

July 2008

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

JUL 07 2008

High and Dry

Also inside this issue.....

**Ontario Ministry of Labour Update
Silvery Thread Moss Research
Golf Tournament Summaries**

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President's message

Summer is well upon us with many challenges in front of us. Along with the challenges, there are many opportunities to be realized with the right approach, attitude and focus. Be sure to have a plan, believe in the plan and execute the plan to the best of your ability, combined with the understanding that the plan can and will always change! Take for instance the weather, who would have guessed we would go from frost one week to humidex warnings the next! Have a plan, but be willing to adjust.

As you are aware, Bill 64 has received plenty of attention on many levels from the government down to citizens of our great province. At the time of writing this message, the Bill has finished second reading forwarded to committee and the Ontario Allied Golf Association continues to be involved with officials of the Ministry through meetings and conversations. The Ontario Allied Golf Association (OAGA) has requested and will be planning to speak to the committee golf's position on Bill 64, specifically an exemption with Integrated Pest Management Accreditation Program (IPMAP) being an important part of the exemption. The Ministry is assessing the validity of the IPMAP and the possibility of it fitting into the regulations of the new Bill. The bill has now just passed the third reading and we will be working to this end. Those who have achieved or are in the process of achieving full accreditation, hats off to you!

Thank you to Paul Mickalko of Batteaux Creek and Jim Flett of Muskoka Lakes and their teams for a job well done in hosting the Pro/Super Challenge and Spring Field Day, respectively. The courses were in excellent condition and enjoyed by all in attendance. Our Presidents' Day is around the corner along with the OTRF Annual fundraising tournament. I'm sure both will fill up fast. Plan to attend and get involved, research has never been more important than ever in these times of consistent scrutiny and attention by government and citizens. We are the environmental stewards of the game, be involved, be proud, and communicate our important role in the value of the game of golf.

On behalf of your OGSA Board, best of luck for the summer months ahead and be involved positively; strength is in numbers!



by Jeff Stauffer
Credit Valley Golf & CC



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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

Photo by Jim Flett

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Editorial message

by Dorothy Hills
Executive Manager

Although we've been blessed with abundant spring showers, the forecast for July and August does not appear to be as favourable. With this in mind, our feature article, provided by Justin Parsons, "High and Dry" presents us with an overview of some of the problems encountered during the summer drought of 2007, along with a few measures taken to prevent the same outcome during this golf season. This article serves to remind us that water is one of our most precious commodities and that everyone, whether at home or at work should take steps to ensure its preservation, for future generations. Doug Breen, our director for Government Relations provides a brief introduction to this article. Doug is in contact with our governing bodies and will keep us abreast of regulations for water taking, and how it will affect the golf industry.

In this issue we have resurrected "On the road again". This article, from our members who regularly travel the highways and byways of Ontario in their business, presents

us with anecdotes from their experiences. It is intended to present the human interest stories from the lighter side of life. To kick off this article Gary Morris' humorous account reminds us that we have to take opportunities to break up the routine and put some fun into our daily jobs. We hope this will be the first of many such articles, and we encourage you to submit your stories, to either myself, or any member of the Editorial Committee, for print in upcoming issues. They do not have to be long; a short paragraph is welcome. Now that Gary has got us off to a start let's keep the ball rolling.

At the Spring Field Day this year we took the opportunity to thank our regular contributors along with our Editorial Committee, who volunteer their time to provide you with ideas and valuable information in each issue. They were not all present that day and I would like to re-iterate our thanks, for they indeed are the backbone of *Green is Beautiful*. **Thank you!**



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What's new

Mark Your Calendars



2008 OGSA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Presidents' Day	Deer Ridge Golf Club	Host Supt. Jarrod Barakett	Monday, July 21 st
Assistants Tournament	Forest City National GC	Host Supt. Tim Baxter	Tuesday, Sept. 23 rd
Alex McClumpha	Oxford G&CC (Craigowan)	Host Supt. Jerry Richard	Monday, October 6 th

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 for the Assistant and McClumpha events.

In addition to the above golf events, OGSA will be hosting a "Shoot Out and Bar-B-Q Social" at the CGSA Fall Field Day, on Saturday, September 13th, to be held in Collingwood, Ontario this year. Mark your calendars now and be sure to sign up on your CGSA Fall Field Day registration form.

SENIORS GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 16th, 2007 saw the 1st Annual Seniors Golf Tournament played at the Mono Hills Golf Club outside Orangeville, Ontario. This tournament is open to all current and former OGSA members, associates, life members and honorary members over the age of 50. Our hosts, Doug Suter and Alan Beeney provided a terrific test of golf and a great day. 34 players teed it up with Ray Richards firing an 80 to take the low gross prize. Bob Moote finished with a net 72 to take low net. Our thanks go to Ron Craig and Turf Care Products for supplying the carts for the event.

This year's event will again take place at **Mono Hills Golf Club, Thursday July 17th, 2008**. It is an 11:00 a.m. shotgun with a social hour and steak dinner at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$50.00 per person. Come out and see your friends. For further information contact:

Doug Suter
54 Holgate St. Barrie, ON L4N 2T7
705-252-3932



Front Row: Alan Beeney, Doug Suter, Mark Schneider
Second Row: Ken Nelson, Pelino Scenna, Sam Dipinto, Chris Burgess, Paul White, John Bontje, Rae Murray
Third Row: Bruce Dodson, Kimmo Salonen, Bob Moote, Simon George, Ray Richards, John Arends, Ken Wright, Ron Craig, Barry Endicott, Roy French, Gord Witteveen, Jim Torrence, Tom Simpson, John Hutchison, Paul Dermott, Jim Wyllie, Robbie Robinson, Bob Heron, Keith Stephenson

OGSA Scholarships

2008 OGSA Heritage Award - now open to application.

This scholarship program recognizes the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of current members of the OGSA (open to all members) and are studying a curriculum unrelated to turfgrass management.

This scholarship is now valued at \$3,025.00. The deadline date is August 31st, 2008.



Doug Suter & Kimmo Salonen

2008 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary - now open to application.

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 valued at \$3,025.00. The deadline date is October 31st, 2008.

Announcements have been made in *Clippings* and detailed information is available on our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca in the Members Only Section under the menu heading, Scholarships.

Those members who do not have email and do not receive *Clippings* have been mailed the information. If you require further information please contact Dorothy at the office 519-767-3341 or toll free 1-877-824-6472 or email: ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca.

Audubon Certification

We take this opportunity to Congratulate Jay Honeyball, Superintendent at Oslerbrook Golf and Country Club, Nottawasaga and Todd Doering, Superintendent at Kitchener's Rockway Golf Course. Both of these clubs have been recognized for environmental excellence, in achieving designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary", through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program.

To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. These categories include: environmental planning, wildlife & habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation and water quality management.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources. Golf courses from the United States, Africa, Australia, Canada, Central America, Europe and Southeast Asia have received certification in the program.

For more information on golf and the environment, visit www.golfandenvironment.org.

A Magazine for All Seasons

Green is Beautiful is quickly moving forward to the scheduled four seasonal issues, commencing with OGSA's fiscal year in October 2008. Check below for deadline and release dates for this bigger and better publication. An advertising Media Kit has been enclosed with this issue for all our Associate Members. Included in the kit will be an advertising insertion form. Please use this form to submit your advertising needs for these issues. Should you have any concerns or questions concerning advertising, don't hesitate to contact Dorothy Hills at the OGSA office.

In the meantime, you will still receive the 2008 August issue, as you have done in the past.

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>MATERIAL DEADLINE</u>	<u>RELEASE DATE</u>
Fall	October 15 th	November 15 th
Winter	February 1 st	March 1 st
Spring	May 1 st	June 1 st
Summer	July 15 th	August 15 th



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Rosedale Golf Club

Andrew Hall Class S
University of Guelph

Kevin Kobzan Class F
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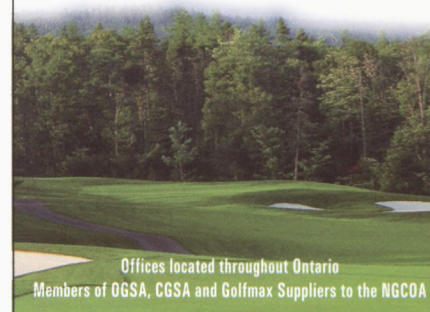
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BILL 64

Now that Bill 64 has passed third reading, a committee representing the Ontario Allied Golf Associations (OAGA) will be meeting with Ministry of Environment policy and standards branches. These meetings will continue as they develop the regulations associated with this Bill. The OAGA will be in touch with stakeholders as they determine the sort of information they need to collect from the industry to support our drive to have IPM Accreditation used as the primary requirement for golf courses to be an excepted use for pesticides. The plan is to have the regulations ready this fall.

The OGSA will keep members informed as the process develops.



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From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

Silvery thread moss has been a problem on putting greens in Ontario for the past 5-10 years. Current golf green cultural practices such as low mowing heights, low nitrogen fertility rates, sand topdressing and loss of mercury based fungicides have been attributed to the increase in moss problems. Moss often starts on high areas of a golf green that are more susceptible to scalping and drying out. From these areas it can spread aggressively through mowing and core aeration to other weakened areas. It is a highly adapted plant that grows equally well in wet, shady environments as well as hot dry areas in full sun.

Most current moss research has focused on chemical controls for moss and there have been very few investigations into the biology or ecology of moss on putting greens. Darra Hudner, under the guidance of Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph, completed a study looking at the effects of irrigation frequency and rates on silvery thread moss encroachment on creeping bentgrass. This study was conducted in a greenhouse from May to Aug, 2007. Moss and creeping bentgrass were grown in tubes on a rootzone consisting of 7.5 cm of gravel and 30 cm of USGA sand. The study had two different irrigation rates based on 75% evapotranspiration (ET) replacement and 100% ET replacement and four irrigation frequencies (daily, every 2 days, every 4 days and every 7 days). Table 1. Irrigation Water Rates describes the eight treatments.

Table 1. Irrigation Water Rates

Treat ment #	Allocation of Water (ET₀ – Petri dish water loss)
Treat- ment 1	100% - Daily
Treat- ment 2	75% - Daily
Treat- ment 3	100% - Every Two Days
Treat- ment 4	75% - Every Two Days
Treat- ment 5	100% - Every Four Days
Treat- ment 6	75% - Every Four Days
Treat- ment 7	100% - Weekly
Treat- ment 8	75% - Weekly

Moss counts were taken with two different methods using acetate or a microscope. The soil cores were harvested in four sections (0-0.5 cm which consisted of the turf canopy) and three sections of roots (0.5-3.5cm, 3.5-12.5cm and 12.5-30cm). Soil core sections were washed and dried to look at root weight in the various sections.

The results showed that significantly more moss was present in the tubes that were irrigated daily and every 2 days when compared with plots irrigated every 4 and 7 days. There were no significant differences between the 75% and 100 ET replacement. Moss counts from the acetate method can be seen in Table 2. Moss Counts (June). There were no differences in root weight in the 0.5 – 3.5cm section or the 3.5-12.5cm sections. There were significant differences in root weights in the 12.5-30cm due to the different irrigation frequencies with the daily treatments having significantly less root mass than the every 4 or 7 day treatments (Table 3.).

Table 2. Moss Counts (June)

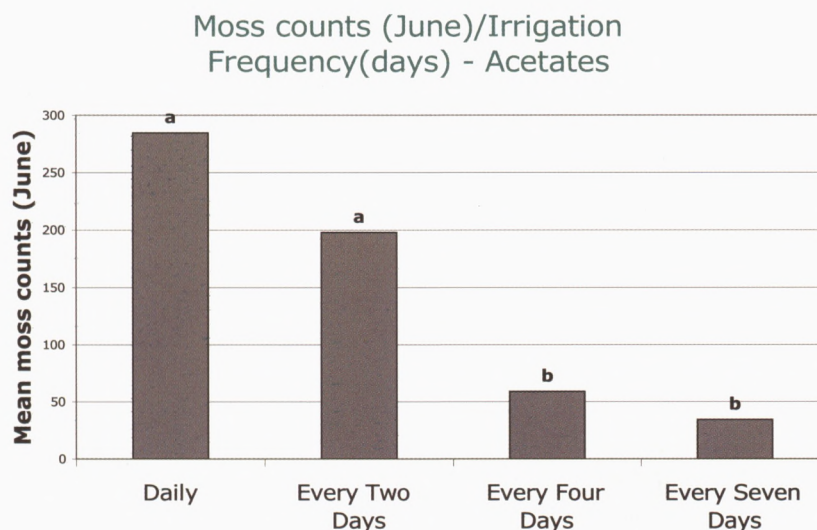
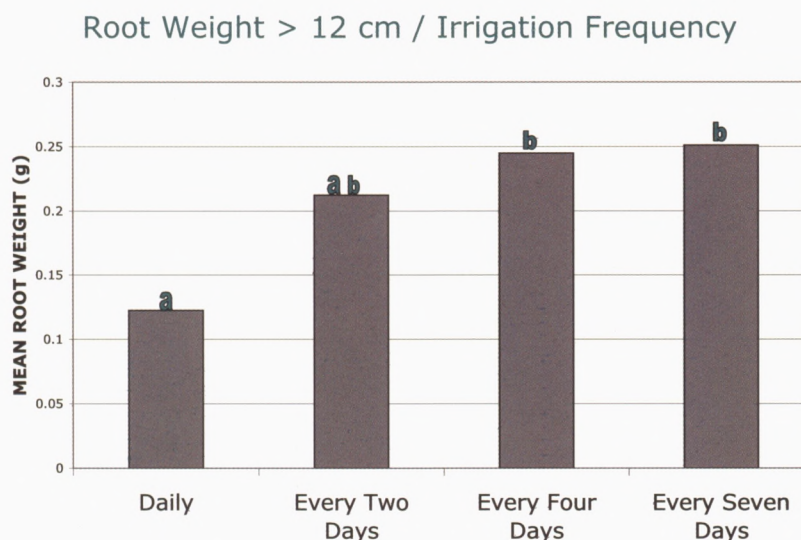


Table 3. Root Weight in the 12.5-30cm portion of the rootzone



This study concluded that irrigation frequency had a significant effect on moss encroachment. Reducing irrigation frequency to every 4-7 days helped lessen moss encroachment. This study also showed that plots irrigated daily had significantly few roots in the 12.5-30cm section of the rootzone profile.

Darra Hudner is Ph.D candidate at the University of Guelph working with Dr. Katerina Jordan and Dr. Eric Lyons. For more information on this study you can contact Darra Hudner by email at darrahud@mac.com.

Contact Pamela Charbonneau, OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist

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Health & safety



by Doug Johnson
SAFETAID - Health and
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Ontario Ministry of Labour Update

Some interesting things have been happening in the world of safety and one of the most interesting is the workings of the Ontario Ministry of Labour (OMoL).

Some of you have had the opportunity of having an inspection from the OMoL. As you are aware there are a number of new inspectors in the field and they are targeting workplaces where there has been a lost time accident. One of the issues they are focusing on is how workplaces have been handling worker orientations and training. This has manifested itself in a few very interesting ways over the last few months.

Here is one scenario that is unfolding at this time.

In one workplace, where the company has a fully functioning health and safety program, they are presently before the courts in an attempt to defend against a charge of *"failing to properly train a worker"*.

This was a simple work procedure. A worker was asked to take a six foot step ladder to a roadside sign to change the plastic letters on the sign to announce a special promotion. The worker and many others had done this job before. The worker placed the "step" ladder against the sign. As the worker was climbing down the worker felt that the ladder was slipping so the worker jumped off the ladder. The worker was on the second step of the ladder before jumping. The worker broke a wrist.

This company does approximately six hours of orientation for their part time summer workers. They hire a large number of summer workers. The workers are generally hired for about eight to ten weeks. What this organization has been charged with is failing to properly train a worker on the safe use of the ladder and failing to

have a training program in place.

The OMoL is asking for a fine of \$30,000 plus a 25% victim surcharge. The company tried to plea bargain for a fine of \$10,000 plus the victim surcharge. The OMoL turned them down and are proceeding to court. One of the statements that this organization has in their safety program comes right out of the Act. In Section 25 (2) (a) the employer is required to "provide information instruction and supervision to a worker to protect the health and safety of the worker". The court case rests on how this was accomplished.

Whether the company wins or loses in this case, it will still have cost them a bundle of money. One of the things they have learned from this situation is that they are going to be much more vigilant in ensuring that the training programs for the various jobs are more clearly defined and that the training is more accurately recorded.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for every employer to ensure that they have taken every precaution reasonable in the workplace to ensure the safety of their workers. This is only one example of a charge that can be laid. Please take the time to think about all the situations that your organization might need to address and develop clear and suitable standards and training programs.

Take the time now to ensure that your club is complying or get some advice on how to proceed. The more you have in place and the more knowledge you have, the better off you will be!

Have a great summer!

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2008 CAN/AM CHALLENGE

On May 5th over 60 superintendents from both Ontario and Michigan squared off in the annual CAN/AM Challenge. It was a beautiful day of fun and camaraderie between two, fiercely competitive nations. It appears that not only is Canada still a dominant force in hockey but continues to claim bragging rights to the CAN/AM Challenge. Ontario held on for the second year in a row with a 29 to 26 advantage over our neighbours from Michigan.

We would like to extend our thanks to Doug Palms, Host Superintendent at Cattails Golf Club, in Michigan, for such a great day. Thanks also go out to the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association's Events Committee for organizing this event. I know everyone who attended had an enjoyable day.

Looking ahead to next year, stay tuned for a return to Ontario soil with nothing but three-peat in our sight.



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THE FRAZ

It has become a tradition for OGSA to participate and help sponsor this annual Media Day, in memory of Toronto Star's veteran golf writer, Rick Fraser, known to the golfing community as, "The Fraz". The event, organized by Glenn "Goodie" Goodwin, President and Founder of the Greater Toronto Area Golf Association - Greens and Dreams Foundation, and honorary OGSA member, salutes the sports journalists who have helped make the GTA the number one golf market in Canada.

OGSA is privileged to be included in this event, which allows us to network and communicate with the top writers and broadcasters from the golf community, affording our association the opportunity to facilitate a greater understanding of the golf course superintendent's profession.

Superintendent Greg McFarlane, and his team at Thornhill Golf and Country Club provided us with an extraordinary course on which to enjoy the game, while

all the staff at Thornhill went out of their way to make the event a success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our gracious host, Glenn Goodwin for inviting us to participate in this special event.



OGSA team, Jarrod Barakett, Dorothy Hills, Randy Booker and Jeff Alexander with CBC's commentator and columnist Scott Morrison (centre) and Glenn Goodwin (second from right).



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Member profile

Interview with Marie Thorne Senior Turf Specialist Syngenta

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club



To most of us here in Ontario, Marie Thorne is the face of Syngenta Crop Protection Canada. But her career has taken her many places and provided her with a wealth of experience since she first started in the industry, over 25 years ago.

Thorne's post secondary education started at Nova Scotia's Agricultural College where she was aspiring to enter a Veterinary Medicine program. After one semester, Thorne found herself considering a slight change in her career choice. **"I was enjoying the plant classes far more than the animal classes"**. She decided to switch her curriculum to one based more on agriculture, particularly plant pathology. After two years, she went to University of Guelph and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and majored in Plant Protection. Since then, she has also completed the short course at Guelph and the Penn State World campus Turfgrass Management Program.

Over the next 20 years, Thorne would hold down five different positions with three different companies. Her versatility within the industry is quite apparent as she has done everything from sales to marketing to becoming Business Manager of Pro Turf Chemicals with Scotts Canada.

In August 2000, Thorne began her current job as Senior Turf Specialist with Syngenta Crop Protection Canada. A job which Thorne admits is highly coveted by all her coworkers.

Born in Cape Breton, along with three older sisters and one younger brother, Thorne admits that she has a real passion for cooking. **"Guests never leave the dinner table unsatisfied,"** Thorne says with a chuckle.

When she isn't working, Thorne also loves to travel. One of her career highlights was attending the International Turfgrass Research Conference in Wales in 2005. Following the conference, she attended the British Open at St. Andrews and found the experience very enlightening. **"The conditions are just so different from what we have here"**.

Thorne will tell you that her passion for golf was not born out of a love for the game. Rather, it was something that evolved through her career path. Her fondness for the industry is now sustained by the camaraderie that exists among its many members. **"It's a wonderful group of people and I find the brotherhood very enriching"**.

"In the Hot Seat"

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Favourite major: | The Masters |
| • Best piece of turf equipment ever | The sprayer |
| • Favourite architect | Stanley Thompson |
| • Ultimate foursome: | Myself, Lorie Kane, Dorothy Hills, Katerina Jordan |
| • Best Round: | I'm still trying to break 100 |
| • What's in your CD right now: | Mix CD |
| • Favourite meal: | Lobster |
| • What would you be if not
in the turf industry: | Gourmet Cook |

Golf course highlight

Batteaux Creek Golf Club

7422 Sideroad 30/31

Nottawa ON L0M 1P0

Phone: (705) 444-8337

Fax: (705) 443-4267

Golf Course Superintendent:

Paul Mickalko

Email: pmickalko@batteauxcreek.com

Website: www.batteauxcreek.com



Photo by Paul Mickalko

COURSE PROFILE

What region is your club located in?
Simcoe County

What is the classification of your club?
Semi-private

Size of membership and number of rounds?
252 families with 23,500 rounds

Typical opening and closing date?
mid-April to October 31

Name of Superintendent
Paul Mickalko

How long have you been a superintendent?
9 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?
18 years

How many staff?
2 year round and 14 seasonal

How many mechanics and assistants?
Assistant: Brad Plummer
Mechanic: Dan Lavigne

Who was the original architect?
Steven Young

What was the year of original construction?
2002/2003

What type of irrigation system?
Toro Osmac

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
7,500 ft²

What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?
Greens: 3.5 acres
Tees: 5 acres
Fairways: 50 acres

What is your predominant grass?
Bentgrass greens, tees and fairways

How many USGA greens and loam greens?
19 California style

What is the predominant soil type?
Clay

What equipment do you have in inventory?
2 Jacobsen LF3400
2 Jacobsen G-Plex triplex
1 Jacobsen 628D outfront rotary
1 Jacobsen AR5 rough rotary
4 Eclipse walking greensmowers
2 Smithco Super Star bunker rakes
1 Cushman DS300 sprayer
2 Cushman Trucksters
6 John Deere Turf Gators
1 John Deere 4x4 Gator
1 Yamaha Grizzly
1 Yamaha Kodiak
1 MH400 material handler
1 Turfco topdresser
1 Planetair venting aerator
1 John Deere 250 skidsteer
1 Aerway
4 Greenscaddy trailers
1 set 11 blade heads for G-Plex
1 set LF3400 verticut heads
1 set G-Plex verticut heads

1 Jacobsen B40 blower
1 Selbro ProBlow blower
1 Toro 3500 sidewinder
1 set Vibra-Rollers
miscellaneous line trimmers and flymos
2 Stihl 026 chainsaws
1 Neary reel grinder
1 rotary blade grinder
1 Foley bedknife grinder
1 5110 Ditch Witch trencher
1 410 Ditch Witch trencher
1 dumptrailer
1 hole changer sharpener
1 5" PTO transfer pump

COURSE PROJECTS & PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?
Construction and installation of two on-course washrooms.

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?
Upgrade to maintenance building storage and wash facilities, cart storage facility and cart paths.
Reducing the size of the fairways by approximately 15-20%.

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Thatch control on 50 acres of bentgrass fairways growing on clay with a large amount of rock.

Do you have any success stories?
Building this golf course with a very small overage on budget projections.

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?
Maintain the golf course using simple basics with proven agronomic practices and products.

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
18

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?
7,035 yards from back tees
5,309 yards from front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?
10 acres, 22,000 ft² tee 280 yds

How many bunkers?
110

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?
Water in play on 16 holes

HIGH AND DRY

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

Introduction by Doug Breen
OGSA Director, Government Relations

There are people who believe that the next great war will be fought not over land or power - but over water. As the OGSA Director most involved in water issues over the past few years, I can assure you that at the very least, there is a political battle looming on the horizon.

We are fortunate to live in a place with perhaps the largest concentration of fresh water in the world, but as you'll hear from the testimonials of Ontario superintendents, in the following article by Justin Parsons, sometimes even we can't get enough. As public demand to protect this resource escalates, golf's place in the pecking order of necessary users is quickly slipping away. The following is a stark reminder that we need to find a way to do what we do with less of it, and we need to do it now!

No matter how educated we are, no matter how diligent we strive to be with our agronomic practices or even how much money we spend, mother nature still has ultimate control over how a golf course will look and feel on any given day. Of all her tools which help shape the landscapes that we so methodically maintain, perhaps the most influential is water. At the best of times, it is sufficiently provided at reasonably spaced intervals. At the worst of times, it is withheld. Regardless, it is a natural resource that's ever-increasing value cannot be underestimated.

For some golf course superintendents, water never stops being a concern. "It's always in my mind. I'm conserving from day one", says Jim Dimitriw, Superintendent at Lowville Golf Club in Burlington. The 18 hole, public facility has the capacity to store four and a half million gallons of water in its three irrigation ponds. The ponds, which are spring fed, also rely heavily on natural replenishment from runoff. No matter how you look at it, that is not enough water to combat a dry season.

In his ten years as superintendent, Dimitriw says last summer was the most difficult, '05 was bad, but '07 was definitely the worst because it went the longest."



Lowville Golf Club Summer 2007

The drought certainly had a commanding influence on how Dimitriw managed his department. He had to stop watering fairways at the end of June and all cutting heights were raised. Hand watering was extensively employed on greens and tees. Since the rough and fairways were not being cut for weeks on end, seven of his 14 employees had to be laid off.



Lowville Golf Club Spring 2008

Dimitriw, who referred to his property as a 'dust bowl' last year, would check the weather forecast up to six times a day. He admits that it got so bad that he couldn't stand to look at his turf when driving the property. "I would look away from the fairways into the bush until I got to the green".

Not surprisingly, last season's drought took its toll on several other golf courses. One of which was Glencairn

Golf Club in Milton. Superintendent Doug Davidson agrees with Dimitriw when looking back at last summer. "Last year was definitely the worst. We kept thinking just keep it alive (the turf) until the next rainfall, but it never came." Davidson, who is in his ninth season as a superintendent, five of which have been at Glencairn, says 2006 was the only season where water was not an issue for the 27 hole, private facility.

The course has a 38 million gallon reservoir on site which is filled from 16 Mile Creek. On the surface, this setup doesn't exactly seem dire but the permitting makes it next to impossible to draw water after June 1st. When you couple that with the fact that the reservoir is shared with neighbouring golf club Greystone, you can begin to see where troubles arise.

Even though there is the capacity to store another seven million gallons at Greystone, 45 million gallons for 45 holes with little chance of replenishing the source during the summer months poses a big problem. Especially when faced with a dry season like last year.



Pond at Greystone GC on Aug. 5/07

Like Dimitriw, Davidson did what he could agronomically to combat mother nature's wrath. Greens heights were raised, water was shut-off to the rough and driving range, while being rationed on fairways, and mowing frequency was cutback. In fact, they stopped cutting fairways all together in mid July.

The challenge then became keeping staff busy during times of reduced cutting. "We probably had the best 'divoted' golf club in Ontario," Davidson jokes. But the truth is drought conditions create more work in other areas like handwatering and roping. Indeed, the push to control traffic through stakes and roping became critical for Davidson and his staff last summer. Frequently adjusting traffic flows can buy your turf just a little more time and let's face it, when you are desperate, a little becomes a lot.

That is why clubs facing a water shortage rely so heavily on hand watering. Since a greater premium is placed on every drop of water you have to spare, you want to make sure you are maximizing the control you have over those drops. At Glencairn, greens and tees

were hand watered for ten weeks straight starting in mid July. At times, this would involve up to ten staff members. Davidson even recalls hand watering over the Thanksgiving weekend. Things weren't much better at Lowville where Dimitriw instructed his staff to only hand water the section of the tee deck where the markers were placed for the day.



Welcome to Glencairn

This is nothing new for Davidson who was previously the superintendent at Greystone. "I'm accustomed to seeing turf get beat up, but you hate to see it go on greens". Fortunately, Davidson and his crew were able to prevent that from happening. The same cannot be said for fairways where several acres of turf were lost. But Davidson is also familiar with the resiliency of bentgrass. "Bent has an amazing capacity to recover... it will come back." As harsh as the season was, Davidson says that 95 per cent of that lost turf had bounced back by season's end. The turf is not the only thing that becomes stressed during drought periods. Both Dimitriw and Davidson admit that the water shortage issues they face are tough to ignore, even when not on the property. "You never stop worrying about it", says Davidson. "You have a lot of pride in what you do... you invest a lot personally and to see it all fall to pieces is pretty damn hard". Dimitriw agrees that it is very difficult to stop thinking about it at the end of the day. He recalls looking at the forecasts last summer and seeing the same predictions over and over. "It was like that Groundhog day movie".

When pond levels are low and sound agronomic practices aren't enough, there is really only one option left to save the turf, but it is pretty drastic. That option is to purchase water. That is exactly what the management team decided to do at Glencairn last summer. Trucks started rolling in from late July until Labour Day to provide, what Davidson calls, "survivability water". Essentially, just enough water is applied to fairways to keep them alive and playable. In total, the club purchased 8 million gallons. This may sound like a lot, but when six minutes of water on fairways at Glencairn

Continued on page 20...

Continued from page 19...

translates into 250,000 gallons, you can see how limited that supply really is. Due to the cost, most clubs just can't justify it. Dimitriw says there is no chance they will ever purchase water at Lowville.



Glencairn July 2007

They are, however, looking at other measures to help alleviate this problem in the future. Dimitriw says they are considering raising the dam for their main pond ten feet. This would translate into an extra 2 million gallons of water to irrigate the golf course.

Over at Glencairn, there is ongoing consulting to explore feasible infrastructure changes. This is becoming a more common occurrence at clubs across the GTA as the ministry and interested political groups crackdown on the once liberal water taking practices for golf courses.

After all, golf is not exactly a necessity, and keeping the course looking 'green' ranks even lower on the overall priority list of those protecting our water sources. To be sure, acquiring greater control of those sources just isn't possible. Especially, since, as Davidson says, "our industry has a pretty big target on its back already".

As weather trends continue to be increasingly erratic and extreme, and as the scrutiny on golf course water usage intensifies, it is imperative that all golf clubs take a close look at their watering practices, not just the clubs who currently struggle with water shortages. As Davidson says, "all of us should be prepared to use less water in the future... it's a scarce resource."



Glencairn Drought

Photo credits: Lowville – Jim Dimitriw, Greystone – Scott Bowmen, Glencairn – Doug Davidson



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PRO/SUPER CHALLENGE

photos by Tom Brain

On May 29th fifty-seven courses gathered with their superintendents and golf professionals to take part in this popular, annual event, at Batteaux Creek. The golf course was in excellent shape, and the weather cooperated for one of the few nice days we have had this spring. Our thanks go to Superintendent Paul Micalko and Assistant Superintendent Brad Plummer and their staff, for an outstanding job in preparing the course for us. Thanks also to Golf Professional Jim Rennie and his staff for their contribution in assisting with the organization of the tournament. Of course the day would not be complete without a fantastic breakfast and lunch provided by Road Runner Catering.

Scott Heron, OGSA Director, was Master of Ceremonies, and smoothly conducted the presentations and awarded the prizes.



Paul Mickalko accepts Host Superintendent plaque



Jim Rennie, accepts Host Golf Pro plaque



LR Chris Neale, Rob Bell 1st Place

Place	Score	Club	Super	Golf Pro
1 st Place	65	Copper Creek	Rob Bell	Chris Neale
2 nd Place	67	Mill Run	Rod Speak	Chester Morin
3 rd Place	68	Oslerbrook	Jay Honeyball	Tom Jackson
4 th Place	68	Fox Glen	Kelly Barnett	Brian Bondy
5 th Place	70	Trafalga	Mark Prieur	Fraser McIntyre
6 th Place	70	Toronto Ladies	John McLinden	Mary Jane Hall

Closest to the pin superintendent on #16 • Rick Lane , Arris Valley
 Longest Drive superintendent on #13 • Gary Stadnek, Westview
 Closest to the pin golf pro on #8 • John McCann, Allandale
 Longest Drive golf pro on #18 • Jim Rennie, Batteaux Creek

Adam Brown – National Golf Club won a skin with a 2 on number 10 for \$1,120.00

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SPRING FIELD DAY

Everyone braved the spring showers, and some traveled quite a distance to participate in the tournament held in the Muskokas. Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club was a gracious host to our annual Spring Field Day on June 10th. It was a pleasure to be present and enjoy the grandeur of this beautiful Stanley Thompson designed golf course. This par 70, 18 hole facility, was first opened for play in 1922, and its clubhouse has been reconstructed to maintain much of the grandeur of that era.



The weather may have been dreary but the golf attire certainly was not. John Bladon and Dean Baker enjoying the game in spite of the rain. Photo "nice pants" courtesy of Rhod Trainer

Thanks to Jim Flett and his maintenance crew, we experienced an immaculate course, woven through a canvas of spectacular colour and texture. Golf Professional Jordan Nathan and his staff assisted us with the logistics of the tournament, while Club House Manager Nancy Read and General Manager Trevor Noonan were on hand to provide a well organized event. Special thanks also go to Executive Chef, Andrew Szuba and Food & Beverage Manager Patricia Bakogeorge and their staff, for what is a golf event without delicious food?



Jim Flett accepts Host Superintendent Plaque from Jennifer Pendrith

This tournament is not only a day to play golf and enjoy the camaraderie of our colleagues, it is an opportunity for our association to acknowledge and thank those who volunteer their services. Unfortunately, not all volunteers were able to attend but listed below are the names of those who we give special thanks to:

Ontario Regional Association Presidents :

John Bontje - *Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association*

John Taylor - *Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association*

Gary Morris - *Eastern Ontario Golf Superintendents Association*

Matt Dodson, Incoming President - *Lake Simcoe Greenkeepers Association*

Kennedy Court - *Northern Ontario Golf Superintendents Association*

Jason Hooper - *Kent Essex Greenkeeper's Society*

Todd Russell - *Ottawa Valley Turfgrass Association*

Mark Hagan - *Greater London & Area Association*

Green is Beautiful Regular Contributors:

Barry Endicott - Looking back, Doug Breen - Turf or consequences, Pam Charbonneau - From roots to shoots, Doug Johnson - Health and safety, Daisy Moore - Off the fairway, Jeff Stauffer - Presidents message, Tyler Webb - Above the hole, and Warren Wybenga - The REEL side of things.

Green is Beautiful Editorial Advisory Committee:

Greig Barker, Tom Brain, Jason Hanna, Paul Grotier, Scott Horsburgh, Rafik Lang - Bismillah, Justin Parsons and Andy Sandilands.

Due to the adverse weather conditions the game format was changed from a "play your own ball" to a "scramble". The prizes went to the following individuals:

1st Place: 10 under with 60

Barry Endicott, Ron Biggs, T.J. Rule and David Kemp

2nd Place: 9 under with 6

Dave DeCorso, Dave Schmelefske, Brian Rosenberg and Ray Dlugokecki

3rd Place Tie 8 under with 62

Scott Knox, Tom Newton and Tim Steen

Ray Richards, Gary Gravett, Vito Cirone and Al Schwemler



Winning team: Ron Biggs, T.J. Rule, Barry Endicott and David Kemp
(not available for photo)

Closest to the hole - Flight A - Ray Richards
Closest to the hole - Flight B - Dave Schmelefske
Longest drive - Flight A - Paul Dermott
Longest drive - Flight B - Tim Steen

Our congratulations go out to all the winners but especially to Dave Schmelefske who got a HOLE IN ONE on #17; his first in 35 years of playing golf. "Way to go Dave!"



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On the REEL side of things



by Warren Wybenga, Equipment Manager
Donalda Club, Toronto
WWybenga@donaldaclub.ca (416) 447-5575 x263

Please allow me to introduce myself...

I have been asked to address this column, not to the experienced equipment technician, but instead for the benefit of those technicians who may be new to the industry and for those superintendents who may be without the services of an experienced equipment technician. As "Green Is Beautiful" moves to a seasonal format in the fall, the focus of this column will be likewise. I will try to provide you with information that is not only timely and relevant but hopefully useful as well.

So you have an idea about where I'm coming from, let me tell you a little about myself. I started working as an equipment operator at Oshawa Golf Club in 1990. If you recognize what song the title of this piece comes from you'll have an idea of my age. In 1991 I was presented with the opportunity to start a small engine apprenticeship...not a tough decision for a young fellow with no other irons in the fire at the time. After completing my apprenticeship and gaining more experience, I took the mechanic position at the City of Mississauga owned Lakeview Golf Club, where I stayed for four years. Then, following a brief stop at Deer Creek in Ajax, I moved over to Donalda Club in 1998 where I have been ever since.

Over the years I have been involved in various industry initiatives including the former Golf Equipment Technicians Association of Ontario/Canada, sat and continue to sit on various advisory committees, and assisted with having the trade "Turf Equipment Technician" (421C) officially recognized and registered with the Ontario government. The development of the curriculum was particularly interesting and as with any government process, there was a definite and structured set of criteria that had to be met. The latest development with this program is the completion of the bank of questions that will be used to form the exemption exam which would be written by an experienced technician desiring to acquire certification

without having to complete the entire apprenticeship. The next step is to create a "final" exam that would be written upon either successful completion of the apprenticeship criteria or by passing the exemption exam. Only once there are enough apprentices registered with an Apprenticeship Office will the program actually be offered by a community college so I would encourage those that are able, to consider making a position available for an apprentice at your facility. It is a fairly simple process and there are currently some significant tax incentives for employers that commit to hiring an apprentice. The success or failure of this program is directly related to the number of apprentices registered and it is not a terribly involved process. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information and I would be happy to help you get started.

A machine rarely breaks if it is not being used but that is precisely the time to be looking for any signs of trouble. Don't forget about the seldom used pieces of your fleet. Everything from sod cutters and roto-tillers to aerators, top-dressers and sweepers requires some attention; even though they may only actually work for a few hours per year. Take a walk through your barn, shed or shelter (whatever you happen to be blessed with) and look for anything out of the ordinary, be it an oil stain on the floor which could indicate a bad seal, gasket, o-ring or hose or tiny flecks of grease on a cowling which would give you an indication of over greasing and likely includes a blown seal somewhere underneath. Cutting days are best for looking at the odds and ends because everyone is out on a mower and you'll have it all to yourself. So take some time once in awhile to "stop and smell the roses". Your equipment will thank you for it...and so will you the next time you go to use it and it is all ready to go.



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On the road again

by Gary Morris,
Turf Care Products

Should have wrote it all down...

Having been a part of this wonderful industry for the better part of 30 years, in a wide variety of capacities, including 8 years as a Class A golf superintendent at the North Bay Golf and Country Club, I'm sure I speak for a great many of us, who on many occasions, have sat back with some of our peers and reminisced about some of the funnier things we have seen over the years.

I left North Bay in 1994 and have been in sales, hard as it is to believe, for the last 14 years. The first five were with Ontario Turf Equipment and GC Duke and since 2000 I have been a rep with Turf Care Products in eastern Ontario and more recently have been involved with managing our Ottawa facility as well.

I feel extremely fortunate to have met so many people along the way and have been lucky enough to forge some friendships that will last a lifetime. With great friends however, come great stories and pranks, so many in fact that I really wish I had wrote them all down. Here is one account, in which I've decided not to protect the innocent.

Summer 1997

Unionville Golf Centre had purchased an LF128 from us (my OTEC days) and within a week I received a distress call from Jim Caldwell and Andy Sandilands (superintendent and assistant respectively) claiming that the 128 was leaking hydraulic fluid and it was time to step up. No problem, I had another unit on site the next day and had the LF back in our shop to find that the hydro seal had let go. The unit was returned by week's

end, demo was picked up and everybody was happy.

By Tuesday of the following week I received the same call, needless to say Jim was not impressed however the same scenario developed, demo on site, LF in London, unit was again returned by weeks end and a difficult situation was resolved. This time we were really good, the seal lasted for a week and a half. Demo on site, LF in London, and this time there were to be no excuses, we put in a brand new hydro to eliminate any further problems (did I forget to mention this was a used LF).

The new Hydro performed with no incident for the better part of 3 weeks. Jim's message was not something I can put into print, suffice to say, and I will paraphrase, "You need to come see this.....NOW!!!!!" As I walked toward the shop I noticed the unmistakable traces of a wonderful oil leak winding its way all along the road, down around the corner and into the shop where Jim and Andy stood with arms crossed and an infuriated look on their faces. They ever so slowly parted to allow me a more complete view of the LF, backed into its spot with a massive pool of hydraulic fluid all over the floor. I simply stood in disbelief unsure of any kind of explanation.

After what seemed like an eternity Jim was the first to speak, well not really speak, he burst into laughter followed by Andy and the balance of the staff. I continued to stand there dumbfounded until I finally clued in to the fact it was old motor oil the boys used to create the illusion of yet another massive leak.

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Photo by Chris Thompson, Assistant Superintendent at Lambton Golf & Country Club

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Above the hole

by Tyler Webb, Student and Intern

It is hard to define the exact relationship between the academics of learning, and the experience of learning. Both are intrinsic requirements of a successful career, but seem so distant from each other as to be unrelated. I believe the answer to this question is synergy.

Our experience in the classroom and our learning on the job do not relate in sequence or proportion; the effect is far greater. Instead of a simple step-by-step process to becoming a turf professional we must envision a dynamic building of character in which we learn not from our days of schooling or years on the job, but instead learn through ourselves. In this way, school and work are not themselves the foundation of our future careers but the tools we have at our disposal to create such a foundation. Lately, I've been thinking about this idea. How do I create a solid foundation? What should I base my foundations on? What kind of superintendent will I be? As students we are not new to these questions, but as interns, given more responsibility and room to grow, we are faced with making decisions.

Managing people successfully requires a good knowledge of people, a knowledge, I will be the first to admit, I do not yet have. For now most of the more subtle ways we can 'pull the strings' are lost on me. The simple and unique ways that people work and develop their own comfort zones at work, amaze and confuse me. It is entirely too easy to believe everyone can either read your mind, or think the same things. For now I can only observe those around me and hope they share the same sentiment that

imitation is the sincerest form not only of flattery, but respect.

Imitation is a starting point and a way to get our bearings before forging our own direction. It is the strength of our industry that every new member gets to sift, sort, and finally settle on a combination of the old, the new, the tried and true, to create their own turfie, their own foundation and their own superintendent.

But we're not there yet! We are still students, still interns. We can and will dream but can't lose sight of the job at hand. As we transition from students to technicians and assistants, our job is quite simply to 'assist' the vision of our superintendent. What is not so simple is to realize, that it may not be our vision. Again, I believe synergy is the answer. Simple imitation cannot assist a superintendent. You can't improve upon the wheel by simply adding another wheel and just the same it is not our place to 'take the wheel'. Instead we need to create a dynamic relationship based on two unique professionals who know what kind of manager they want to be.

I haven't quite answered that for myself, I'm still slightly stuck to imitation. Creating this foundation, sifting through my new ideas, old priorities and tested methods I'm excited but still admittedly lost. What ideas are novel, which are naive? Which methods do I adopt and which can be improved? What priorities are of valuable assistance and which are simply expressions of my vision? In the end I doubt anyone has fully settled, and that no doubt is the best foundation of all.



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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

Not that I have become an activist, but recently I have been participating with a local organization with definite environmental leanings. The region where I live is *outside* the official green-belt surrounding the Greater Toronto Area and there is extensive development of rural lands happening

and inevitable for the future. The organization, Greenlands Centre Wellington, has a goal to secure a system of greenlands in our township and I thought I might be able to help.

The group is attempting to get to the root of the system of development so that a better job is done overall. So that planning is done to protect existing eco-systems, link natural areas, maintain open spaces and set things up so that "environmentally friendly" activities can take place, such as walking to school or the store or hanging the clothes on the line. All of us have gaped in wonder at hideous hillsides of lego-like townhouses. What were they thinking? How could this happen? I am continuously shocked by the "construction trumps everything" attitude where *no* consideration is made for any living thing that stands in the way. Wouldn't it be nice if the *system* accommodated the fact that aesthetics and other living things do matter? That nature doesn't come in a box on sale at the WalMart. Lots of red tape is to be gotten through and I will congratulate the person who can convince our local public works officer that there is any merit to plants at all. We have a long way to go and I am sure our community is not alone.

The lack of ingenuity and bother with eco-friendly development is proof of the recent idea that our society has become disconnected with nature. We are surrounded by Disneyesque landscapes in sharp contrast to nature and life at the cottage. Figuring out how to interface the two is our new challenge. Interface is the new big word. In many powerful circles there is the idea that we are the masters of the universe and covering construction scars with sod will cure everything. At least it will make it look okay so that you can sign off on the job and get paid is more to the point. I have heard more than once to just cut the thing down with the generous gesture that they'll plant three to replace it. Meanwhile, habitats are lost and paradise is paved. It is taking its toll.

Science has recently proven that green spaces or the

exposure to the simplicity of nature reduces juvenile delinquency! It took some crafty bio-statistics to have that accepted in scientific journals. Having this filter down through all the ranks and have green spaces both included and respected will take some time.

Being a fairly new member of the Greenlands group I have been listening in and trying not to be too disruptive with my bounty of opinions. I have mostly been trying to figure out how my area of expertise can help with the process. I must accept that planning and politics and snappy visuals are vital components to the process of making a change, but that is not my cup of tea. I'd rather just get on with it. I was at first told that the plant part is way down the line and not really part of the work plan, but I couldn't disagree more. We removed the herbaceous layer and we have to put it back. It is the foundation to the whole thing! Also, if it is ever to be economically feasible to bring nature back we are going to need nature's help. Build it and they will come and you know what? They do.

My thought is that while we maneuver through the bureaucratic details of sensible planning and all the snappy visuals it requires, we demonstrate the possibilities of eco-friendly techniques and naturalized gardening in our existing landscape. I suggested we contract grow a series of native plants and put them on offer at a fall native plant sale and get them in the hands of the substantial population of concerned citizens. It was remarkable what a lift to the collective spirit my idea gifted. The simple idea of planting something is breeding a remarkable number of spin-offs. More than anything it is the feeling that you are accomplishing something.

I congratulate the golf course superintendents who recognize the added value of the properties they manage and who are trying to make a difference through eco-friendly practices, bringing nature back and making it pretty and playable to boot. It's not easy and we have a lot to learn. In the long run though the Disneyesque look is over. We have to find a new way and it is up to us to fashion it.

Daisy is a professional gardener. She operates a landscape design and consulting business from her home in Elora.

She is the host of the radio program, "Ask the Gardener" every Saturday from 1-2:00 on am570.

Web site: www.daisymoore.com Email: daisy@daisymoore.com

Looking back

30 YEARS AGO TO-DAY

by Barry Endicott

The Ontario Golf Superintendents Association executive for 1978 was **Paul Scenna** (pres.), **Stew Mills** (vice.), **Paul White** (sec.), **Ken Nelson** (tres.), **Al Beeney** (past pres.), **Bill Bowen**, **Blake McMaster**, **John Smith**, **Rusty Warkman**, **Bill Hynd** and **Paul Dermott**.

The Eighth Annual Turf Management Symposium was held at the Hamilton Golf Club hosted by **Stew Mills**. **Paul Scenna** opened the symposium, which was chaired by **Norm McCallum** and **Al Beeney**. The speakers for the day were **Terry Dwyer**, Meteorological Officer at Mount Hope Airport, **George Cumming**, Royal Botanical Gardens, **Dr. Jack Eggens**, University of Guelph, **Ken Nelson**, **Steve Miller**, **Jim Wyllie**, **Rusty Warkman**, **Doug Suter** and **John Smith**. **Paul White** was the symposium chairman and over 70 superintendents, assistants and associates attended.

Monthly meetings were held during the off-season at Glendale Golf Club, **Paul White**, Bayview Golf Club, **Ed Ortleib** and Essex Golf Club, **Bill Fach**. The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference was held on March 5th - 8th at the Hotel Toronto. The President/Greens Chairman/Superintendent Tournament was held at the Hamilton Golf Club on July 28th. The team of President **Harry Ritson**, Greens Chairman **Frank Pope**, and Superintendent **Bob Heron**, won first prize. **Bill Hynd** hosted the Ladies Peter Jackson Classic. **Dennis Pellre** hosted the Canadian Open and **Bob Brewster** hosted the Ontario Amateur. **Paul Scenna** hosted another great Galt Field Day on June 8th. Low superintendents were **Bill Bowen** (76), **Bill Glashan** (77), **Jack Fairhurst** (78) and **Graham Shouldice** (78). After golf, everyone went over to the Cambridge Turf Plots. **Gord Witteveen** hosted a meeting on August 16th at the Board of Trade Country Club. It was a rain delayed round and the low

gross winners were **Bill Bowen** (76), **Bill Glashan** (77) and **Barry Endicott** (78). The theme was "America Day" and U.S. guests included **Dr. Jim Watson**, **Ted Smith**, **Ned Brinkman**, **Bob Moore**, **Jim Latham**, **Andy Bertoni**, **Norman Leising** and **Mel Lucas**. **Mel Lucas**, Director of the GCSAA, gave a demonstration of the new speed stick, which was developed by the USGA to measure putting speed on greens. The McClumpha tournament was held at Glendale Golf Club. Genstar Chemicals hosted superintendents at Glen Abbey and the CGSA held their Fall Field Day at Lachute Golf Club, which was won by **George Garner** with a 78.

The Pro/Superintendent Tournament was held at Dalewood and **George Garner** (79) and Pro **Dave Clayton** (71) won top prize. **Thom Charters** won low superintendent prize with a 78. **Kimmo Solonen** won the Taylor Barnes trophy at Cherry Hill Country Club.

James H. Roberts passed away on January 1st. **Mr. Roberts** retired in 1972 following 20 years as the superintendent at Sunningdale Golf Club. **Henry Guertin** accepted the job at Beachgrove in Windsor and **Barry Endicott** moved to Chinguacousy Country Club from Glen Shields Golf Club. **Stew Picken** moved on as superintendent at Glen Shields Golf Club. **Al Draper** accepted the job at Greenhills Golf Club. **Doug Heron** of Scotts became the regional manager for Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, Michigan and parts of New York while **Dave Dick**, formerly from Sleepy Hollow took over the Toronto territory. **Ron Craig** became manager of the Rexdale branch for Spraymotor. **Hugh Kirkpatrick** moved from Dalewood Golf Club to Westmount County Club in Kitchener. **Clayton Switzer**, Dean of O.A.C. was made Honorary Member of the OGSA.



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MAY 1978



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the time we all wait for, "Spring" to open our golf courses and see green grass, after a long, snowy winter.

In the past few weeks we have been planning a program to apply to our golf course season; Fungicide, Fertilizing and General Maintenance.

Some of us have less damage than others, but overall it seems like we wintered well.

I would like to encourage members to play on their golf courses periodically; as I feel it is a good way to see your course, the way your members see it.

I would like to remind members to make an effort to attend meetings, where many ideas are shared, and many problems are solved.

Wishing you all a successful season.

President, Paul Scenna.

P.S. Winter is over, and holidays have come to an end, and its time to get to work.

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

Elvis Hero III

At the tender young age of eight, I started taking guitar lessons because I liked Elvis movies. Elvis would be a groovy stock car racer, the charismatic manager of a circus, a surfing instructor, a cowboy, or whatever the crack writing team had come up with that day (because they were making about six of these cinematic gems a week). But in every one, at some point he'd pull a guitar out from behind a tumbleweed, couch, gunnysack, or toolbox - sing a song, get the girl, and make another million bucks. There was one particularly ill-conceived plotline where he played a country gospel singer who spent the entire time trying to pick up a nun played by Mary Tyler Moore. It was called *A Change of Habit*, or something to that effect. Come on Elvis! A nun?

In any event, Elvis was my original inspiration for more than a decade of guitar lessons, a couple semi-successful bands, and countless drives home in the middle of the night, not having made enough money to cover the gas to get to the gig. Gene Simmons (the *Kiss* version, not that dithering old fart on the reality TV show) once said that the only reason anyone ever learns to play guitar is to get girls, and while that may not always be true, it is a nice perk, because there's not much money to be made. All that guitar playing certainly worked for Elvis.

Recently my son has taken an interest in the ubiquitous video game *Guitar Hero III*. It was a pleasant surprise for me to overhear two of his buddies debating the relative merits of *Alice Cooper* vs. *Foghat* in the backseat of the truck the other night. All three were stunned to find out that not only do I know the song *Mississippi Queen*, but that I had an actual *Mountain* CD in the vehicle, and had been paid real Canadian legal tender to play that song in many a bar. They assured me that they could play it too - on the video game. I offered to teach them to play it for real, on a real guitar! No interest at all. Once again, simulated experience has taken the place of the real thing. They would rather spend an afternoon sitting in someone's

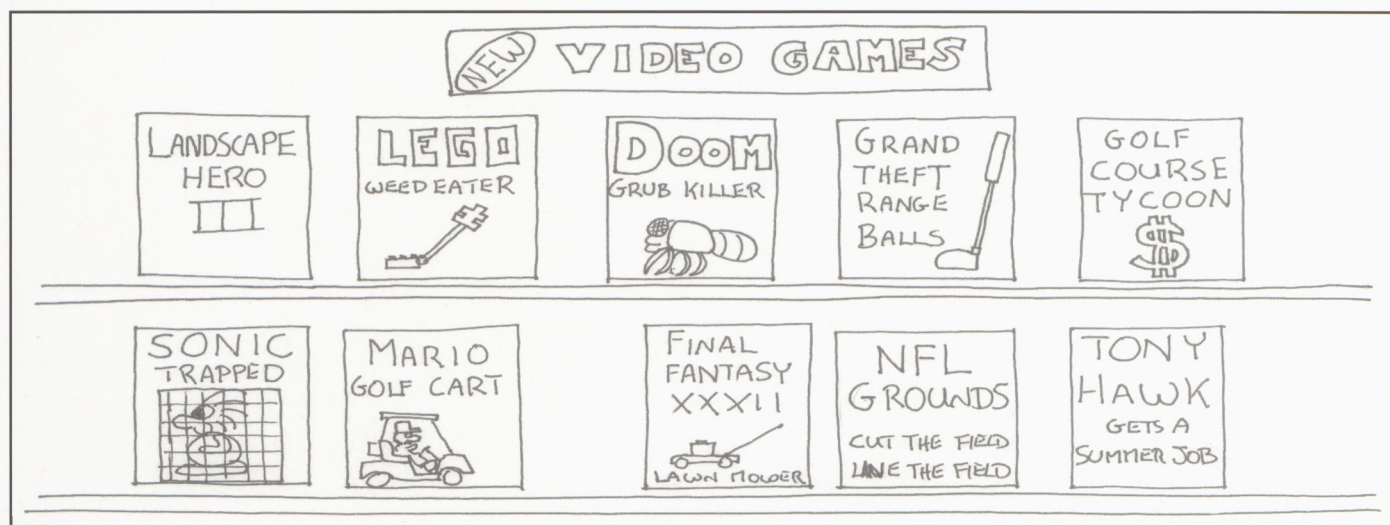


basement taking turns pretending to be part of a band, than to go out to the garage and learn to be a real live, sweaty, obnoxious rock band. It's sad really. They'd rather play video hockey than road hockey. John Madden football trumps going to the park and actually tackling each other.

Don't get me wrong, I love video games, but I generally like to play games where I get to simulate doing something I can't actually do. Like say - fly. Or fight three headed monsters with a light sabre. Or shoot par. Now if there was an *Elvis Hero III*, or a *Skinny and Good Looking Hero III*, I might buy that. My daughter has a video game where she grooms a horse, feeds and waters it, and rides it around in a field - all things that she could do just by walking outside.

People are always telling me that being a superintendent is their dream job. It's never anyone who has actually ever done the job of course, but bank managers, car salesmen, and the like say it all the time. So I figure that there would be a market for a video game called *Superintendent Hero III*. You'd start on level 1 raking bunkers (by hand) on a course with gravel in the traps, and the finale would be a head to head battle royale with other superintendents to get the job at St. Andrews. Along the way you'd fight the evil board, avoid the crazy owner, and outwit the meddling greens committee. Players would have to be constantly on the lookout for government inspectors, dysfunctional staff, prima donna mechanics, and irrigation leaks. Weather would be random and severe. Extra points could be awarded for picking up empties, putting the wheels back on pull carts, and showing the golf pro how to check the oil in his car.

I'm telling you, this game has potential. The wii version would come with 5/8 scale hole changer. I'm taking out a copyright on this right away. Then I'll make a gazillion dollars and go back to being a real guitar hero full time.



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