchesonsand.com)



# Health & safety



by Doug Johnson  
SAFETAID - Health and  
Safety Consulting

## Flu Season – Some Best Practices

The information in this article may provide some assistance to you and your employer in the 2008 flu season by providing guidelines for worker protection.

Today, as many as 36,000 Americans continue to die each year of what's commonly known as the flu and more than 200,000 are hospitalized. Most outbreaks in North America occur between October and May. The peak season is usually late December to early March. The numbers in Canada will generally be about 10% of those in the U.S.

The influenza virus spreads through droplets that have been "coughed" or "sneezed" into the air by someone who has the flu. You can get the flu by breathing in these droplets through your nose or mouth or by the droplets landing directly on your eyes. The flu virus is also found on the hands of people with the flu and on surfaces they have touched. You can become infected if you shake hands with infected persons or touch contaminated surfaces and transfer the virus to your own eyes, nose, or mouth.

Anyone can get influenza. You're especially at risk if you are an older adult or have diabetes, chronic heart or lung disease, or an impaired immune system.

Here are some basic things that you can do in your workplace to reduce the risk of passing on the flu and other illnesses to your fellow workers. Although it is too late this year, one of the strategies that you can put in place in the future is to encourage all your staff to take the annual flu shots in October and November.

Many studies have shown that socially active young people have the highest rates of flu infection each year and are the major spreaders of flu in the community and introducers into households. This is in part due to their high level of socialization and their participation in group activities. Immunization of socially active workers, therefore, would reduce exposure of highly vulnerable individuals to flu.

Encourage proper hand washing with hot and cold running water, a soap dispenser, and paper towels. Studies

have shown that paper towels or single use cloth towels are the drying medium of choice. To properly wash the hands, use warm, soapy water and rub vigorously for at least 20 seconds — about the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. Avoid eating or touching your eyes, nose, and mouth without washing your hands first.

Train your workers to understand the positive consequences of good hygiene practices. Workers who are ill should be encouraged to "get better" before coming in to work. It only makes sense to assist workers in their efforts to recover.

Provide each work area with tissues, a hand sanitizer, and dispenser. Hand sanitizers are not be used in place of soap and water, but only as an adjunct. A hand sanitizer cannot and should not take the place of proper cleansing procedures with soap and water.

Keep the work areas and eating areas clean and sanitized. This means things like the desk, phone receivers, and doorknobs. Cold and flu viruses can survive outside the body from a few seconds up to 48 hours, depending on the specific virus and the type of surface.

Institute a "cover your cough" campaign. The big promotion right now is getting people to crook their elbow and cough or sneeze into their coat or shirt sleeve. This is ultimately better than coughing or sneezing into your hands! Post signs to let the workers know the differences between the symptoms of the common cold and the symptoms of the flu. Such information will assist employees and clients in determining the need for self-isolation until the period of infection passes.

*Information and statistics in this article were taken from an article by Joe Beck, Professor of Environmental Health Science at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky and printed in Occupational Health and Safety Magazine (<http://www.ohsonline.com/articles/56269>)*

## SAFETAID

**Making safety your 1st priority!**

T. 519-837-0997 • F. 519-837-1996

*Consulting, Safety and First Aid Supplies*



**Professional Products**

**Simon George**  
Technical Sales

Maple Turf Supply  
8112 King Rd. W.  
P.O. Box 370  
Bolton, Ontario  
L7E 5T3

Business: (905) 857-2000  
Fax: (905) 857-8215  
Mobile: (519) 841-3378  
1-800-268-4425  
sg142@hotmail.com

**QUALITY • ON TIME**



Supplying Canada's top  
golf courses for over 45 years

**1-800-461-5501**

**MANDERLEY**  
TURFGRASS

[www.manderley.com/golf](http://www.manderley.com/golf)

# 2008 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGE

The two day conference was preceded by a double header seminar, sponsored by Syngenta. The morning seminar on "Shaded Growing Conditions" was presented by Dr. James H. Baird, who has recently left the USGA Green Section to lecture on Turf Management, at the University of California.



After a delicious lunch and an opportunity to network with colleagues, Steve Mann, from Bartlett Tree Experts, in Bracebridge, Ontario, took to the stage to give a very informative and interesting talk on "Tree Inventories, Tree Maintenance and The Politics of Trees".

Both seminars were very well attended, and provided a stimulating prelude to the two day conference and trade show.



Randy Booker thanks our pre-conference speakers.

## OPENING CEREMONIES

The Town Crier proclaimed the conference officially open and called on our 2008 Conference Chairman, Randy Booker, Superintendent at Otter Creek Golf Club, to welcome everyone to a great event and encourage all to take advantage of the many educational and networking opportunities over the next couple of days.



Thursday and Friday offered numerous education opportunities sponsored by

NGF Golf, a Division of Northgate Farms.

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

We enjoyed record attendance at the President's Reception in the Civic Ballroom, sponsored by many of our associate members.



Sean DeSilva presents cheque to Kevin Falls

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



Keynote speaker, Scott Burrows, experienced a tragic accident as a young man and was informed by his doctors that he would never walk again. As you can see by the photo above, Scott overcame all obstacles by using his success strategy of Vision, Mindset and Grit, and reminding himself constantly, "I am the captain of my soul and I am the master of my fate."

Scott reminded us that whatever your vision, getting there is rarely a straight line. There is a lot of traffic along the way. "Just let it happen and don't resist".

Among his many accomplishments Scott co-authored a book with Jack Canfield, entitled "Conversations on Success", a must read.

# MENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

## AWARDS LUNCHEON

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

### William Sansom Distinguished Service Award



Dennis Pellrene, Casual Water Captain

President, Sean DeSilva started off the presentations by announcing the recipient of our 4th William Sansom Distinguished Service Award. This award has been named in honour of our first President, William Sansom, who held that position from 1924 through 1932.

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

Dennis is retired and currently lives in British Columbia with his wife, Laura. A short slide show outlining his many accomplishments and career as a superintendent was presented to the audience, as Dennis was currently out of the country on vacation. We are hopeful that the presentation can be made in person this summer, at one of our events, when Dennis comes back to Ontario for a visit.

## 50 Year Member



Jim, Frances and David Wyllie

Mr. James A. Wyllie has been an active member of the OGSA for 50 years. He sat on the Board of Directors for several years and served as president in 1973. David Wyllie, Jim's son gave an extensive account of Jim's many accomplishments in the golf industry. Perhaps Jim will consent to an interview for a future Member Profile in *Green is Beautiful*, where we can elaborate on these, but in the meantime, here is a brief listing of some of those achievements: President of Dormy House Ltd., President and Founder of James A. Wyllie & Associates, President and certified member of GCSAA, President of the CGSA, President of the CTRF and recipient of the John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award. Jim has had a long and illustrious career as a golf course superintendent and has served on many committees, to advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment. Congratulations Jim!



Sean DeSilva made a presentation of a commemorative watch to Jim, as a token of appreciation for his long and outstanding service to the OGSA.

## 2008 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW



### 25 Year Member Awards

Alex Labelle was presented with a 25 year member plaque. Stephen Verrall is also a 25 year member, but unfortunately was unable to attend the ceremonies.

### Director Plaque

Trevor Clapperton was acknowledged for his service as a director of the OGSA from 2005 – 2007. Trevor resigned from the Board of Directors in June of 2007 to pursue a new career with the municipality of Port Hope as the Parks and Recreation Manager.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

#### Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary



Andrew Hardy with Craig Evans

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

The 2007 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary was awarded to Andrew Hardy, Assistant Superintendent at Pheasant Run Golf Club. Andrew's opening sentence in his application was, "If life has taught me anything over the past year, it is that everything really needs to be kept in perspective." Keeping this in mind, Andrew has set admirable short and

long term goals in both his personal and professional life. In addition, we have been informed that Andrew will be taking on the position of superintendent at Pheasant Run, the middle of February.

As part of Andrew's application for this scholarship, he wrote an essay on "My Role as Assistant Superintendent", which will appear on page 20 of this issue.

#### Turf Managers Short Course Education Award



An annual award is given to the golf course related student, who upon completion of the program, received the highest overall mark in the course. This year's award went to John Ingham with the highest overall average of 93.3%. Congratulations John!

#### Turfgrass Diploma Scholarship



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

This year's Turfgrass Scholarship is awarded to Aaron Weinberg. Aaron is enrolled in the Associate Diploma Turfgrass Management course at the University of Guelph, and has recently accepted the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant at Islington Golf Club.

## Heritage Scholarship



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

This year's award winner is Erica Dickie. Erica is the daughter of Nancy and Philip Dickie, and is currently enrolled full time in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. Erica's goal is to become a respected veterinarian and productive community leader.

## GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

### Barry Endicott Article Of The Year Award 2007



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

The recipient this year is David Kuypers, Superintendent at The Cutten Club, for his article in the May 2007 issue of *Green is Beautiful*, entitled "Tree Management Strategies", detailing the benefits of undergoing a comprehensive tree management program.

## Photo Of The Year Award 2007



The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The photos are judged by the Editorial Advisory Committee. The recipient this year is Blair Rennie, Superintendent at Whitevale Golf Club. Blair's winter scene photo of his golf course appeared on the cover of the December 2006 issue of *Green is Beautiful*.

## Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Award Donation

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

## IPM ACCREDITATION AWARDS – LEVEL II



L-R Ted Hopkins, Joel Trickey, Brett Seabrook, Bill Hudson, Michael Temple, Ian McIsaac, Robert Bell, Ryan Beauchamp, Bill Gilkes

In grateful appreciation for the excellent contribution to the environmental success of the game of golf through successfully achieving full I.P.M. Accreditation in 2007, plaques were presented to the following golf courses:

## 2008 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Canadian Golf & Country Club	(Brett Seabrook)
Carleton Golf & Yacht Club	(Joel Trickey)
Copper Creek Golf Club	(Robert Bell)
Deerfield Golf Club	(Ian McIsaac)
Galt Country Club	(Michael Temple)
Glen Abbey Golf Club	(Ryan Beauchamp)
Manderley On The Green	(not present)
Mississippi Golf Club	(Bill Hudson)
RiverBend Golf Club	(Ted Hopkins)
Scarboro Golf & Country Club	(Bill Gilkes)

As the last day of the conference drew to a close and exhibitors packed up, a large crowd gathered in the Grand Ballroom East to hear closing keynote speaker, Dr. Frank Rossi, Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science at Cornell University speak on "Putting Surface Management For Optimal Ball Roll".

Our association always values your input and we look forward to receiving your comments on how we can continue to improve upon our annual conference and provide you with the best possible education and networking opportunities. Jeff Alexander will be our 2009 Conference Chairman and has put together a committee, who will work throughout the year to provide you with another exciting conference and tradeshow in January at the Westin Harbour Castle.

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Pre-Conference Seminar

 syngenta

Educational Program

 NGF Golf  
A Division of Northgate Farms

Awards Luncheon

 Agrium  
Advanced  
Technologies



Trade Show Social

Bayer Environmental Science

## PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

ALMACK AGRONOMIC SERVICES INC.  
BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS  
DCS AGRONOMIC SERVICES  
GATEMAN-MILLOY INC.  
GOLF ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO  
GROWER'S CHOICE  
KUBOTA CANADA LTD.  
MAXIUM GOLF LEASING  
TURF CARE PRODUCTS CANADA

## COFFEE AND REFRESHMENT

BURNSIDE GOLF SERVICES  
CLUB CAR INC.  
G.C. DUKE EQUIPMENT LTD.  
J.D. LANDWORKS  
MASTER'S TURF SUPPLY LTD.  
ONTARIO SEED COMPANY  
PLANT SCIENCE, INC.  
RITTENHOUSE SINCE 1914

*THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, EXHIBITORS, DELEGATES AND ORGANIZERS.  
THE 2008 CONFERENCE WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.  
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!*

*MARK YOU CALENDARS FOR 2009 AT THE WESTIN HARBOUR CASTLE  
FROM JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup> AND 23<sup>RD</sup>.*



# Member profile

## Interview with Dennis Pellrene

by Scott Heron, Superintendent  
Bigwin Island Golf Club



This issue's profile is unique in that our subject, although a superintendent in Ontario for many years, moved in 1993 to the west coast to oversee the course manager's duties at the beautiful Capilano Golf Course. As this year's William Sansom Distinguished Service Award recipient we are privileged to present you with a profile on Dennis Pellrene.

Dennis attended high school in his home town of Camrose, Alberta. He attended the Turfgrass Short Course at the the University of Guelph 1977, and went on to attend numerous seminars, but feels that his most invaluable educations was acquired through the practical on course training received with the Nicklaus group while building the Abbey, growing it in and hosting four Canadian Opens.

An OGSA member throughout his career in Ontario, Dennis also enjoyed his stint as a director. He emphasized the importance of belonging to an association and staying in contact with your peers and turf industry people, which is even more possible today with the internet.

Dennis' very first job was selling the Edmonton Journal on the main street in Camrose for 5 cents a paper - tips were good. His career evolved from there with his first golf course job at the Camrose Golf Club, a nine-hole community course. When he first started to work there they had nine oiled sand greens and in 1962 the club hired a golf course construction person, Bill Creed to construct the base and profile for the Penncross bent greens. After the greens were built he was hired as the greenskeeper of the course and the manager of the local curling club.

In 1965 he moved east to the St Catharines Golf & Country Club, in Ontario, as John Piccolo's assistant and says, **"I knew I wanted to be a golf course superintendent when I had the opportunity to work with John. He invited me to all the Western Ontario meetings where I experienced the camaraderie with fellow superintendents. It was a listening and learning part of my career. It was fun to play other courses and listen to the problems of the day and learn from each other."**

After spending three years with John he was hired as the superintendent at Erie Downs Golf Club in Fort Erie. Both John Piccolo and Nicole Thompson, Superintendent at Niagara Parks Golf Course, were instrumental in his acquiring that position. Many years later (30 years) he received a letter from his Greens Chairman there, Mr. Gareleck, after he had seen Dennis' picture on the cover of the Green Master for Superintendent of the Year in 1999. **"You were without a doubt the best superintendent we have had at the club. You made more changes and did a better job than any succeeding super and you did it without money"**.

A position opened at Glen Abbey, which was originally Upper Canada Golf Course in Oakville, Ontario. He worked for Reg Acomb, and happened to be at the right place at the right time, as this property was to become Glen Abbey Golf Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus. Retained as the grow-in superintendent under the tutelage of Ed Etchells the Muirfield superintendent, and Nicklaus' agronomist, he was then encouraged to attend the Turfgrass Short Course at University of Guelph. Both these endeavours were instrumental in training to be a superintendent.

When asked about a best memory on the course and his greatest accomplishment he replied, **"Flying with Nicklaus and Bob Cupp in his jet to Muirfield in Ohio to view his course, grow-in the Abbey, holding the first Open in 1977 and hearing the favourable comments about the conditioning from the touring PGA pros."**

The stolonized C-15 greens were "the Cadillac" of the putting green surfaces - a pure upright variety. These greensites eventually succumbed to the pressure of extreme low cutting heights in 1980. Pellrene states that this was also his demise as the Royal Canadian Golf Association relieved him of his duties in 1982. Scarboro Golf & Country Club hired him soon after and he spent eleven fruitful years there with C-15 growing naturally in the roughs and fairways.

In search of a new challenge he applied for the position of superintendent at the Capilano Golf & Country Club, in West Vancouver. Little did he know that sunglasses were used only on occasion, as the sun was covered with an overcast sky full of rain -120 inches per year. They had three greens that were out of service for a number of years so the challenge was to bring this course up to acceptable standards and then improve the conditions methodically over the years.

**"Before I retired in 2006, the first thing I would do every morning was check the computer for e-mails and then review the course in its unblemished, natural state. My biggest influence in my life and career is Laura, my wife of 38 years."** And finally, some words to live by, **"Get things done. Strive for excellence and value. Treat your staff with respect and as individuals with different needs. The main goal is to create a team that works together with the goal of offering the members the best possible product."**

### "In the Hot Seat"

- Favourite major: **Masters**
- Best piece of turf equipment ever: **Five-plex light weight fairway unit**
- Favourite golf designer: **Alister MacKenzie**
- Ultimate foursome: **Myself, Bob Heron, Ken Wright & John Cherry**
- Lowest round ever and where: **79 at Glen Abbey**
- Stanley Cup pick: **Pittsburgh**
- Favourite meal: **Surf & Turf**
- Favourite course outside Canada: **Cypress Point, CA**
- What's in your CD right now: **Jazz**
- Rate your lawn: **5**
- What would you be if not a golf course super: **I would like to think engineering**



# Golf course highlight

## Bathurst Glen Golf Course

12481 Bathurst Street  
Richmond Hill ON

Website: [www.bathurstglen.com](http://www.bathurstglen.com)

Golf Course Superintendent:

**Andrew Morin**

Email: [amorin@trca.on.ca](mailto:amorin@trca.on.ca)



Photo by Andrew Morin

### COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?  
Vaughan

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

Number of rounds?  
28,000

Name of Superintendent  
Andrew Morin

How long have you been a superintendent?  
3 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?  
3 years

How many year round staff?  
1

How many seasonal staff?  
7

How many mechanics and assistants?  
Assistant: Ken Rivers

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?  
18 Executive

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?  
4550 yards from back tees  
3720 yards from forward tees

What is the size and length of driving range and range tee?  
325 yards with 1.7 acres all grass tee

How many bunkers?  
60

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?  
1 pond in play on 1 hole  
2 marshland areas in play twice

Who was the original architect?  
Rene Muylaert

What was the year of original construction?  
1998 opened in 1999

What type of irrigation system?  
Toro LTC

What is the size of your maintenance shop?  
6,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

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

Greens: 3 acres

Tees: 3 acres

Fairways: 17 acres

What is your predominant grass?  
Poa/Bent

How many USGA greens and loam greens?  
20 USGA greens

What is the predominant soil type?  
Clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?

2-JD 2500 greens mowers

1-set JD verticut heads

1-JD 3215A fairway mower

1-JD 2653A trim mower

1-JD 1200A bunker rake

1-JD 1445 rotary mower

1-JD 3365 rough mower (The Bus)

1-JD 990 loader

2-Massey Ferguson 135 tractors

1-JD 1800 Sprayer

1-JD 1800 topdresser

1-JD aercore 800 greens aerator

1-JD aercore 1500 turf aerator

1-JD TC125 material collector

2-Stihl weed eaters

1-Little Wonder blower

1-PTO blower

1-Brillion overseeder

1-Tow behind PTO fertilizer spreader

1-Walk behind rotary fertilizer spreader  
1-Express dual reel grinder

### COURSE PROJECTS

What projects have you recently completed?  
Extensive naturalization of property and habitat creation. New bunker construction at practice area. Construction of self-contained spray tank mix/load facility within the maintenance area.

### LONG RANGE PLANS

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

Continue working towards and retaining Audubon certification, creation of wildlife beneficial gardens, renovate equipment wash area to closed loop system, renovation and re-design of driving range target greens.

### CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Environmentally sensitive lands around property, dealing with a new housing development causing drainage problems.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

Increased emphasis on sound cultural practices, fertility and monitoring have led to a substantial decrease in pesticide use.

# Bathurst Glen and The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority

Article by Andrew Sandilands, Superintendent, Black Diamond Golf Club  
Photos by Andrew Morin, Superintendent, Bathurst Glen Golf Course

## Setting the new standard

A small unassuming course is making leaps and bounds in the environmental world by trying to set the new standard by which all golf courses can aspire to be, all while doing so at reasonable costs. Recently, Bathurst Glen Golf Course was acquired by the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority (TRCA) and is now part of a 1000 acre parcel of land which is known as the Kettle Lakes Corridor, and Andrew Morin, Superintendent couldn't be happier about it. Just 2 years ago Andrew came aboard as superintendent of the course, after it had been closed and overgrown for 6 months. Since then the irrigation has been put back in place, the

about. Brad Clubine, Project Manager from the TRCA and Andrew Morin combined forces to set up long term goals along with a master plan to elevate Bathurst Glen Golf Course to the environmental level which the TRCA represents and mandates. Brad proclaims that the TRCA and Bathurst Glen are aiming to be fully Audubon certified by 2009 and that being at the environmental forefront is a priority for Bathurst Glen.



#7 - 9 before

equipment put back together, the grass has been cut and the doors have been re-opened. Quite a job to begin with, but along with all of these challenges the TRCA has also decided that with this being their first golf course, it needs to reflect what the TRCA is all



#7 - 9 after

The approach that Andrew and the TRCA are taking is not to set aside a separate capital expenditure for all the work, but to actually pull funds from Andrew's operating budget. At first Andrew was leery of this idea, but has found that with sound cultural practices and some added monitoring tools he was able to more than make up the difference in chemical savings alone. Andrew says, "The hardest part was adapting different cultural

practices, implementing new tools and trusting in yourself that these practices will take the place of chemical control”.



#14 before

He also says, “The best new tool I purchased and monitored was an ET gauge. I never realized how much I was over watering, and even during the hot summer of '07 I was watering less than ever”.



#14 after

A problem that is always encountered with extra work load is of course a lack of staff. That is where Bathurst Glen turned to its community for volunteer help to aid in plantings of beneficial native species gardens and naturalization of areas, which encourage the native wildlife in the area and cut back the amount of manicured and maintained property. “It was a big success” says Andrew “the volunteers loved getting involved with us and helping their community become more environmentally friendly.” This was the first of several planned volunteer community events organized by the TRCA. Other projects like bird boxes will be built and monitored by existing staff at other TRCA sites. “There’s been a great effort put forth by both the TRCA and my staff to get things accomplished with a tight budget”, says Andrew.



Community helps with plantings

Achieving a balance between needs of the golf course and wants from the TRCA is something that Andrew and Brad discuss in detail when it comes time for budget planning. “This is a learning curve for the TRCA” says Brad “and golf course management is new to us, but we are learning what Andrew needs to run a successful golf course while still being able to keep the environmental focus up front for the TRCA”.



Large scale recycling and energy conservation plans are being put into place right now to make Bathurst Glen as “green” as possible, while the use of organic based fertilizers and further water conservation are also in discussion. After meeting with Andrew and Brad, I left feeling that making the golf industry “greener” is something that a course of any budget can achieve with a little extra time and some creative thinking and getting the community involved and educated on the environmental benefits of golf courses is something that benefits everyone.

# MY ROLE AS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

by Andrew Hardy  
Pheasant Run Golf Club

Currently, I am enjoying my tenth season as an assistant superintendent. In this time, I have gained many valuable and diverse skills working at three different golf courses. However, it is my present role as assistant superintendent at Pheasant Run Golf Club that has had me face the most challenging and unique of work environments.

There are many roles that an assistant superintendent fills for the superintendent. First, I am the key decision maker in the turfgrass department; managing staff, budgets and ensuring that our department meshes well with the golf department and clubhouse staff. My role at Pheasant Run also requires me taking a hands-on role in turfgrass management. Since my boss wears many hats as the Superintendent, General Manager and Club President, his time is spread quite thin and his need for my leadership and presence is pivotal; I am his eyes and ears. These duties are not new to most assistants, however, my role at Pheasant Run has demanded that I stretch beyond all of the regular aspects.

I am the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) agent at Pheasant Run, and having just passed our first year desk

audit has been exciting and rewarding. Some of the unique duties at Pheasant Run saw me spending more time around the clubhouse soldering copper pipe for the water softener, hanging skylight blinds, installing light sensors on the driveway lights, and performing basic handyman duties.

My biggest work challenge occurred this season when our equipment technician took a one week vacation in August. For that week I was thrust into his role, along with my own. Many of the regular staff were shocked to see me in coveralls; setting up, backlapping, greasing reels and diagnosing minor mechanical problems.

I think back to 1996 when I enrolled in the Turf Management program at Fairview College. I had the perception that all my time would be spent on the golf course and little else. The golf course is still the priority #1, but, little did I know that there would be other duties not encompassing the golf course that would add to the rewarding nature of my job.

The future looks bright, and I am sure that my role will continue to expand into many new challenges both on and off the golf course.

## Braemar Building Systems



**Custom Design**

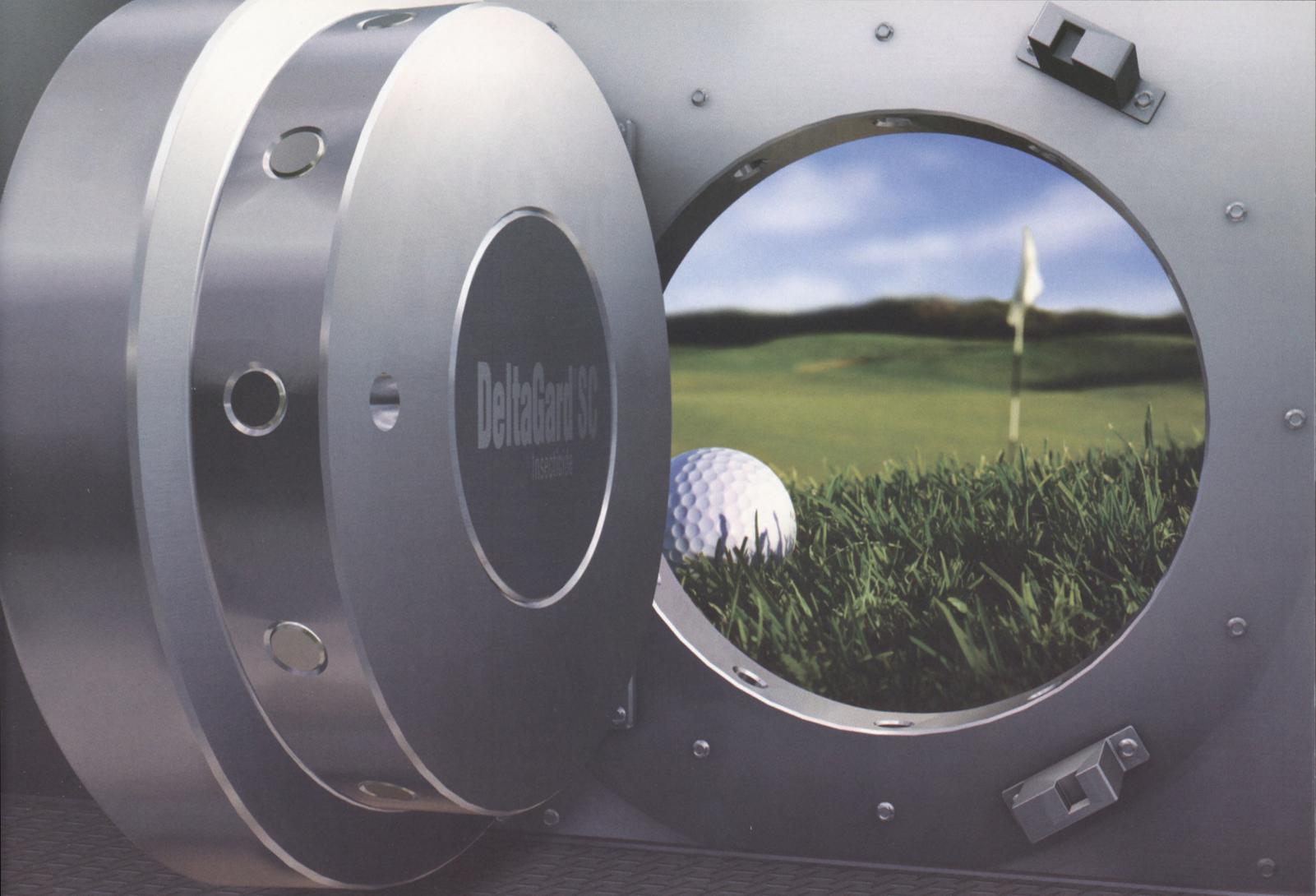
**Quality Buildings**

**Competitive Prices**



- Maintenance Buildings • Storage Facilities
- New Buildings • Wood & Steel Structures

For your **FREE ESTIMATES** call us at **1-800-215-1996**  
[www.braemarbuildings.com](http://www.braemarbuildings.com)



## PROTECT YOUR TURF

**NEW DeltaGard SC keeps your turf safe from chinch bugs, sod webworms, cutworms and ants.**

DELTAGARD SC insecticide is not only fast acting, but provides outstanding control at very low use rates. DELTAGARD SC contains the active ingredient deltamethrin, a third generation synthetic pyrethroid and is packaged in an easy to use liquid formulation that is easy to mix and apply.

DELTAGARD SC joins the growing family of premier turf management products marketed by Bayer Environmental Science in Canada including Rovral Green GT, Compass 50 WG, Alette Signature and Merit brand insecticide.



**BACKED  
by BAYER.**



Bayer Environmental Science

**DeltaGard<sup>®</sup> SC**  
Insecticide

Learn more about the proven performance of DELTAGARD SC  
[www.bayeres.ca](http://www.bayeres.ca) 1-888-283-6847

Quebec: 514-949-2467 • Ontario/Western Canada: 905-319-8981 • Ontario/Atlantic Canada: 519-239-3983 ALWAYS READ PRODUCT LABEL PRIOR TO USE.  
DeltaGard and Bayer are registered trademarks of Bayer CropScience. Always read and follow label directions.

# Above the hole

by Rafik Lang-Bismillah, Student & Intern

Life is full of decisions and choices, and for the turfgrass student it is at this time of year that one truly gets a sense of the range of options available post-graduation. The final semester is an exciting time to be a student. The end, which always seemed so elusive and so very distant, is now just around the corner. Concerns about exams and projects are being replaced by concerns about resumes, job searches, interviews and decisions. The change in atmosphere is actually tangible. Decisions are being made, options are weighed and the realization is starting to sink in that this is what the program is about. All that time we were actually preparing for life outside the classroom. And now finally, after all those classes, the gears are changing.

As my own personal decisions loom overhead I realize that I am actually incapable of making a long-range plan. I envy all those people who know what they want to do. I am stuck, for now, in the options stage and I love it. I wouldn't trade it for the world. I see before me a host of golf industry related jobs, and I am excited by the opportunity to find my place. It's a big world out there, and it excites me to think that I can do anything, go anywhere. All I know with any degree of certainty is that I, along with every one else, will use this program and all the contacts we have made as a starting point, a springboard into the industry. Where will I go from here? Exactly where I don't know; however, I will leave what is familiar. My home course has

been a good starting point, but it has become too comfortable. I have learnt more than I ever imagined I could by just working and getting my hands dirty. But all good things must come to an end. Now is the time to go somewhere else, to work for someone else, to experience new things. That is exactly what I intend to do.

As I write this I am beginning to realize that I have already made some preliminary choices. The big decision I have already made; this business excites me and drives me. Now all that is left is to find where I fit.

So that being said, this has essentially become my resignation letter from the family business. It is my letter of intent for the world beyond school, and I couldn't be happier and equally apprehensive at the same time.

We, on the Board of Directors and Editorial Committee take this opportunity to thank Rafik for his insightful and entertaining articles of "Above the hole", and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Congratulations Rafik on a job well done!

As Rafik is graduating this spring we are seeking contributions from another intern to commence with the May issue of *Green is Beautiful*. In our search for another keen contributor we are holding a contest encouraging participation. Please see the contest rules on page 6.



## Adapts to its Surroundings **JACOBSEN® ECLIPSE™ 122 & 122 F**

Like a chameleon, the new Eclipse 122 & 122 F walking greens mowers from Jacobsen® can adapt to any turf, condition, operator or environment. Independently adjustable ground speed, reel speed and FOC give you the unprecedented power to dial in to the exact cut you want. 50% more float eliminates scalping – even on the most undulated turf. An advanced control system takes variability out of the operator equation for a more consistent cut every time. And a variable-configuration platform allows for hybrid or battery power to provide stealth-like quietness, fuel savings and reduced emissions. Field tested and superintendent approved, the Jacobsen Eclipse gives you the power to mow with confidence, precision and superior results – every single day.

**To see the only mower that guarantees consistent greens, call your Duke Sales Representative for more information.**



1184 PLAINS ROAD EAST  
BURLINGTON, ONTARIO L7S 1W6  
Burlington area: 905-637-5216 • Toronto Area: 905-338-2404  
All other Ontario Areas: 800-883-0761 • Fax: 905-637-2009  
Visit our website at: [www.gcduke.com](http://www.gcduke.com)

1.888.922.TURF • [jacobsen.com](http://jacobsen.com)

TEXTRON FINANCIAL



©2007 Jacobsen, A Textron Company. All rights reserved. Pebble Beach® Pebble Beach Golf Links® The Heritage Logo, The Lone Cypress™ and their underlying distinctive images are trademarks, service marks and trade dress of Pebble Beach Company. Used under license.  
The Official Turf Equipment Supplier to The PGA of America and The Exclusive Turf Equipment Supplier to PGA Golf Properties.

**JACOBSEN**  
A Textron Company

When Performance Matters.™



# There's a **NEW** game in town!



As you know, BASF has been in the chemical business for 140 years.

Now they are aiming their considerable experience squarely at turf.

With 2 innovative new products for the Turf industry it is no wonder Golf Supers are anxious for this new player to come to town.

Imagine, solutions from a company with 140 years of solving problems for their customers.

**Can you afford *NOT* to play with these guys?**

 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

# RECRUITMENT CHALLENGES

## - SOME INNOVATIVE OPTIONS AND SOLUTIONS

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

Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's, once stated, "You're only as good as the people you hire." A statement I am sure most superintendents and their assistants would agree with. Considering the increased demands placed upon the modern golf course superintendent, it is more important now than ever before to have a strong team of dedicated and talented individuals to successfully carry out the instructions of the superintendent and various stakeholders and to manage a golf course to the best standards possible. The value of hiring the right people and then the ability to retain these individuals is so important that some companies spend millions of dollars annually to attract staff and keep them content, once hired. A popular example of this in today's job market is the internet giant, Google. Some of the perks Google currently offers their employees include: onsite pools, gyms, yoga classes, personal trainers, dieticians and daycares, to mention a few. Recently, Google has even gone as far as offering a shuttle service for employees complete with wireless internet on board. Some would argue that going to these lengths to hire and retain the right people is over the top. Google would argue the expense to provide these services is less than the money potentially lost on poor productivity or high staff turnover.

Most golf courses would probably jump at the opportunity to implement some of Google's perks. If only these golf courses had massive budgets accompanied with maintenance facilities better equipped than most clubhouses. Instead, superintendents are faced with the challenge of trying to attract prospective employees to an industry perceived by some as having more draw backs than perks - low wages, atypical hours (early mornings, weekends), adverse working conditions (heat, cold, rain, etc.) and the seasonal nature of the job (layoffs). Unfortunately the aforementioned factors often outweigh some of the perks offered to golf course employees such as free golf (most clubs offer this to their employees) working outdoors, working in a strong team environment, and job variety. In addition to the above mentioned challenges the location of golf courses has a large impact on the demographics of possible employees.

In the last 10 years there has been a boom in golf development in cottage country creating a large variety of golf courses appealing to almost all types of golfers and markets.

In cottage country, where the population can triple during the golf season, it would seem that there is no shortage of potential employees. Scott Heron, Superintendent at Bigwin Island Golf Club in Huntsville says it is very difficult to find motivated individuals with strong work habits. Most students that Scott has encountered are up in Huntsville visiting their parent's cottages simply looking for a good time, not a summer job. Yet once summer students have been hired, it can be quite difficult to retain

them through Labour Day, even with the possibility of bonuses up to \$1,000. Combined with Scott's challenges of finding reliable seasonal labour, attracting turf students has proven difficult as well.

To help draw turf students, Bigwin Island offers onsite housing, with the hope that the remote location of the golf course will not deter students from looking at Bigwin Island as an employment opportunity. While discussing these staffing challenges Scott remarks, "Facing these staffing obstacles year after year I am sometimes surprised we are still able to provide customers with the high-end product they expect."

After completing the grow in at Oslerbrook, and now with the successful inaugural season behind him, Superintendent Jason Honeyball comments on some of the staffing challenges he's expecting to face as well as some potential solutions. According to Jason, "Retaining good staff year-after-year will be the challenge at Oslerbrook and the solutions are not all in place." Jason's strategy for keeping good employees has been to work with the local, private ski clubs, as keeping good employees employed through the winter months has helped reduce staff turnover. Jason is also considering the option of recruiting from the apple orchard labour force, as there are many in the area stating, "This would mean an ethnic influence of either Mexican or Jamaican for labour. There are some hurdles to jump, but it is worth investigating for the future." For turf students, Jason will be looking into providing staff accommodations while working for the summer and year-round employment with some benefits once the education is fulfilled.

Golf North Properties currently operates 15 golf courses across Western Ontario. Some of Golf North's challenges include location and diverse demographics resulting in potential employees ranging from high-school students to retired seniors. Doug Breen, Regional Director for Golf North, comments that golf courses located in close proximity to university communities offer a great deal of potential employees. However, as Scott Heron pointed out, superintendents within Golf North have found similar challenges when it comes to retaining these students through the end of the summer. Golf North has tried the bonus system of offering staff incentives for working beyond the Labour Day weekend, but unfortunately these incentives have proved unsuccessful. In many of the communities, Doug pointed out, retired seniors have worked out well to compliment the students, as the seniors can be very reliable for scheduling and often prove to be good equipment operators.

One of the unique qualities a management company like Golf North has is the ability to relocate staff within the company. Doug comments that this practice has worked well, allowing the company to place staff at golf courses that best fit their skill sets. When it comes to large events or



cultural practices that may require larger than normal staff numbers, superintendents at Golf North have the luxury of coordinating with other Golf North properties in the area to shift staff around in order to ensure sufficient staff to successfully achieve goals, whether they be hosting a large event or working to complete cultural practices in a timely manner.

To aid superintendents in the recruitment process, some golf courses have human resource (HR) departments helping superintendents to recruit and hire staff.

At the Granite Club, the HR department helps Superintendent Phil Scully find staff by posting employment opportunities on the club's web site, job web sites and by recruiting potential staff at local job fairs. The HR team at the Granite Club also conducts an annual "open-house" hosted by the club, designed to recruit summer staff. Scully claims that the open house, which is timed with reading week, is a good way to find staff. More importantly, it helps to raise the club's profile in his area, which he describes as remote and says, "I have people coming to the open-house just to be able to see the property, which helps word get out into the community that we are here."

At Taboo Golf Club, Assistant Superintendent Paul Dobias credits the human resource team for their work with job fairs at local schools which helps ease the pressure of filling staffing voids.

Local schools, community centers and job placement agencies can be great places to inquire about the possibility of participating in a local job fair. Some golf course HR managers state a common mistake made is not maximizing the opportunity such fairs present by sending the wrong person or people to represent the club. Working a booth at a job fair requires individuals who are comfortable meeting and greeting people, while promoting the employment opportunities their club has to offer.

Finding staff, and finding the right staff are two different

challenges. For some, struggles with labour are more often a reflection of quality compared to quantity. Human resource departments can aid with the implementation of screening and aptitude tests to help gauge the suitability of an applicant for a specific position and to try to minimize the inconveniences and expenses associated with releasing, hiring and training staff. Interviewees can be asked to fill out these tests before the formal interview process and the results are later factored into the selection process. If an HR department is not available at your golf course, independent companies can be contracted to help set up tests tailored to find the exact staff qualities you are looking for.

Labour shortages now place a big importance on staff retention initiatives. Scott Bowman, Superintendent at Greystone Golf Club, says that his HR department helps to coordinate the hiring of an independent company to take employee opinion surveys. These surveys help Scott in determining what changes can be made to help attract and retain staff. He also credits the part-time system he has implemented as a way to manage staff turn-over. Of his 35 employees, 30 work part-time. This helps to appeal to a workforce generation that places more importance on instant gratification and lifestyle.

As the turf management industry continues to grow and evolve, the onus will be on superintendents to become creative in finding and retaining staff. As research was done on this article, it was impressive to see the creative measures many superintendents have gone to recruit and retain the right staff to build successful teams for their facilities. Statistics Canada claims that in 10 years, retirees are likely to outnumber newcomers to the workforce. It will be interesting to see what further measures are implemented to meet the ever growing challenges facing golf course superintendents and their assistants.



Thames Valley ♦ River Road ♦ Indian Wells ♦ Galt  
Player's Club at Waterdown ♦ Riverstone ♦ Sally Creek  
East Park ♦ Victoria Park ♦ Riverside ♦ Lakeview ♦ Fairview  
Warkworth ♦ Queen Club ♦ South Muskoka ♦ Norfolk  
Cuttan Club ♦ The Willows ♦ Windy Hills ♦ Kings Bay  
Carruther's Creek ♦ Royal York ♦ Sleepy Hollow  
Stoneridge ♦ Bonaire ♦ Eagle Creek ♦ Lakeview  
Springview Farms ♦ Cobble Hills ♦ Inner Lakes ♦ Stonebridge

**VANDEN BUSSCHE**  
IRRIGATION

Milton 1.800.263.4112  
King City 1.866.703.KING

[www.vandenbussche.com](http://www.vandenbussche.com)




**Rain Bird Decoders**  
Trusted & Proven at Over Forty Ontario Courses



**Professional Products**

**Mark Schneider**  
Technical Sales

Maple Turf Supply  
8112 King Rd. W.  
P.O. Box 370  
Bolton, Ontario  
L7E 5T3

Business: (905) 857-2000  
Fax: (905) 857-8215  
Mobile: (519) 372-5181  
1-800-268-4425  
Email: m\_\_\_schneider@sympatico.ca

*"We Sell & Transplant Large Trees"*



**DOUGLASWOOD**

- Dedicated exclusively to Large Tree Transplanting
- 25 Years of Experience
- Nursery Grown, Common & Rare Trees
- Projects from 1 - 1000 Trees

www.douglaswood.ca

**1 800.353.3019** • T. 519.856.2771 • F. 519.856.1447  
P.O. Box 339 Rockwood ON Canada NOB 2K0

**DCS**

**Agronomic Services**

**David C. Smith, A.Ag., C.G.C.S.**

Soil & Turfgrass Consultant

(7645)

Office (705) 687-SOIL

Fax (705) 687-3518

Cell (905) 512-6004

185 Oriole Crescent  
Gravenhurst, Ontario  
P1P 1C6

(8873)

Toll Free 1-888-607-TURF

Email dave@dsturf.com

**Master's Turf Supply Ltd.**

P.O. Box 277, 890 Fairground Road, Langton, On , N0E 1G0  
Phone (519) 875-4094 Fax (519) 875-4095

Website: mastersturfsupply.com  
email: mastersturf@hughes.net

**ALMACK AGRONOMIC SERVICES INC.**

SPECIALISTS IN TURFGRASS NUTRITION



Corrie Almack P.Ag.

Almack Agronomic Services Inc.  
Box 256, Carlisle, On  
L0R 1H0

Tel: (905) 689-6174  
Fax: (905) 689-8522  
Email: c.almack@sympatico.ca



**FAST FOREST**

**LARGE TREE SALES AND RELOCATION**

**Phil Dickie** - ISA Certified Arborist  
pdickie@gatemanmilloy.com

270 Shoemaker Street, Kitchener, ON N2E 3E1  
Phone (519) 748-6610 • Fax (519) 748-6626

# A Reliable Source For ALL Your Pond Needs



**Services We Offer:** Pond Assessments and Consultations, Water Nutrient Testing, Fountain Repairs, Weed Treatment and Identification

**POLYDEX** (Algaecide) - Buy direct We are Eastern Canada's Distributor

**NEW - JET BLACK Pond Dye** Give Your Pond a Natural Mirrored Look While Gaining All the Advantages of Pond Dye for Weed Management

2 Licenced Aquatic Weed Specialists, A Freshwater & Marine Biologist on Staff and Fisheries & Wildlife Technician with 43 Years of Combined Experience

Pond & Lagoon Aeration - Fountains - Polydex (Algaecide) - Water Test Kits - Pond Liner - Filtration Bacta-Pur Weed Rakes & Cutters - Waterfall Pumps - Water Dye - Agriculture Biosecurity Chemical



**FISH FARM SUPPLY CO.**

116 Bonnie Cres, Elmira, On Toll Free: (877) 669-1096  
www.fishfarmsupply.ca fishfarm@sentex.net

## Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

It is remarkable when you think about it how much the Southern Ontario landscape has changed since the area was pioneered by European settlers. In the grand scheme of things, 1492 was just a short time ago. Nonetheless, 95% or so of the natural vegetative cover from that time has since been cleared for agriculture and urban settlement. We've come up with some silly habits that pollute and take up a lot of space and it's beginning to catch up with us. Nature is throwing weather extremes back.

Natural systems and native plant communities are pretty resilient and pockets remain, poised to take their land back in some way shape or form. These are the species of plants and animals that evolved in our region to form stable ecosystems of forest, pond or meadow life. Wind in the willows sort of stuff. Restoring these communities that contain a rich assortment of species is a critical component if we are to improve our position with the environment.

What draws us to these types of places is the richness and wildness of them. Natural plant communities are calming and soothing to look at and be in, probably because they have no need of us. Whenever I see animals in the wild I feel a bit envious of their freedom and that they don't have to pay taxes. On the other hand I wouldn't want the fear of being eaten alive hanging over my head!

Wild things can't help but get everything they need locally, so they are busy. And we don't mind that they're busy. That's part of the appeal of a thriving, buzzing environment and part of the reason why the butterfly garden idea is so popular. Build it and they will come.

Due to the human presence wild places are limited in their size and scope. Collectively though, if we all participate in creating suitable habitats, planting native plants and vying for greenery rather than pavement, we can make a tremendous impact. Golf course properties have the unique opportunity to create wildlife habitat on a larger scale than the average home owner. With these habitats come species diversity, self-sustaining ecosystems, beauty, natural pest control and countless untold benefits yet to be learned.

As you take the time to read, learn and listen this winter, participate in the topics surrounding the natural sciences including ecology, native plant gardening and bio-diversity. It is important for those of us who are in a position to manage green spaces to engage in restoring the diversity of plant species, in particular native plant communities, in Southern Ontario.

A few books that might help you along the way are:

*Peterson's Field Guide to the Wildflowers* by: Peterson/McKenny  
This is a classic hand book that has pictures of flowers to help you identify plants. It will tell you what is an alien and what is native.

*100 Easy to Grow Native Plants* by: Lorraine Johnson  
Along with colourful photographs, this book will tell you the habitat the plants require as well as what plants are good companions to each other.

*Shrubs of Ontario* by: James Soper and Margaret Heimbürger  
A guide to native shrubs with excellent illustrations, showing the range of the shrubs and describing their habitat. Shrubs are much more versatile in landscapes than trees, are ultimately more manageable than trees because of their smaller size, provide food & shelter for wildlife, provide privacy screening and windbreaks, benefit the ecosystem in many of the same ways as trees do, and prepare the area for natural succession where trees eventually dominate.

*Natural Habitat Gardening* by: Ken Druise  
A very nice picture book, showing pictures of habitats and gardens we would all like to create.

For a list of Native Plant Nurseries near you, visit my website [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com). If you are looking for help in improving the appearance and usefulness of the natural areas on the golf course, send me a note at [daisy@daisymoore.com](mailto:daisy@daisymoore.com) and I will point you in the right direction.

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

# University of Guelph update



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

One of the most prolific problems facing turfgrass managers today is finding a way for the grass to survive the increased traffic and wear that comes with increased use. Increasing population densities and an aging population combined with an effort to increase the popularity of the game of golf has lead to more golfers and increased wear on our

golf courses. This, combined with the increased popularity of golf carts and personal electric caddy systems has increased the wear throughout the course. This increased wear leads to unsightly bare areas, mud and eventually annual weeds. Not only does this wear effect the aesthetics of the golf course, it often requires increased herbicide applications and renovation. When looking to deal with recovery from wear and ways to deal with repeated traffic on areas of the course other than the greens and fairways the golf course superintendent may wish to look to the athletic field managers for ideas to overcome these challenges. Athletic fields have been overused for many years and managers have been under great pressure to reduce and or eliminate herbicides. The golf industry can learn from some of the lessons learned by the athletic field managers.



## Aeration

One of the biggest things that athletic field managers have learned is that traffic and wear damage are almost always associated with compaction. Turfgrass managers have learned to aerate aggressively and often. This is nothing new to the golf industry, which has long recognized the benefits of aeration on golf greens and fairways. While golfers often lament the days after aeration it is an important part of any management plan. While a

regular aeration schedule for these areas is essential, it is also important to aerate smaller problem areas in the roughs where traffic and wear are a problem. Typically, desirable turfgrass seedlings do not survive well in compacted soils and sod establishment is difficult, at best, so any restoration attempt of a worn out area should be accompanied by an attempt to relieve surface compaction. Some weeds tend to be found predominantly on compacted soils such as prostrate knotweed and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and they can indicate a soil compaction problem. Aeration also can help create another important condition for restoration of a worn area and that is increased soil to seed contact for overseeding efforts.

## Overseeding

Overseeding is not only a tool for renovation it is also a effective preventative measure that will delay and some times prevent the wear damage from becoming a nuisance. The most important lesson learned regarding overseeding is that it is most effective when carried out at high rates and often, wear is the predominate reason for its use. When seeding, under normal establishment scenarios, too much seed can lead to a reduction in seedling survival and failure of the seedbed. In the case of wear prevention and restoration from wear the high rates allow for successive germination events in the gaps that are being created by the wear. In addition, the main problem with seedling survival is traffic, not disease, so having more seedlings is essential for the process to work. Research at the University of Guelph, by Mr. Evan Elford, showed that frequent, high-rate overseeding with perennial ryegrass can reduce the incidence of clover invasion in irrigated Kentucky bluegrass and dandelion, in un-irrigated Kentucky bluegrass. Athletic field managers throughout North America have found that similar practices maintain turf cover and increase playability and aesthetic quality of heavy use athletic fields.

There are many things to look for when selecting species or cultivars to be used in an overseeding program. The grass being selected should first and foremost blend in well with the existing turf. In athletic fields, most overseeding programs utilize perennial ryegrass because it mixes very well with Kentucky bluegrass, the predominant desired species. For this reason perennial ryegrass may be chosen for overseeding highly trafficked Kentucky bluegrass areas on the golf course. Conversely, perennial ryegrass mixes very poorly with the stoloniferous creeping bentgrass. If you choose to overseed creeping bentgrass areas perennial ryegrass is **not** recommended because of its different colour and growth habit. In fact, if overseeding an area of Kentucky bluegrass rough the superintendent should take precautionary measures to prevent seed drift if that area is in close proximity to a creeping bentgrass turf.

The other attribute to look for when choosing a grass for overseeding is the time to germination. The faster germinating species and cultivars are desirable. Once again perennial ryegrass is an ideal overseeding grass for Kentucky bluegrass turf because it can germinate in 4-6 days where conversely Kentucky bluegrass can take up to 17 days to germinate even under ideal conditions. By the time Kentucky bluegrass has the chance to germinate it is likely a quick germinating weedy species will fill the void. Another important attribute is seedling wear tolerance because most of these areas will receive wear even if efforts are made to minimize traffic. While Kentucky bluegrass has very good wear tolerance in its mature state its seedling do not fair well under wear. This is another area where perennial ryegrass is a superior overseeding grass as its seedling wear tolerance is good.

Perennial ryegrass is a very good grass for overseeding, however it does have its drawbacks. Its ability to survive low mowing heights makes it a potential weed on creeping bentgrass fairways and tees so precautions should be made to prevent it from establishing in those areas, as stated earlier. In addition, perennial ryegrass can suffer from winter injury and can be subject to catastrophic winter kill depending on the severity of winter and the number of thaw and refreeze events that the grass endures throughout the late winter and early spring. This is particularly an issue in areas of poor drainage where surface water accumulates and often these are areas that are associated with needing an overseeding problem. If the concerns regarding perennial ryegrass survival are great, then sodding the areas with Kentucky bluegrass is a

more expensive, but good option.

Following a few simple rules can facilitate the success of an overseeding program. The first rule is to begin overseeding before the wear becomes readily apparent. Predict the areas that will need the overseeding based on past experience and begin the overseeding program. Overseeding in close conjunction with an aeration event prevents weed encroachment into the new gaps created and it increases overseeding efficiency because of increased soil to seed contact. One of the most useful things a superintendent can do to facilitate the success of an overseeding program is to reduce the amount of wear the area receives after overseeding. While a 100% reduction is unlikely a small reduction will often have a large impact. Using mulches and covers can increase germination but also serve as a signal for golfers and workers to avoid the area. If traffic can be reduced for an extended period of time it may be advantageous to include Kentucky bluegrass within the overseeding mix.

All in all overseeding can be a helpful tool to reduce herbicide use and prevent the need for complete renovation of a highly trafficked area. While this article is primarily focused on overseeding Kentucky bluegrass roughs and other high traffic areas, the basic principles can be used when implementing other overseeding programs of fairways, tees and greens. Choose quick germinating aggressive cultivars that mix well with the existing turf, try to minimize wear and traffic following overseeding, and overseed in conjunction with aeration to maximize soil to seed contact.

## **THE ONTARIO TURFGRASS INDUSTRY NEEDS YOUR INPUT**

### **THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF THE GOLF INDUSTRY INCLUDING ALL GOLF COURSES**

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation and the University of Guelph are conducting a study on

#### **The Economic Profile of the Ontario Turfgrass Industry**

This study is the first comprehensive economic review of the turfgrass industry in more than 20 years. The study will help us understand and raise awareness about the importance of the turfgrass industry to the province and the country. We would like to ask you for your participation. Take the time now before the new golf season starts to participate in this survey.

For easy on line access go to OGSA's home page at [www.golfsupers.on.ca](http://www.golfsupers.on.ca) under **News** and click on **survey**.

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

Kate Tsiplova (519) 824-4120 x 58343, [ktsiplov@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ktsiplov@uoguelph.ca) or

Katerina Jordan (519) 824-4120 x 56615, [kjordan@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kjordan@uoguelph.ca)

# BACKED by BAYER™

Backed by Bayer™ is a primary focus of Bayer Environmental Science and a way to ensure success for our customers. Backed By Bayer means you purchase more than products when you do business with Bayer — you get the confidence that you'll succeed. You receive the assurance that comes from value-added programs, services and our ongoing commitment to the industry.

## Backed by Bayer offers:

- **Dedication** – In terms of our field and technical representatives, our industry stewardship, and our training, research and interaction with regulatory agencies.
- **Guaranteed Satisfaction** – We stand behind every Bayer product and guarantee our customers are satisfied.
- **Superior Solutions** – We help customers gain and maintain superior results through our training seminars, face-to-face marketing, and industry programs.
- **Added Value** – What you're buying is an added measure of confidence. It's the assurance that comes from value-added programs, services and an on-going commitment to the industry.
- **Vision for the Future** – Our investment in the future gives customers tools to meet today's challenges and achieve their goals for growth.

Our focus at Bayer Environmental Science is the development and creation of innovative technologies and solutions for the challenges our customers face every day. Field development, sales and technical representatives located throughout the country offer regionalized support for all Bayer Environmental Science products.

Rovral® Green GT  
FUNGICIDE

Aliette® Signature

Merit®  
INSECTICIDE

DeltaGard® SC  
Insecticide

Compass™ 50WG  
FUNGICIDE

Sevin T&O  
INSECTICIDE

Acclaim® Super  
HERBICIDE

Forbid® 240SC  
INSECTICIDE

Intercept® 60WP  
INSECTICIDE

Aliette® Ornamental  
Fungicide

RONSTAR® 2G

BACKED  
by BAYER.



Bayer Environmental Science

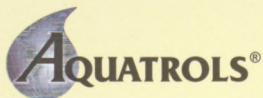
For more information contact Bayer Environmental Science  
www.bayeres.ca 1-888-283-8847

Quebec: 514-949-2487 • Ontario/Western Canada: 905-319-8981 • Ontario/Atlantic Canada: 519-239-3983 ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS. Rovral Green GT, Aliette Signature, Compass 50WG, Merit, DeltaGard, Sevin T&O, Acclaim Super, Forbid 240SC, Intercept 60WP, Aliette T&O and RONSTAR are registered trademark of Bayer.

AQUATROLS  
**PRIMER**<sup>®</sup> 604  
 Matrix Flow Soil Surfactant

- Balances soil moisture for optimum performance
- Increases survival of drought and heat stress
- Controls soil water repellency
- Choose from liquid or granular formulation

**CANADA'S LEADING SURFACTANT**



Contact your Aquatrols distributor to see what Primer 604 can do for you!

800-257-7797 • [www.aquatrols.com](http://www.aquatrols.com)

[www.JustSodit.com](http://www.JustSodit.com)



GREEN HORIZONS  
 GROUP OF FARMS

HAMILTON SOD  
 MOUNT HOPE  
 905-389-1315  
 ONTARIO SOD  
 CARVILLE  
 905-849-1764  
 NIAGARA SOD  
 ST. CATHARINES  
 905-984-8448  
 COMPACT SOD  
 CAMBRIDGE  
 519-653-7494  
 HALTON SOD  
 MILTON  
 905-878-1011



**Doug Hubble**

Sales and Marketing Manager  
 519.770.3157  
[dhubble@agriumat.com](mailto:dhubble@agriumat.com)



**John Bladon**

IPM Coordinator / Technical Sales  
 519.574.2013  
[jbladon@agriumat.com](mailto:jbladon@agriumat.com)  
[www.nu-groturf.com](http://www.nu-groturf.com)

**RESPOND 3**

Healthier Turf with Superior Water Management

**NOW AVAILABLE IN A GRANULAR FORMULATION**

- Increases Water Penetration
- Less standing water during wet periods of late Fall and early Spring
- Extend your playing season
- Moves excess moisture through the root zone
- Supports good drainage



DISTRIBUTORS:  
 ALLTURF Ltd.  
 Master's Turf Supply Ltd.  
 Mountain View Turf Supply

Always read and follow label directions  
 Respond 3 is a registered trademark of United Agri Products



[www.uap.ca](http://www.uap.ca)



Bayer Environmental Science

Spring cleaning of  
Fusarium patch.

A great start to a  
long green season.

# Rovral® Green GT

FUNGICIDE

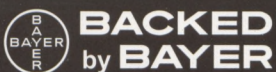
When the only colour you want to see is green

With winter over, the hard work of another season is now upon you. Make sure you get a clean start from diseases like Fusarium with Rovral Green GT, the tried and tested choice to clean up and prevent Fusarium from destroying your greens before the season starts. With preventative and curative activity, Rovral Green GT is the best choice to get a clean start to the season.

Rovral Green GT, just one of the family of products by Bayer - working for you. Other fungicides offered by Bayer include:

**Compass 50WG** - Strong enough for your greens - economical enough for your fairways

**Aliette Signature** - Turf quality and protection from root to shoot



For more information contact Bayer Environmental Science - [www.bayeres.ca](http://www.bayeres.ca) 1-888-949-6847  
Quebec: 519-949-2467 • Ontario/Western Canada: 905-464-8399 • Ontario/Atlantic Canada: 519-239-3983

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS: Rovral Green GT is a registered trademark of Bayer.



## Looking back

### 40 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

In 1968, **Dave Gourlay, Sr.** was the president of the OGSA. **Keith Nisbet, Gord Witteveen** and **Dave Moote** were retiring directors and **Bob Moote** was the past president.

**Tom Unsworth** moved from Clearstream CC in Oakville to St. Thomas GC and **Bob Heron**, assistant at the Board of Trade CC, was appointed superintendent at Brampton GC. **Dave Baker** moved to Glen Cedar GC and **Don Creed** left London for Orchard Hills Golf & CC in Michigan. **Ian Williamson** moved to Castlegar GC in British Columbia.

On January 8th, there was a curling meeting at Bayview CC with **Ed Ortlieb** as host. The rink, skipped by **Curly Endicott** and comprising of **John Stoughton, Carl Wagner** and **Bernie MacDonald**, won the trophy, defeating **Bob Moote's** rink. President **Gourlay** reported on a possible Greens Chairman Superintendent Day and a

Pro Superintendent Day.

On July 9th at Richmond Hill Golf & CC, the first Greens Chairman Superintendent Day was held. **Tom Mascaro**, President of West Point Products, was the guest speaker and **George Darou** was the host.

OGSA dues were \$15.00 for superintendents and \$25.00 for associates. CGSA membership dues were \$15.00 and GCSAA dues were \$50.00. **Bill Forrester** was made an Honorary member of the OGSA, after retiring from 20 years at Weston GC. **Robbie Robinson** was also presented with an Honorary membership on his retirement as Director of the Greens Section of the RCGA. **James Hickman**, Chartered member of the OGSA, recently passed away in London. The CGSA held their first Turf Research Foundation meeting at the Skyline Hotel on March 19<sup>th</sup>, in Toronto. **Tom Johnston** replaced **John Steel** as president of the CGSA.



## CTO Custom Turf Outfitters

Specializing in:

Greens Slit Drainage	Bunker Construction
Collection Drain Lines	Tee/Green Renovations

“For all your turf drainage, construction and renovation needs”

[ctoturf@live.ca](mailto:ctoturf@live.ca)

[www.ctoturfdrainage.com](http://www.ctoturfdrainage.com)

(705) 207 2609

# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North Properties

## Golf Movies

The late 20<sup>th</sup> century philosopher Homer J. Simpson once said, "Movies aren't stupid. They fill us with romance and hatred and revenge fantasies. Before *Lethal Weapon II*, I never thought there could be a bomb in my toilet, but now I check every time. They're my only escape from the drudgery of work and family! No offence Marge."

I love movies for many of the same reasons that Homer does. They are the perfect form of escapism. I can go to another place or another time, and witness conversations between smarter and far better looking people than I normally do. All without guilt or hangover. How many times has someone said something to you, and you thought of the perfect response three days later? In movies, that never happens. There's a whole room full of writers making sure that you have exactly the correct response to every situation. And if you don't deliver it correctly, you can have another take. If I'd had this service available to me, all the girls who ever dumped on me would have left weeping bitterly from the slings and arrows of my perfectly timed wit; as opposed to me blurting out the first stupid thing that came into my head and running off to cry alone in the bathroom. Perhaps I've said too much.

In any event, I recently saw a list of the greatest golf movies of all time. It was a pretty good list too, but since I'm not about to pay royalties to some guy for making up a list, I've made up my own list. So what follows, in no particular order, is Doug's personal (in no way plagiarized, copied, inspired, or otherwise stolen from anyone else), list of the five greatest golf movies of all time (the other guy had ten on his list, so this is a totally new idea).

I'm starting with *Tin Cup*. Like most sports movies, they play pretty fast and loose with the rules of the game, and there are lots of people doing things that real people would never do, but the casting of that greasy guy from Miami Vice as a golf pro is pure genius. And Cheech is in it! It also appears that John Deere put up a few bucks for product placement in this one, and I'm a big fan of the use of a Volkswagon Beetle as a range picker.

I'm also a big fan of *Happy Gilmore*. Any movie script that can see the humour in a man's arm being bit off by an alligator is OK with me. The course etiquette is a little shaky, especially the dust up with Bob Barker, but who among us hasn't fantasized about going to a golf tournament and heckling someone the way Joe Flaherty did?

If I don't put a serious movie in here, people will think I'm some kind of moron, so I'm listing the *Legend of Bagger Vance*. I openly admit that I never actually watched this movie, but like *The Bridges of Madison County* (which I also never saw) it's a period piece with lots of famous people in it,

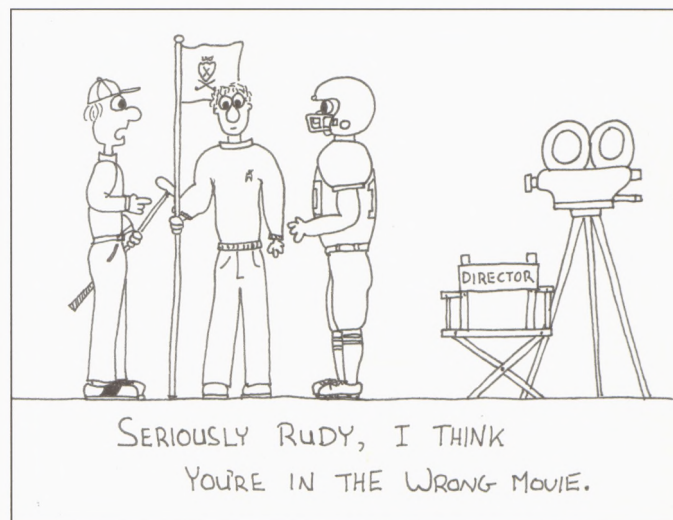


so it must be good. If I were trying to impress a chick, I'd totally rent it to make her think that I was smart and sensitive. I watched *Of Mice and Men* once for the same reason, and since people play golf in this movie as opposed to starving to death on a farm during the depression, Bagger Vance has got to be better.

Bobby Jones is that golfer who stole all the credit for the fine work that Alister MacKenzie did designing Augusta National. I'd bet you a ton that MacKenzie was out there on a bulldozer while Jones was back in the clubhouse bouncing a ball on his wedge. In *Bobby Jones – Stroke of Genius*, the lead role is played by Jim Caviezel. Remember him? He was the guy who played Jesus in *The Passion*. He gets beat up a lot less in this movie, as Mel Gibson was not involved.

The best golf movie of all time is; of course, *Caddyshack*. I realize that Bill Murray set our profession back decades with this one, but it's still very, very funny. The scene with Chevy Chase in the maintenance shop was completely adlib, as was the scene where he's knocking the heads off of the flowers beside the patio. The plot is based on the actual memories of the film's writers (who all worked on various courses), so I supposed that's why the characters ring so true. I've spent a lot of time waiting to cut rough while the "Havercamps" slashed their way up the side of a fairway. "That's a peach, hon."


So that's my top five. Honourable mention goes out to a couple 1950's movies that I like. Glenn Ford does a nice job as Ben Hogan (Hogan 'stunt doubled' all the swings in it too), and Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin drank a lot and fell down (this time on a golf course) in *The Caddy*. Most of these are available on DVD, and are a nice escape during the long cold winter. Soon it will be spring and we can go back to living out our own real life golf movies.



# BEAUTIFUL TRUTH

The truth is, you make this happen. We understand that beautiful turf doesn't come easily and you don't get any second chances. ProTurf shares in your relentless pursuit of perfection. We promise you our best every time.

Proud supplier of quality products including Contec™, Poly-S™, FFII™, and K-O-G™.

**ProTurf** 



# Introducing New ProCore<sup>®</sup> aeration solutions

## One great result.



### Turf Care Products Canada

200 PONY DRIVE, NEWMARKET, ONTARIO L3Y 7B6 • PHONE (905) 836-0988 • FAX (905) 836-6442

#### London

Ph: (519) 668-7664  
Fax: (519) 668-3722

#### Mississauga

Ph: (905) 890-6290  
Fax: (905) 890-5598

#### Scarborough

Ph: (416) 298-2101  
Fax: (416) 298-8758

#### Gloucester

Ph: (613) 822-1881  
Fax: (613) 822-2099



The new ProCore 864 and ProCore 1298 large area aerators combine proven coring head technology from our ProCore 648 greens aerator with new innovations in durability to bring you the most productive fairway aerators available today. The new ProCore Processor sweeps, processes and disperses aeration cores in one pass directly behind the ProCore aerator. A single operator and tractor can now accomplish the work of many. These innovative new aeration solutions from Toro provide superior results and get your course back in play sooner than ever before. For more information contact your Turf Care Representative.

**TORO**

Count on it.  
[www.turfcare.ca](http://www.turfcare.ca)