

Green is Beautiful

Fall 2009



The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Audubon After Certification

Also inside this issue.....

Working With a Board

Diagnostics Laboratory Year in Review

Year End Tournaments

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President's message

Well another year has come and gone, another golf season in the books and planning has begun for 2010. Why is it that every year seems to be getting shorter as well as passing us by quicker? Are we getting older and just not remembering? I know some of us don't want to remember but I really think our time has been shifted compared to the past. Routines we were used to have come and gone, schedules have been changed and the business of the game has forced us to rethink certain aspects. We no longer can rely on our past knowledge to get us through the future. Environmental issues are on our plates for good and a constant in our daily routine. Proactive thoughts are now necessary and the norm in order to achieve club success and personal goals.

Education and networking have never been more important than the present. CEU's, education points or whatever term we want to use are at the forefront of our responsibilities. The fall and winter are the times to look after these items and get a start on our 2010 thoughts. Take advantage of every opportunity afforded you to accumulate the needed points for any association status and our IPM accreditation process. I invite all of you to attend the 2010 Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show, provided through the joint efforts of the OGSA and CGSA, to be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, from February 26TH through March 2ND. Once again we have a strong educational program planned, so be sure to attend as many sessions as you can to achieve your credits, broaden your knowledge and build on your library of information. It is as equally important to utilize the social and networking opportunities provided through the associations' activities.

With winter almost upon us we must take the time to look back at our successes and failures of the past year. Successes are always a source of personal pride and celebration but more importantly take a good look at your failures. Whether they be a project that didn't quite turn out as planned, an employee situation that could have been dealt with in a different manner or a simple error in judgment, don't be afraid to admit your failures as these are truly the experiences that lead to our future successes.

I'd be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to thank all our member clubs and their staff that held an event this past year. The strength of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association is dependent on the membership's participation throughout the year. We also can't forget to give thanks to all our associate members for their continued support of the OGSA. Once again, through our combined strong voice we continue to be recognized as a leader in the golf community, not only in Ontario but throughout North America.



by Randy Booker
Otter Creek Golf Club



ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Green is Beautiful 2009

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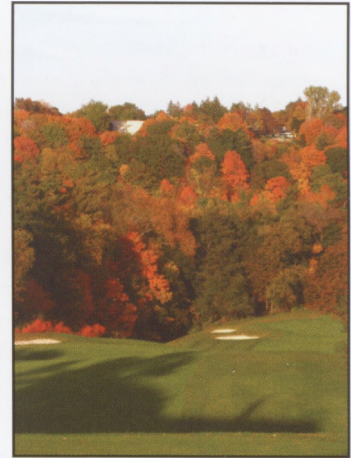
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Rosedale Golf Club

*Photo by Cameron Fraser,
Assistant Superintendent*

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Editorial message



by Dorothy Hills

In this issue Sharon Robinson, from Hidden Lakes Golf Club talks about Audubon after certification. Sharon provides an enthusiastic account of the efforts taken to maintain their Audubon certification, and has provided us with some stunning photos taken on the course. Andy Sandilands shares his experience working with a Board of Directors to replace "Old Betsy" with a new, reliable pumping station. Darryl James, from Arborturf Solutions asks the question, "Have you checked your nozzles lately?" Continued education is an OGSA mandate, and while the winner of the 2009 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary has not yet been determined, Andrew Hardy gives an account of how he used his winnings from 2008. Once again, our regular contributors have provided some interesting reads. Daisy Moore reminds us that we need to be diligent about tending our landscape gardens even in the off season, in order for them to provide us with a vista of pleasure throughout the year. Warren Wybenga provides a case study on an ailing, older model sand trap machine. Doug Johnson warns us to beware the signs of musculoskeletal disorders, which are indeed a health and safety issue on the golf course.

Be sure to check out the advertisements from the suppliers listed on page 4. It is through our associate's ads that we are able

to provide this publication to our members. Watch for them at the upcoming joint CGSA/OGSA conference and trade show, and take the time to stop by their booths to say hello.

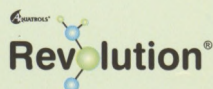
This issue includes an insert brochure and registration forms to attend the joint conference. If you have already received one of these brochures, please pass it along to someone else at your club, who may not have received a copy. As well, there is a sponsorship form offering our Associate members an opportunity to partner with the OGSA in providing an evening of entertainment at Fionn MacCool's Irish Pub on the evening of Saturday, February 27TH. As the hosting provincial association, we want to ensure this is a special night of fun and camaraderie for our out of province guests as well as our Ontario members.

It is always heartening to know that some of the material provided in *Green is Beautiful* may have struck a chord with some of our readers. On behalf of the Editorial Committee, I encourage you to provide us with your comments and suggestions. If you have been involved in a construction, environmental, management project or initiative, we encourage you to share your experience with our readers. We particularly enjoy submissions about the human interest side of things, and about some of the unique hobbies and activities you participate in, away from the course. Feel free to contact any of the editorial committee members, listed on page 3, with your ideas.

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What's new

ROYAL OTTAWA GOLF CLUB

As a follow up to Alan Dolick's article in the Spring issue of *Green is Beautiful*, the Royal Ottawa Golf Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses, and Audubon International Program. Alan Dolick, Assistant Course Superintendent has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on the course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. Congratulations to Alan Dolick and the Royal Ottawa Golf Club!

HERITAGE AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Michael Trainor, who is OGSA's 2009 Heritage Award winner. Michael, the son of OGSA member Rhod Trainor, Superintendent at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club is working towards a degree in engineering, at the University of Waterloo. Michael will be recognized at our awards luncheon to be held at the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

OGSA Member Services tries its best to give our membership prompt service and current information on their fellow members and their profession. In order to do this we need your help. Please make sure that all of your contact information is current and up to date, including your email address. 'Clippings' is an email bulletin that goes out every Wednesday afternoon. We send this out as a bulk email to all members at once, and some servers assume that it is 'spam' and delete it. If you are not receiving this email, please contact the office to verify that your email address is correct.

Membership dues invoices are now past due. If you have not already received your dues invoice would you please contact the office to ensure that your invoice was sent to your current address.

For Membership Services including database information and "Clippings"

contact Pat Thomas at ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca

For Accounts Receivable/Payable (incl. member dues)

contact Deb Badger at ogsa3@gti.uoguelph.ca

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2008-2009 END OF YEAR REPORTS

The following is a list of the OGSA reports, required for the Annual General Meeting to be held March 2ND, 2010 at 7:30 AM., at the Sheraton Centre Toronto. These reports will be available on our website by January 1, 2009.

- Director Election Notice.
- End of Year Audited Financial Statements for period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.
- End of Year Director Portfolio Reports.
- Minutes from Annual General Meeting held Thursday, January 22, 2009.

According to our bi-laws these reports can be accessed, as soon as they are available, on our web site www.golfsupers.on.ca.

Log into the Members Only section and go to "Member News". They will be posted by January 1ST. If you have a problem accessing them, please call the office. You will be advised in our e-bulletin *Clippings* when these reports are available for viewing.

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

OGSA Welcomes our newest members

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Glen Abbey Golf Club	
Bobby Christie	Class A
Baxter Creek Golf & CC	
Paul Halk	Class C
Donalda Club	
Richard Heffering	Class A
Newcastle Golf Club	
Brian Holman	Class F
Cobble Beach Golf Links	
Ryan Mackness	Class F
Barrie Country Club	
David Mossip	Class A
Bellmere Winds Golf Club	
Amy Parps	Class F
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Neil Smith	Class C
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Jeff Thomas	Class F
Cobble Beach Golf Links	
Paul Wilson	Class A
Napanee Golf & CC	



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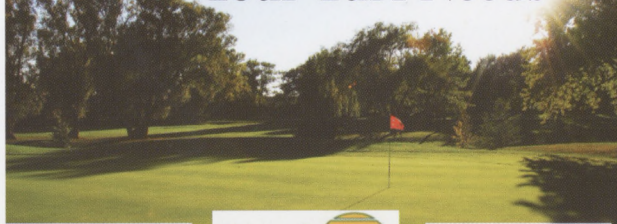
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by Doug Johnson
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Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSIs)

For many years now we have been hearing more and more about ergonomic injuries such as carpal tunnel, back injuries and various shoulder injuries. In Ontario all these injuries are grouped under the classification of musculoskeletal injuries or MSIs.

Many workers suffer from MSIs. MSIs are disorders of the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles and other soft tissues of the body. These disorders develop over time as a result of the cumulative effects of repetitive, stressful or awkward movements that wear down the musculoskeletal system. Injuries can range from very minor all the way to totally debilitating. MSIs are often described as lower back pain or other disorders of the back, carpal tunnel syndrome, bursitis, tendonitis, white finger, and sprains and strains.

Recently, studies have shown that about 30% of all injuries are classified as MSIs. In light of the frequency of MSIs the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has an initiative to reduce the frequency and severity of these injuries.

The WSIB wants employers and workers to think about the work situation and the hazards. The only way to eliminate or reduce hazards is to first recognize that hazards exist. Although we often think that this is the responsibility of the employer everyone must understand that this is everyone's responsibility. Employers, managers, supervisors and workers must understand that each one has a responsibility to recognize the potential for MSIs.

To be able to identify potential MSIs every workplace participant must be aware of the types of things that could cause an MSI – things like repetitive motion that requires the use of the same muscles over and over again or asking workers to accomplish more than is reasonable for their capabilities.

When you think of MSIs it is important to look at the tasks to see if there is an excessive amount of pulling, pushing or lifting that is required to complete the job. Do the tasks require workers to adopt awkward or uncomfortable postures, including bending, reaching, or working with a wrist in an awkward position? Do workers spend a lot of time sitting or standing or reaching above their shoulders? Are workers exposed to hand-arm and/or whole-body vibration? All these issues should be looked at and evaluated.

During your observations make note of how workers feel. Do workers tell you that their neck and/or shoulders hurt or ache? Or is there an indication that workers are experiencing numbness or tingling in their hands and fingers? These are a few of the symptoms that might be

observed and may give you an indication of a potential MSI concern. It is important to realize that the pain and suffering associated with MSIs impairs the injured workers ability to work and disrupts many of the normal activities of daily life.

Many early signs or symptoms of MSIs are not recognized or reported. Often workers will work in pain. They will not report the early signs of MSIs as they either do not recognize them or they are trying to keep up with other workers. To reduce the possibility of WSIB claims for MSIs you need to understand the issues yourself and to ensure that your managers, supervisors and workers are aware of the signs that might lead to an MSI. Each human body is unique and will react differently to the stresses of work and the work environment. Workers may experience many different signs or symptoms associated with the development of MSIs, including pain, discomfort, fatigue, swelling, tingling, numbness, and shooting pain down the legs and buttocks.

Many MSIs are preventable. Designing work and workstations to fit worker's physical capabilities is essential. Workers possess a great deal of knowledge about their jobs and their capabilities, so they should have input into workstation design. Workers must also be trained in proper work procedures for specific tasks. These procedures must be properly designed and should be periodically reviewed by the Joint Health and Safety Committee or health and safety representative.

The simple rule is; "fit the job to the worker, not the worker to the job".

If you have questions or concerns give me a call. Have a great autumn.

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SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM 2009

This program has been very well received by both competitors and the Golf Association of Ontario, and is critical to promoting the profession of the golf course superintendent and their professionalism within the golf industry.

If any member has any input they would like to contribute toward the continued success of this program please speak to any OGSA director.



Jim Burlington & Jason Boyce



Matt Hallman & Trevor Morvay



Bill Julie & Jennifer Pendrith



Jerry Richard & Doug Breen



Randy Booker & Rick Piccolo



Steven Muys & Rob Gatto

Tournament

Ontario Men's Mid-Amateur Championship

Ontario Jr. & Juvenile Boys' Championship

Ontario Women's Amateur Championship

Ontario Men's Amateur Championship

Ontario Jr. & Juvenile Girls' Championship

Senior Women's Amateur Championship

Senior Men's Amateur Championship

Ontario Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

Host Supt.

Jim Burlington

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Steven Muys

Owen Russell

Golf Course

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G & CC

Barcovan Golf Club

Paris Grand Golf Club

Twenty Valley Golf Club

Markland Wood CC

Presenter

Jason Boyce

Trevor Morvay

Jennifer Pendrith

Doug Breen

(Bill not available)

Randy Booker

Rob Gatto

(Owen not available)

SENIORS MOMENT 2009

The 3RD Annual Seniors Tournament for OGSA members was held at Mono Hills Golf Club July 16TH, 2009. Our hosts, Doug Suter and Alan Beeney, provided a perfect day for golf. There were 32 players tackling the course with special guests Dr. Clayton Switzer and Norm McCollum. Results for the event were as follows:

1ST Low Gross - 78 - Rod Hermitage, AgTurf
 2ND Low Gross - 80 - Bill Fach, Black Bear Ridge GC
 3RD Low Gross - 80 - Robbie Robinson, Hidden Lake GC

1ST Low Net - 66 - Simon (*Sandbag*) George, Maple Turf Supply
 2ND Low Net - 70 - Ken Wright, Devils Pulpit
 3RD Low Net - 72 - R.T. Heron, retired

Rookie of the Year Award – Teri Yamada, TY Environmental Strategies

Our sincere thanks go out to Ron Craig, Turf Care Products Ltd. and to Jim Torrance from Mono Hills Golf Club for their continued support. As well, our thanks go to Head Chef, Pelino Scenna for manning the BBQ.



Back Row (L-R): R.T. Heron, Simon George, Dave Stevens, Don Crymble, Barry Endicott, Jim Torrance, Bruce Dodson, Dave Smith, Kimmo Salonen, Rae Murray, Bernie MacDonald, Dr. Clayton Switzer, Bob Cowan, Norm McCollum, Rod Hermitage, Dennis McCracken, Ken Wright, Doug Suter.

Front Row (L-R): Jim Wyllie, Robbie Robinson, Bill Fach, Tom Murphy, Bob Brewster, Pelino Scenna, Teri Yamada, John Piccolo, Ken Nelson, Keith Stephenson, Paul Dermott, Al Beeney, Mark Schneider.

Missing from Photo: Paul White and Ron Craig


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OTRF CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE NATIONAL GOLF CLUB OF CANADA

A spectacular day of golf and celebration was enjoyed by turf industry and golf superintendents at the annual Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's fundraising golf tournament. The tough course at The National Golf Club of Canada proved to be a true challenge for all participants. For most, the high scores were soon forgotten as players either enjoyed the unique food and beverage stations or were distracted by the Toronto Raptor's mascot taking his turn around the course.

This annual fundraising event provided a number of industry partners the platform to significantly contribute to the OTRF's mandate of supporting turf research in Ontario. Congratulations to Turf Care Financial and The National Golf Club of Canada, this year's platinum sponsors. With their support, participants were treated to an exceptional golfing experience.

A special thanks to OTRF Director and Superintendent, Chris Dew for hosting this fabulous tournament. The OTRF extends its appreciation to The National Golf Club of Canada for their donation of the club for the day. The

success of the event should also be acknowledged to the staff at the club for their outstanding hospitality. A warm thank you is also extended to all golfers and sponsors who participated in the success of the OTRF's 30TH Anniversary celebration.



L-R Kevin Ottman (Turf Care), Randy Booker (Otter Creek GC), Gord Somerville (Enviro-Sol) & David Stevens (Beaverbrook GC)

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ASSISTANTS TOURNAMENT

by Alan Dolick

photos by Dorothy Hills



This year's edition of the Assistants Tournament was played at the beautiful Pipers Heath Golf Club in Hornby, Ontario. Opened in the summer of 2007, Piper's Heath is a stunning 18-hole championship course designed by renowned golf course architect, Graham Cooke.



Our thanks goes out to all of the service staff at Pipers Heath for a great experience and special recognition to Superintendent, Tim Muys and Assistant Superintendent, Blake Sicard for the wonderful playing conditions enjoyed by everyone who participated.



L-R Tim Muys, Graeme Calder (tournament chairman), and Blake Sicard

Congratulations to the winning team with a -11 (61) by retrogression.



Winning Team

L-R Paul Grovesnor (St. Thomas G&CC), Nick Graham Pat Anderson & Tim Hornick (all from Riverbend GC) with John Bladon (Agrimium)



L-R Peter Sojak, Assistant Superintendent, Brampton Golf & CC with John Bladon from Agrium

Congratulation to Peter Sojak, the winner of the Agrium all inclusive paid trip to Farm Links.

ASSISTANTS TOURNAMENT

...continued from page 12

As well as our key sponsors, the OGSA would like to thank all of the wonderful companies who donated prizes to make our tournament a success.



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Sunday February 28th at 8:00 am

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Member profile

Interview with Tim Steen Technical Representative, Engage Agro

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

For those of you who know Tim Steen, you are probably already aware that he is tall, blonde and a pretty good skater. But did you know that he was born in Tiverton, Ontario? Or how about that he was a relief milker on a dairy farm during a summer in his youth? I'll bet you had no idea that he has been a cutter skidder operator or that he lived in Atlanta for a year. Please allow me to elaborate.

Born in Tiverton in the mid 70's, Tim Steen's first experience in the turf industry did not come for another 20 years when he began working at the Saugeen Golf Club in Port Elgin, Ontario. He worked there for three months before starting the Golf Course Technician Program at Seneca College in 1996. Now, I know what you are thinking, and yes, he was indeed a part of the esteemed graduating class of 1998.

After finishing school, he became the assistant superintendent at Victoria Park East Golf Club under Superintendent, Dave DeCorso. Steen says that he learned a lot about the turf industry during this time and he credits DeCorso for helping to shape his career. It was here that he would meet Steve Barton, an NHL linesman. He encouraged Steen to start officiating hockey. Over the next few years, in addition to working on a golf course, Steen officiated in the OHA and then the UHL.

His next step in the turf industry came in 2003 when he became the superintendent at Victoria Park Golf Club West. During the fall of that year, Steen's career took an interesting turn. He moved to Atlanta to officiate in the East Coast Hockey League. Despite being a national prospect, Steen realized that he did not want his career to take away from his family life. As a result, he moved back home in 2004 and took a job with Vanden Bussche Irrigation. Shortly after, Steen and his wife Emmi started a family with their son Madden who is now 5. Two years later, they would welcome their daughter, Abbey.

Currently, Steen works for Engage Agro as a Technical Representative. He is also officiating 80 games a year as a linesman in the OHL and as a referee in the OHA. He lists attending the Presidents Cup in 2007 and playing Pinehurst No. 2 following the 2005 U.S. Open among the highlights of his professional career thus far.

Steen says that his favourite part of the job with Engage is observing the day to day management practices put in place by superintendents and their staff. **"I really enjoy seeing how they solve problems."**

When talking with him it is quite clear that he thrives on being a part of this industry and our association. **"It's just a great bunch of individuals."**



"In the Hot Seat"

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Favourite major: | U.S. Open |
| • Best piece of turf equipment ever: | Sisis Verticutter |
| • Ultimate foursome: | Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Tiger Woods |
| • Lowest round ever and where: | 76 at Ariss Valley |
| • Favourite Course Outside of Canada: | Pinehurst #2 |
| • Favourite meal: | Steak |
| • Favourite movie: | Braveheart |
| • What's in your CD right now: | Raffi |
| • Rate your lawn on a scale of 1-10: | 6 and a half ("Please let me use herbicides") |
| • What would you be if not involved in the turf industry: | Something to do with hockey |

64TH ALEX MCCLUMPHA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Photos by Dorothy Hills



The intermittent rain and wind were not enough to dampen the spirits of the 120 people who gathered to play at the Summit Golf & Country Club, on October 5TH. Located on 259 acres of land centrally located, the Summit offers a remarkably beautiful retreat from the city. The elevated tees provide an incredible vista of its natural surroundings.

We would like to thank the entire Summit staff for their hospitality and help in organizing this event. A special thanks goes to Superintendent, Phil Brown and his greens staff for providing us with a great conditioned golf course; it was a treat to play.



Phil Brown is presented the Host Superintendent Plaque by Jennifer Pendrith

Superintendent over 50 with low gross John Gall with 74



John Gall wins the George Darou Trophy presented by Paul Cooper from Turf Care. Thanks to Turf Care's donation, John went home with a Toro snow blower.

Flight A

Low Gross	John Gall (74 retrogression)
Low Net	Martin Kopp (64)
Longest Drive	Gary Stadnek
Closest to the Pin	Doug Erwin

Flight B

Low Gross	T.J. Rule (79)
Low Net	Mike Kehoe (67)
Longest Drive	Doug Zweep
Closest to the Pin	Vic Woodley

Any Player



Closest to the Pin Mike Pellerin
L-R Mike Kehoe (Nutrite), T.J. Rule (Burnsides), Martin Kopp (Brampton G&CC, John Gall (Cherry Hill GC)

Thank you to all those who donated prizes for the raffle. Your contributions are very much appreciated and go a long way to making this event a big success:

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Vanden Bussche Irrigation • Warkworth Golf Club

Golf course highlight

Summit Golf & Country Club

11901 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill ON L4E 3N9
Phone: 905 884-5234
Website: www.golfsummit.com
Golf Course Superintendent:
Phil Brown
Email: pbrown@golfsummit.com



Photo by Phil Brown

COURSE PROFILE

What region is your club located in?
York Region

What is the classification of your club?
Private

Size of membership and number of rounds?
600 members and 28,000 rounds

Typical opening and closing dates?
April 21 opening
until November 21

Name of Superintendent
Phil Brown

How long have you been a superintendent?
18 years - 14 years at Summit

List other accomplishments
OGSA Director

How long have you been an OGSA member?
22 years

How many year round staff?
7

How many seasonal staff?
18

How many mechanics and assistants?
Assistant: Jamie Roberts
Mechanic: Joe Rush

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
19

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?
6400 yards from back tees
5200 yards from forward tees

How many bunkers?
30

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?
1 pond comes into play 3 times

Who was the original architect?
George Cummings (1912)
remodeled by Stanley Thompson (1918)

What was the year of original construction?
1912

What major tournaments held?
Canadian Amateur
Canadian Senior Match Play

What type of irrigation system?
Rainbird Irrigation

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
9,000 ft²

What is the size of the greens, tees & fairways?
Greens: 150,000 ft²
Tees: 120,000 ft²
Fairways: 25 acres

What is your predominant grass?
Poa Bent

How many USGA greens and loam greens?
4 USGA Greens
2 California Greens
12 Original Push-up Greens

What is the predominant soil type?
Sandy

What equipment do you have in inventory?
4 tractors
1 JCB loader
1 Jacobsen AR5
1 Jac AR3
2 Jac LF 3400
1 Jac Tri- King
3 Jac Greens Kings
8 Jac Flex Walkers
4 PGR Walkers
1 Jac 72" Rotary
2 Tru-Turf Speed Rollers
3 Jac aerifiers
1 Toro Procore aerifier
1 GA-60 aerifier
1 Turfco topdresser
1 Vertidrain
2 -300 gallon Cushman sprayers
2 Cushman's dumpsters
10 EZ go carts
2 supertilt trailers
Brouwer Vac
2 Jac tractor mount blowers
1 Buffalo blower
Duel Express grinders
Hydra- Lift

COURSE PROJECTS & PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?
Installation of golf course drinking fountains.

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?
Plans are yet to be determined, but preparations are being made for our centennial year.

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?
Annual challenge: Summit is not a course that winters well. Summit is located 700 ft above Lake Ontario. 14 holes are situated in a valley surrounded by tall trees and trap in cold air. The sandy soil freezes quickly. All the things that make the course so beautiful also cause a situation where ice forms for long periods of time and is difficult to remove.

Do you have any success stories?
Installation of a complete automated irrigation system with 750 individually controlled heads on a sandy soil with 900,000 gallons of water holding capacity...no creek, no river, no stream. Just one well that produces 150 gpm. This was a huge turning point for Summit.

Extensive tree program that provided an improved growing environment.

Swales that directed spring runoff around greens.

Implemented a complete equipment leasing program 12 years ago which balanced our finances yearly and provided the necessary tools to do an efficient job.

Installed a closed-loop double-station wash pad, complete with fuel separator, chemical spill recapture, chemical storage as well as an eye and shower washing station.

I have been successful/persistent/innovative....and I can't forget lucky in my approach and philosophy of removing winter ice. I don't want to jinx myself!

Audubon After Certification

by Sharon Robinson
Hidden Lake Golf Club

Having Hidden Lake Golf Club designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary has meant a lot to us. It had required years of time, effort, money, and change for everyone. Was it worth it?

Probably the most important factor of Audubon Certification is that we are recognized as competent environmental managers. There has been so much negative publicity about pesticides use and how golf courses are horrible for the environment. Certification has brought a positive change. During and following Certification, we have worked with and financially supported a wildlife conservation group. As recognized environmental stewards, we have spoken at greenkeeper/conservation seminars, and have been invited to plan and speak at others. Incidentally, when we speak to individuals, we try to inform them of what a beneficial plant turfgrass is. In fact, it is the most beneficial landscape plant period. We remind them that it is highly drought resistant, filters air and water, provides tremendous amounts of oxygen to the atmosphere while at the same time consuming carbon dioxide, and prevents erosion. We have spoken to a local interest group about our conservation work. We have had students ranging in age from primary grades to university students visit the course and learn about the actual work that we have done. One Environmental studies group from Guelph University did their colloquium on water quality on our ponds. We were part of 2002 Communities in Bloom and had local dignitaries visit our property. We were the first golf course that was

invited to speak at a Hamilton Harbour Watershed monitoring and research workshop.



Not that certification has been a silver bullet. We have found that educating others about our efforts also includes educating them about the program. The value of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses has been questioned by many people (even people knowledgeable in the field of conservation) because of their misconception that certification is self-regulated. In fact, in order to maintain certification, re-certification is done every two years, with the first recertification involving a tour of the course by an independent third-party reviewer. This reviewer could be a member of the local government, a non-profit environmental organization, a university science or turfgrass department, etc. The reviewer cannot have any stake in the property or in the Audubon designation. Results of the visit along with past documentation provided by the property, are reviewed by Audubon

International. The decision to award re-certification rests solely with the Audubon staff.

Did we do conservation work before the Audubon Sanctuary program came into effect? Of course we did. But the program pushed us farther. We naturalized 41 acres on our property that were previously manicured from edge to edge, and our course is now more environmentally beautiful. We have much more new and abundant wildlife. These areas are teeming with wildlife from foxes to frogs. Insects abound. Birds feed and nest. It is wonderful.



Another benefit is that the look of these naturalized areas changes throughout the year. The spring is green. Early summer the grass waves in the wind. Later the colours change to red and gold.

Water test results show an improvement in water quality because of the naturalized changes that we have made. We use less fuel, pesticides, machinery, and require less staff.

An insufficient water supply is an ongoing provincial concern. Over the years, we have planted over 5,000 trees. Previously, great pines, elms and white oaks covered the countryside. Snow accumulated in the woods and the floor of the forest was porous. Shade from the great trees allowed the snow to melt slowly. Cleared land allows flooding in the spring and results in dry creek beds for the rest of the season. By planting more than 5,000 trees, our course has benefited the environment. Can't do that with a number of other choices for land use....



As I mentioned in the beginning, certification took years of time, effort, money and change. In a world of both problematic economics and weather, doing the paper work requires discipline. Without it however, there is no documentation to substantiate what we have done. If we as a golf course can provide 41 acres of wildlife habitat amongst our fairways, tees, and greens, good for us.



The Pesticide Act is there. Audubon is also.
The choice is ours.

WORKING WITH A BOARD

by Andy Sandilands, Superintendent
Black Diamond Golf Club

As I sit here and write this article, I do so coming into my fourth summer at my current position, but only my third summer that I did not lay awake nights worrying whether the golf course was receiving water or not. I must preface this by saying; this was my first superintendent's job in which I was responsible for meeting with and educating a diverse ownership group. I use the word educating because this is the best tool I have in order to convey the needs of the golf course to this group. During my first year I had the daunting task of presenting many unfavourable situations to a group of people who were all new to the golf course ownership business and some new to golf period. This same group also made up the Board of Directors.

My first order of business was to inform the group that their course must remain closed and unprofitable for an extra month, in an already cash strapped spring, followed by informing them that their one year old course required a new pump station to the tune of about \$250,000. Pretty tough words to swallow, coming from the "new guy". I was starting to be known by some of the owners as the Grimm Reaper and they were very open about telling me so. This is where my ability as a turfgrass professional was turning into a turfgrass educator. My job as a superintendent is not just to tell these people what I need, but to explain and educate them on why the golf course may benefit from a given expense. What I found to be most helpful in dealing with the group was getting to know each one of them as an individual and to find out what each one was looking for from their investment. With this knowledge I was able to tailor my presentations to the group to encompass the information needs of the entire group while providing tidbits of knowledge to satisfy each owner individually. This is the biggest benefit, in my opinion, to dealing with a group of owners or Board of Directors; you have an opportunity to present yourself and your knowledge to a group of individuals all with different questions and ideas of their own. The more questions that are asked the more informed they all become, and the more informed they are the easier their decisions become.

Although getting answers or decisions from a board can sometimes take longer than most of us would like, I have found that with proper information and education sessions the right decisions are much more attainable. The first task I had in the selling of this pump was to show them

that a diesel motor half buried in mud that was gobbling 400 litres of fuel per day was not the most efficient way of getting water to their course.



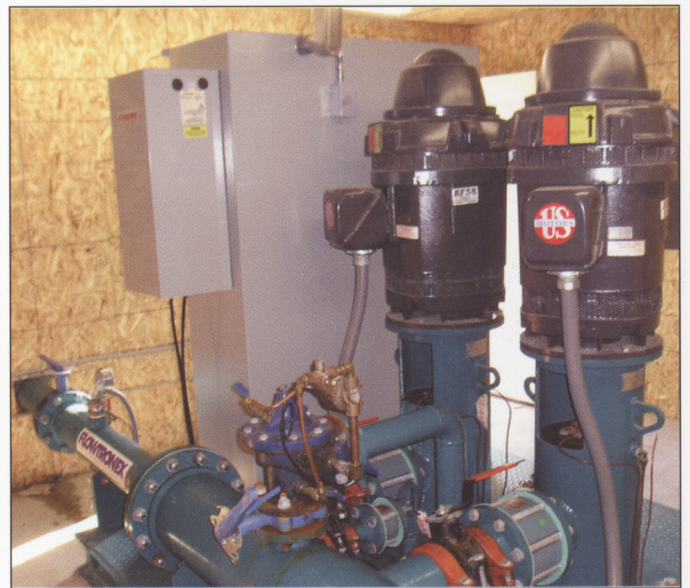
Fortunately for me, or unfortunately depending on how you look at it, mid way through an aerification day with a heavy topdress in place the pump decided to shut down. After a brief troubleshooting period we discovered the problem was merely a small tear in the diaphragm of the primer pump however, the part was going to take 3 days to get. Needless to say, we had an ownership meeting the following day to display the exceptionally heat stressed greens. Obviously not daunted, their comments were very positive in nature and a lot of confidence expressed in the forms of *"we have faith in you and your staff"* and *"it's supposed to rain in the next couple of days anyways"*. Three days later, once the pump was running, my very dedicated staff spent many hours tied to the end of a hose.

O.K. back to the sleepless nights wondering if old Betsy had indeed made it through a successful watering cycle, when in rolls a nice hot August day. We fire old Betsy up for the night but low and behold the engine runs but the pump will not rotate. It turns out the clutch finally gave in. After a quick call to the manufacturer we learn that the clutch will be shipped from Italy in about a week. We phone a company in Toronto that says they can retrofit a

clutch to it and be ready in five days. At this point this is the only option we have, so out comes the pump and we get it towed away to Toronto.

The weather for the next week looks blistering hot without a drop of rain in sight, no problem, one of the owners will make a quick drive to Windsor to pick up a PTO pump, and another will loan us his 100hp tractor to run the pump. This was now becoming quite an inconvenience to some of the owners. This remedy was enough to keep the greens and tees alive but the fairways were not looking their best. Now the board was really starting to take notice as play was getting interrupted due to the inconvenience of having to water in the day. Fairways were looking extremely poor and I'm pretty sure my staff and I were looking a little frazzled. Eventually, we got our pump back and a board meeting was called to discuss the issues at hand. After some spirited discussions and some first hand looks at the damage caused to the golf course the decision was made to limp through the rest of the season with our existing setup and begin installation of a new pump over the winter. So after 1 concrete pad, 1 armour stone wall and a 1 kilometre of trench through the golf course for power we finally installed our pump in the following spring.

The whole process was quite long and definitely challenging, but a well educated board was my best ally in the decision making process and ultimately made the best decision possible.





Year End Review

by Dr. Katerina Jordan,
Assistant Professor
Department of Plant
Agriculture, U of G
kjordan@uoguelph.ca

Here we are again at the end of the season and it is kind of hard to believe that it is already over. This was a very strange year as many of you likely recall. We started with some pretty bad winter damage throughout the province, regardless of location and in some cases winter preparation. This was made worse by very cool temperatures through the spring and much of the summer. It had some people wondering if summer was every going to come. Unfortunately, it really made renovations and repairs from the winter damage difficult as the conditions did not favour bentgrass germination and growth. The one consolation was that disease activity was pretty low for much of the season.

At the start of the season, in addition to the winter injury, we saw the usual suspects - some yellow patch (*Rhizoctonia cerealis*), Microdochium patch (*Microdochium nivale*) and take-all patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*). The cool temperatures allowed these pathogens to persist well into the season, and especially the take-all patch also made it difficult for overseeding repairs to be successful. We also saw some *Pythium* root dysfunction and early bouts of localized dry spot but neither were as prevalent as in the previous seasons.

As the temperatures started to rise we still had wet conditions, at least in the surface layer of the soil. This brought some samples of anthracnose basal rot (ABR) (*Colletotrichum cereale*) as well as non-parasitic disorders such as black layer and algae. Anthracnose basal rot occurs under cool, wet conditions and is very difficult to manage once it starts to spread. It is also often an indicator of some other stress, most often low mowing height or infection with another pathogen.

The long awaited arrival of summer finally came in mid-August. Temperatures increased, almost reaching the high 20s, and the rainfall subsided. During that time, we started seeing some evidence of summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*), although the occurrence was quite low and most of the cases were mild in nature. The higher temperatures also led to a few cases of leaf spot - mostly *Drechslera*, causing red leaf spot. However, as the rainfall ceased in early September, many of the moisture-loving diseases slowed down and a number of superintendents went into the fall with relatively healthy turf. There were cases of dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*) throughout the season, but as usual, we did not receive too many cases in the lab as most superintendents can recognize this disease rather easily.

Two conditions that we did see a few times this season

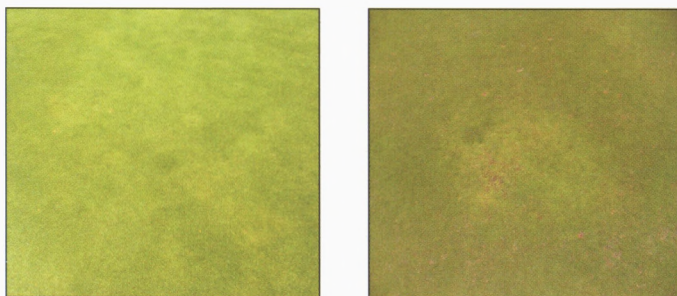
were that of etiolated tiller syndrome (ETS) and plant-parasitic nematodes. Etiolated tiller syndrome is a phenomenon that has been observed in the past couple of years in Ontario where individual turfgrass blades will grow taller than their neighbours and take on a chlorotic or even whitish appearance (Fig. 1). The cause of ETS is still relatively unknown, although there are numerous theories on the possible reason behind these strange symptoms. It is believed that the symptoms are the result of the presence of gibberellic acid (GA), which is the hormone responsible for cell elongation in the plant. Its presence could be due to microbial activity beneath the soil's surface or possibly as a result of plant growth regulator use combined with the application of bio-stimulants. However, these are just theories at this point as in-depth research on this disorder has not yet been published.



Fig. 1 Photo courtesy of Matthew Legg, Assistant Superintendent, Weston Golf & Country Club

Another issue that appeared to occur more often than usual this season was symptom development as a result of the plant-parasitic nematodes. These microscopic organisms feed on the root tissue and predispose the plants to other stresses and diseases and at very high numbers, are likely responsible for the development of symptoms on their own. These symptoms are rather non-descript and difficult to pin down to a cause as they include random chlorosis and thinning, often accompanied by intolerance to drought and other stress (Fig. 2). My first summer in the diagnostic lab in 2006, I did some random sampling of golf course samples for the presence of parasitic nematodes but did not find many courses

that had high population levels. This year, however, I have been able to confirm at least four courses that had inordinately high levels of stunt, root-knot and/or cyst nematodes in their soils. All of these courses had symptoms that developed during a period of drought, when the damaged roots could not supply needed water and nutrients to the plant. Four locations may not seem like much, but in each case, we were dealing with a golf course that had unexplained symptoms and no evidence of other pathogens were found. On trying to solve what the issue was, I did nematode extractions and each time found very high levels of these pests. I am guessing that there may be many other courses out there that have been experiencing unexplained symptoms of thinning and weakened turf but have not had their soils screened for the presence of nematodes.



*Fig. 2 Nematode damage at the start of symptom development (left) and once symptoms become more severe (right)
Photo by Katerina Jordan.*

All in all, it was a quiet year in the diagnostic laboratory. We had a lot of samples with abiotic disorders rather than the presence of pathogens, and many of those could be attributed to excess thatch levels, constant moisture (either due to irrigation practices or due to natural rainfall) and excess soil layering. The combination of these issues on golf course greens led to reduced water infiltration, shallow rooting and subsequently dead turf.

Thank you all again for your support of the laboratory and if you have any comments or concerns, we would love to hear from you. We are always striving to improve our service, but we cannot know what is lacking or needed without your suggestions. Please be on the lookout for an online survey in the near future to answer some questions about our service and what we can do to improve it for the industry. I hope that you will take the time to give us some feedback so that we may better serve you in the future.

Finally, if you have turf that is weak or symptomatic of a disease or a disorder, please feel free to call with questions or send us a sample. You can reach me at 519-824-4120 x 56615 or via e-mail at kjordan@uoguelph.ca. You can also try the diagnostic lab at 519-824-4120 x 58873 or by e-mail at diagnostics@guelphturfgrass.ca. Until then, enjoy the rest of the season and best of luck with your winter preparations this year. May you have a restful winter!



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Count on it.

Above the hole

by April Grabell
Student and Intern

Falling Back Into Routine

Summer days have come and gone, and as greens crews get smaller, the season winds down, and the University of Guelph turf students hit the books again. For some of us this will be the end of our schooling careers, some just the beginning and others just turning over a new leaf in the fairly new turf program. After spending the whole summer outdoors enjoying the sun, or rain in this case, getting back into the routine of lecture classes and labs is harder than you think it would be. When you have assignments, midterms, and presentations coming due, waking up at 5:00 AM in the morning doesn't sound so bad after all. Seeing the same 35 people everyday for 8 months allows everyone to get to know each other very well and, therefore, coming back to school and arriving in our first class of the year it felt as though we had not been spread out across the country or on the other side of the ocean, and it was just another day in the turf program. It has been a constant buzz of people asking what everyone did over the summer. Getting to see fellow students' internship reports has been an educational experience in itself. It's quite unique to see what the turf industry has to offer all over the world! With that in mind, now more than ever, we must make our impact at the University of Guelph!

With the turf program having only 70 or so students compared to the university population of 17,000 students, it is essential that each class make a mark at the university. The 10a class executive sat down in April after exams and made a decision that we would try our best to enhance the program! Since the program is relatively new to the university it is in a constant growing process. There are already several events being planned such as bi-weekly Turf Club meetings, golf tournaments and sodding of the cannon. As well as the opportunity to get to see one another between classes these events are key to building the bridge to fill the gap. A major event that will assist in this is the OGSA/CGSA turf conference in Toronto which we are going to encourage turf students to attend. I believe student interaction is important to the continued success of the Turfgrass Management Diploma.

I never thought that so many people from so many backgrounds would come together and make a close knit program. I feel as though it is fundamental to each and every one of our careers, to have the chance to know 70 potential turf managers, who we could email or call if we needed assistance or had a question. I anticipate that the next 5 months will produce some well educated future superintendents!

THORNE SPEAKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH TURF CLUB

R. Marie Thorne, Senior Turf Specialist at Syngenta Crop Protection Canada recently spoke at the October meeting of the University of Guelph Turf Club. She was invited to speak by Mike Newton, Turf Club President. **"It was my absolute pleasure to spend time with the students" says Thorne. "It was also a great opportunity to meet some of the new talent that is up and coming into our golf course industry".** Marie introduced the students to Syngenta and gave an overview of the company activities, both globally and locally. This was followed by a presentation on Instrata, and the environmental factors that can affect the success of snow mould treatments. **"I am hoping that they will bring this knowledge back to their respective golf courses" says Thorne. "We definitely have some future Golf Course Superintendents in this group".**



Second to one

by Tyler Windfeld, Assistant Superintendent
Black Diamond Golf Club

Assistant Responsibilities and Relationship with the Superintendent

As assistant superintendents we are responsible for a number of duties on the golf course. In order to effectively manage all of these duties, it is important to keep an ongoing list of tasks at hand to ensure no confusion. The most important thing I've found as an assistant is to remember to keep a positive attitude towards the superintendent, the staff, and most importantly, the profession. Although our lives extend far beyond what takes place on the golf course, it is imperative that we separate work from our personal life. Though it may not be easy at times, we must remember that our body language and behaviour affect those who are working with us.

Indeed, attitude plays a major part in establishing trust with the superintendent and the rest of the staff. With a positive attitude, everything seems to run smoother and daily tasks tend to be accomplished more efficiently. Moreover, with a positive attitude the staff end up enjoying their work environment all the more and this usually leads to increased productivity.

What I've found over the years is that the assistant can help gain the trust of the superintendent by displaying a strong personal work ethic. Typically this means being able to complete tasks on time and in proper form. It also means owning up to mistakes without placing blame on other people or factors. This goes along way toward establishing trust between you and the superintendent as well as the other staff.

During my time as an assistant I have come to the realization that the most important part of our job is managing people. Many articles, lectures and seminars in our industry are devoted to staff management. Showing

the superintendent that you are capable of managing any and all staff issues that may arise is another way to help garner their trust.

The assistant must also be clear on the expectations of the superintendent. If tasks are not completed in an acceptable manner, the assistant must take responsibility. Passing off blame is no way to build trust with a superintendent. Also, being clear on expectations is important because the superintendent depends on the assistant to be his eyes and ears whenever he or she is occupied with other things. In their absence, there must be a seamless transition in the quality of work that is carried out. As an assistant I have found that when the superintendent is not present, he has to be able to trust any and all of the decisions that the assistant may have to make concerning the course.

After many years of being an assistant, I have made some mistakes along the way. The important thing is that we learn from these mistakes and move forward. Given the unpredictable nature of the environment we work in, we must be able to adapt and evolve. Our success as assistants depends on it.

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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

Troubleshooting – A Case Study

When trying to figure out what is wrong with any particular piece of equipment, the most effective and efficient way will always be to apply a logical and systematic approach to your troubleshooting efforts. Contrary to this however (I only do this if it can be done quickly and don't spend too much time on it) is to check the cheapest and most obvious candidate and sometimes, just like at the casino, you might get lucky and find the offending member straight away but alas, my luck is usually not that good...it's worth a shot though. Most often I have to resort back to the simple steps of assessing the complaint, interviewing the operator to gather from them as much information as I can, then taking a moment to familiarize myself with the machine and its systems. It helps to know what a machine is being asked to do and under what conditions before being able to repair it properly.

I was asked during one of the infrequent hot spells this past summer to look at an older model sand trap machine that the neighborhood baseball association was using to groom their network of diamonds. It was experiencing a "no start" condition and had a "new" battery and that's about all I was told. Upon arriving at the park, I quickly received three different opinions as to what was wrong with the darn thing before even seeing it. A few questions is usually enough to reveal that these people, while having the best of intentions, were merely speculating and had no first hand knowledge of the machine beyond watching it go round and round all summer or even mechanics in general. While they may not have already solved the problem for you, their insight can still be quite useful in helping you to establish just how well they have been treating their machine and if they are operating it properly or not. As you should do when pondering the accuracy of news reporting or information from the internet, always consider the source. It is always best to question the person who uses it the most and who was using it when it decided to quit.

The machine was dirty, inside and out. The engine oil was black and in need of a change but the level was good and there was no sign of water or other contaminants. The

hydraulic oil level was also within specs but the tank, pump body and cooler were covered in a half inch thick layer of oil vapors and dust from the screenings and line marking powder. The outside of the engine was just as dirty. Components operating under these conditions don't cool properly and are subject to higher than acceptable heat levels and damage to seals and shafts is inevitable.

It didn't take long for the "old feller" who I know has spent the better part of several decades volunteering his time at the ball park to wander over and I was finally able to start gathering some really useful information. It turns out that "new" battery that was used to boost it was new the year before...sometime. A check of the "old" battery revealed low electrolyte levels in each cell and exposed plates can be damaged by the charging process thus reducing the usefulness of the battery even further. You should make a note to check this on all of your non-maintenance free batteries before freeze up then fully charge them before storing. A battery stored in a state of low charge will freeze and crack open at much higher temperatures than one fully charged. I could not go any further with the diagnosis with no source of ignition so I went home that afternoon with the cells topped off, the battery on charge and no answers for the curious.

A turn of the key the next morning produced nothing but a click from the solenoid and no noise from the starter motor which could indicate a problem with the solenoid, the starter motor itself or the cable between them but the starter on this particular machine is buried behind both a shroud and the battery, making it difficult to get at so before I started to peel away the layers I wanted to verify that the object that the starter is to turn, namely the engine and direct coupled hydraulic pump were able to turn freely. One must be very careful how one goes about this as you don't want the engine accidentally starting while you're in there with your hand so always be sure to disconnect all fuel and ignition sources. Removing the spark plugs will make any small engine easy to turn over by hand so when I was unable to get the engine's flywheel to budge, I became less suspicious of the starter and more

curious about the caked on grime that encompassed the hydraulic pump. A screw driver inserted carefully through the drive coupling to the hydraulic pump provided enough leverage to break free whatever was seized.

I quickly reconnected everything and with quiet words of encouragement, turned the key. The old machine sprang to life and the engine sounded normal and appeared to be running smoothly. I think I heard the university student who runs the thing give a little "woo-hoo" as she walked past, rake in-hand. A brief discussion with her revealed that she had been using the throttle to control her ground speed. This practice starves the pump of oil and generates excessive amounts of heat. Any hydrostatically driven machine should be run at full rpms to allow the pump to supply enough oil to run all the machines systems while using the foot pedal to control ground speed...it is dangerous and damaging to do otherwise.

With a bottle of de-greaser and fifteen minutes with the garden hose, I had the grime washed away and light-heartedly scolded the assembled group of league volunteers for neglecting their housekeeping duties, explained to them that the reason they were raking the diamonds by hand was because of a dirty machine and showed them how to operate and wash it properly without contaminating any water sensitive areas.

Now we may never know for sure what exactly caused the "no-start" condition but I suspect that the layer of oily dirt on the hydraulic pump and cooler acted as an insulator. This, coupled with improper operating practices, caused the oil and pump to overheat, subsequently seizing a vulnerable bit. I suspect the pump rather than the engine simply because hydraulic components are designed to run

at tighter tolerances than these engines and once I heard it working, was able to recognize that the pump was making way more noise that it should have. A noisy hydraulic pump can be an indication of oil slipping past worn components, usually caused by heat and contaminants...both of which were present in sufficient quantities to cause damage.

It is my hope that through this simple recounting of some rather ordinary and unglamorous events, you may remember to approach each troubleshooting event as an opportunity to learn and as analytically as possible. Keep your emotions in check and remain as detached as you can. Listen to what people have to say about the breakdown and try to sort through the bull. Ask pointed and leading questions to try to get as clear a picture as you can about the machine's history both long term and in the moments leading up to the moment of failure. Keep an open mind while trying to systematically eliminate candidates by testing and proving rather than guessing and replacing. Lastly, don't get distracted by speculation...everyone at the park was betting on either the battery or the starter and while there are undoubtedly issues with both, they weren't the cause of the failure, this time.

As this column is directed mainly at those of you who may be without mechanical representation at your course, I want to invite you to participate in your Association by contacting me with an issue or experience you've either had and solved, or are still trying to figure out. By putting our heads together we might be able to help our colleagues who may be wrestling with the same problem and at the very least it should make for an interesting read.



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Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

Good Stewards

It surprises me how quickly people give up on the enjoyment of their gardens once fall rolls around. We expect less of our gardens in the off season and this is a mistake. A well designed garden will have a bounty of plants that in combination look handsome in any season, especially the fall. All it takes is a little tending.

Gardens are made up of a variety of plants with various characteristics and growth habits, all requiring different levels of grooming. This is best done gradually. Woody shrubs, dwarf evergreens, bulbs, grasses, annuals, perennials, herbs and so on. The most highly feared and misunderstood of the bunch are the perennials. This large group contains some horrific examples of plants gone wild, turning people forever against the idea of gardening. Daylilies, phlox, daisies of all sorts, artemisia, lily of the valley, variegated goutweed, ajuga and the list goes on. If left, these plants achieve weed-like proportion and turn gardening into drudgery. It doesn't have to be like that. There is a high degree of variability in what perennials look like and how they behave. Many have outstanding fall colour in their leaves and can be enjoyed right up until snow falls. Some are the most resistant to frost and are the last ones standing. Others collapse at the very thought of frost but the pay back is a large exotic flower in July. It's a trade-off.

Ornamental grasses are starting to change the way we garden. They have taught us about plant attributes outside of the regular flowering season. It is understood that it is worth the extra work in the spring to have a beautiful stand of grasses. Golf course properties too are becoming rich with grassland habitats as low maintenance and IPM techniques are sought. Ornamental grasses are now commonly used around the clubhouse and other golf course gardens. Grasses are the ultimate fringe, large or small, combine with almost anything and are mostly self-sufficient. Maybe it is an extension of the human love for lawns! No matter what, ornamental grasses are a good starting point for some gardeners to break away from evergreens and annuals and move into a more diverse landscape.

As the tree canopy falls and this season's biomass hits the turf, the skies open up and we are exposed to a more expansive surrounding. The contours of the land are easier to see, drainage patterns, sunny spots and special micro-climates show up. Areas for an azalea/rhodo mix start looking promising. Opportunities for improvement present themselves throughout the property. Woodsey areas become more interesting because you can see things again and get in to them. It is the most wonderful time to take stock of the areas you hadn't thought about since you

last saw them in April. It would be good to act upon some of them, now that you have a little extra time. Invasive weeds such as buckthorn (shrubby tree), garlic mustard and dog strangling vine will show themselves and hang on to their leaves for longer than their non-invasive neighbours. These should be removed at your earliest convenience, if not today. Physical removal by digging, to get the entire root, may seem old fashioned, but it works. Removing the invasive plants will allow more desirable plants to be planted or encouraged and will improve the appearance of the landscape as a whole. These out of the way areas may not seem important, but they are. Garlic mustard poisons the cedar trees it lives amongst for example. Fence-lines and weedy areas reveal themselves drastically once top growth has been hit by frost. Thistle, burdock and other tap-rooted weeds thrive under the management of occasional cut-back with a weed-eater. Digging them out now and seeding to fescue will make it better for next year. Weedy areas are seed sources that will infect the higher profile areas.

I have done my share of weeding this year but took a day to accept the invitation to attend the Alex McClumpha Memorial Golf Tournament at Summit Golf and Country Club in early October. I am so glad I did. Scattered showers did not dampen the spirits of those sheltered in their golf carts in good company and could pause to enjoy the hills and dales of the property on the Oak Ridges Moraine. You didn't have to look very hard or very far to acknowledge the outstanding conditions of the golf course both on and off the "playing" surface. The far rough was beautifully groomed uncut fescue. You could hit a ball out of it. The areas along the cart path were not a shabby assortment of weeds but a natural transition between manicured turf and the woods. Things looked so natural that you barely took notice. Phil Brown, the superintendent, made it look easy. I spoke to Phil briefly after the dinner and commented on how impressed I was with his work. Phil professed his love for working with the fringe areas and how he devoted as much time to them as to the fairways. Everyone appreciated this attention to detail and it set the golf course apart, especially for those not necessarily focused on their next shot during a golf game. Why not enjoy what you are looking at as you drive or walk by? You don't even have to know or care what it is, it just looks right.

We owe it to our landscape gardens, no matter what the maintenance level, to look after them and be good stewards. This means tending. It is a year round effort and sometimes includes some nasty bits of clearing, but the pay-off is long term.

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

Her website: www.daisymoore.com has samples of her work.

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Photo submitted by Jeff Alexander. This 2 yr. old black bear helped itself to bird seed, ambled across Jeff's driveway, then proceeded to cross the road after looking both ways.



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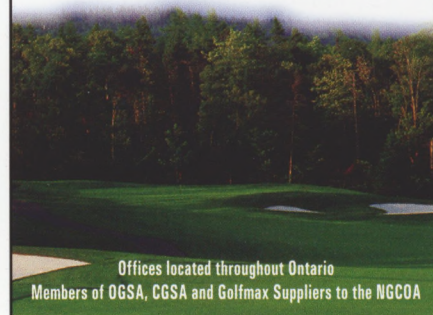
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TURFGRASS FIELD SEMINAR NEW ORLEANS 2009

by Andrew Hardy, Superintendent

Pheasant Run Golf Club

Winning the Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary in 2008 was a huge honour. Not only did it allow me to quantify my career choice it also came with a hefty sum of money to spend on an industry related program. After much debate, various changes in heart, and plenty of course cancellations I finally decided to use the funds to attend the Golf Industry Show (GIS) in New Orleans this past February. The educational component at the GIS is amazing and provides a wide variety of learning opportunities.

I immediately chose the Turfgrass Field seminar on recommendation from a colleague who had attended one at a previous conference. The field seminar allowed me to also get a look at what the real devastation was to New Orleans. Sure, Bourbon Street is back flourishing with its packed bars and streets full of people. But I really had a big interest in what was happening in the rest of the city and what had changed since my last visit to New Orleans in 1993.

The morning of the seminar three bus loads of industry people headed out on a trek through various areas of the city. Our tour guides for the day were staff of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Turfgrass Department. We were bused to the IMAX theatre to view a movie that had been shot preceding and following Hurricane Katrina. The film titled "Hurricane on the Bayou" was amazing and revealed that I knew nothing about hurricanes. As it turns out, warm winds originating in the Sahara Desert are the start to these devastating storms. And that development and ignorance of the surrounding wetlands (wetlands can slow the storms down) is what has made New Orleans so vulnerable to hurricanes.



Downtown at levee at Ward 9. Worst hit area from Hurricane Katrina

We again boarded our buses and headed to the 9TH Ward. The 9TH Ward of the city was the most devastated area in New Orleans. While we were at the 9th Ward we looked at one of the city's miles of levees. There are approximately 1300 miles of levees that border New Orleans. And apparently, the US Government has plans in place to build an additional 4 billion dollars worth of levees. The LSU faculty also discussed the difficulty of growing turf on the levees as they are highly compacted, clay based and through the roof in sodium content. The housing around the levee was still standing, yet was 95% vacant. Many people who had lived in the city either sought higher ground or left the city with no plans of returning.



X covers date checked, # of pets, # dead, and agency doing check.

We then headed to, as the locals refer to it, "City Park". Prior to Katrina the park was the site of 4 state run golf courses, botanical gardens and acres of public parks. It now consists of one golf course and acres of area that have re-naturalized themselves. The state could never justify reopening the golf facilities with the devastation that surrounded the park. While at City Park we had the opportunity to hear from a local superintendent who had lost his job in Mississippi when his golf course was underneath 20ft of water for a month. He said that when he returned to the course to collect his belongings some time later upon opening the shop doors it was like looking into a washing machine. Everything had been turned upside down and tossed within the building.



New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park

Our final stop for the day was to the TPC of Louisiana, host of the PGA tours Zurich Classic. We toured their maintenance facility and had the opportunity to ask

questions of Superintendent, Robb Arnold. The TPC lost in excess of 2000 trees as a result of Katrina. They were closed for close to ten months while cleaning up the mess. Mr. Arnold said that they had got off easy.

The city of New Orleans is well on its way to returning to its old self. Though the wounds of Katrina will likely never heal, the people of New Orleans will continue to persevere. As the local musician I sat next to on my return to Toronto stated, "This won't happen to us again, because we'll be better prepared to take the next time far more serious." The Field Seminar was a fantastic experience as were the rest of my educational opportunities, tradeshow and networking at the 2009 GIS.

I would like to thank the Kirkpatrick family, the OGSA, Pheasant Run, and of course my wonderfully understanding wife for all having a hand in making this amazing trip possible.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR NOZZLES LATELY?

*by Darryl James,
Owner/Operator Arborturf Solutions
www.arborturfsolutions.com*

Being a Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor for 3 years and conducting over 50 individual irrigation audits, I have been able to work with a number of nozzle/spacing combinations. The purpose of this article is to address how a nozzle profile in combination with proper spacing is required in order to achieve optimal sprinkler uniformity.

Irrigation system design is based on spacing sprinklers from head to head. That is, the sprinklers' radius of throw dictates the spacing. However, this is a rule of thumb and doesn't take into account the actual profile of the sprinkler. The profile is affected by four variables:

1. The size of the nozzle
2. The shape or design of the nozzle
3. The operating pressure
4. The rotation speed of the sprinkler



...continued on Page 32

If one of these variables is changed, the profile and the overall uniformity will be comprised because the nozzle size and the operating pressure are interrelated. For instance, if a sprinkler operates below operating pressure, it will produce a fire hose effect. If it operates above the recommended pressure, the pressure will begin to atomize the water jet and destroy the desired profile. A damaged/worn-out sprinkler rotor and/or nozzle will also have a dramatic impact on uniformity.

Therefore, it's important to note that when repairing a broken sprinkler, one must ensure that the proper nozzle is used, and that there is consistent rotation time and pressure between each sprinkler. If not, the overall irrigation pattern will change and one may experience wet or dry spots that were not previously a problem.

Now, to achieve good uniformity, not only does the nozzle profile need to be assessed, it is important to select a nozzle/spacing combination that is forgiving to small changes in the field. In reality, placing sprinklers in the field is an art due to such obstacles as bunkers, trees and irregular shaped greens.

So, how does a superintendent select a nozzle that will give him the ultimate uniformity on each area throughout the golf course?

First, it's extremely important to have a good understanding of turfgrass growing environment. Before the correct nozzle and spacing is selected, the specific site conditions along with the soil-water-plant relationship must be assessed to select the appropriate precipitation rate.

Second, a superintendent should consider purchasing SPACE Pro (The Sprinkler Pattern Analysis and Coverage Evaluation) or working with an irrigation consultant who does use it. SPACE Pro is an incredible tool and was developed by the Centre for Irrigation

Technology. It was designed as an objective measure to assess the important variables that should be considered when purchasing or changing a sprinkler system and obtaining optimal sprinkler uniformity.

Space Pro allows the user to mix and match a variety of nozzle/spacing combinations to determine the best uniformity value for a particular area.

Now, with that said, a sprinkler head must be level and free from any obstruction! If not, no matter how much planning you do to select the right nozzle/spacing combination, you'll never achieve optimal uniformity.

In conclusion, matching a sprinkler nozzle with sprinkler spacing isn't as simple as head to head spacing. The profile of the nozzle must be taken into account to accommodate for the specific site conditions, be forgiving to small changes, and be continually monitored to ensure efficient irrigation is achieved at all times.



Looking back

5 Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 2004 were: **Rob Ackermann** (pres.), Weston G&CC, **Mark Piccolo** (past pres.), Galt CC, **Paul Scenna** (vice pres.) Donalda Club, **Bob Burrows** (tres.), Rosedale GC, **Sean DeSilva**, Taboo GC, **Jeff Alexander**, Parry Sound G&CC, **Chris Andrejicka**, Essex G&CC, **Jarrod Barakett**, Deer Ridge GC, **Randy Booker**, Dundas Valley G&CC, **Doug Breen**, Golf North, **Rob Gatto**, King's Forest GC, **Jeff Stauffer**, Credit Valley G&CC, **John Bladon**, Nu Gro Corp, editor of Green Is Beautiful.

On the move: **James White** went from King's Bay GC to Carruther's Creek GC and **Tim Colin** moved from Carruther's Creek GC to Multitines. **Mark Schneider** left Owen Sound G&CC and moved to Saugeen GC.

The Pro/Super Challenge was held at Glenway G&CC hosted by **Peter Dickey**. Low team was **Frank Marando** and **Chris Nelson** from Markland Wood CC. Low superintendent was **Thom Charters**, Bayview G&CC.

The 59TH Annual Alex McClumpha Memorial Golf Tournament was held at Muskoka Lakes G&CC on October 5TH, hosted by **Jim Flett**. Low gross for superintendents and assistants were **Bill Gilkes** 73, **Neil Tandan** 76 and **Tom Brain** 78. Low gross for associates and guests were **Kevin Holmes** 74, **Jason D'Andrea** 79 and **Gary Tate** 80. The winner of the George Darou Trophy was **Ray Richards** from Mad River GC, which was presented by **Ron Craig** from Turf Care.

Gordon Witteveen was selected as the recipient of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Distinguished Service Award. He was acknowledged at the opening session of GCSAA's 75th International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 12TH 2004, in San Diego.

In Memoriam: **Jim Sara**, TDI International and former superintendent, passed away June 23rd. **Dr. Houston B. Couch** passed away on September 24th. **Dr. Couch** finished his career as Professor of Plant Pathology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. **Edward Rybski** (Class AA retired member) passed away on November 1st.

The Guelph Turfgrass Research Foundation Field Day was held on August 17TH and **Dr. Eric Lyons** was introduced as the new research scientist at the University

of Guelph. The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation Tournament was held on August 23RD at the Burlington G&CC hosted by **Pelino Scenna**. In recognition of the low gross and low net, silver plates were renamed after OTRF founders **Paul Dermott** and **Alan Beeney**.

The IPM Accreditation programme was well on its way to becoming a reality under the direction of OGSA Director, **Jeff Stauffer**.

On July 15TH, golf courses in Peterborough were damaged from 7" of rain in an 8-hour period. **Jennifer Pendrith**, Superintendent at Kawartha G&CC, had the course opened in a couple of days with the help of 60 volunteers.

In response to Walkerton, where 7 people died from drinking contaminated drinking water, the National Golf Course Owners Association recommended that all water containers be removed from golf courses.

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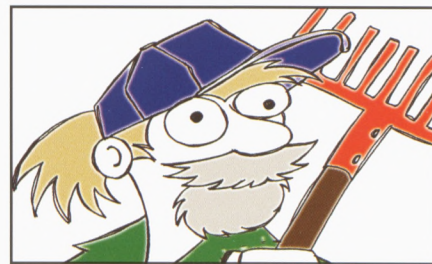
by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

Gowlife

The first written record of the game of “gowlfe” was in 1457. Ironically, it was in the form of a Royal Edict from King James II of Scotland, which banned the playing of the game, along with “fute-ball”. I know what you’re thinking – it was likely in response to the 15th century “wyfes” who were fed up with their husbands spending all day Sunday playing golf, quaffing ale, and watching football (shocking how different those people were from us) – but that wasn’t it. Your second thought, will likely be that 550 years ago, the church had a lot more influence on the state, and the clergy were appalled at the number of empty pews on Sunday morning while the links were full – also incorrect. Clergy are all addicted to the game. King James was simply concerned that the local townsfolk were neglecting the more regal sport of archery. As it goes with most Royal Proclamations, it was self-serving (look up Henry VIII and the Anglican Church’s position on divorce for another fine example). In those days, the English would roll over the Scottish border every half-hour or so, and the King thought it wise that he have a nation of superior archers, as opposed to superior putters - so the game was banned and just like Prohibition in the early 1900’s people happily abode by the new law for the good of society.

About 50 years later, Scotland and England signed the “treaty of perpetual peace”, which lasted less time than it took Oslo to award the two monarchs the joint Nobel Peace Prize of 1502. However, during this brief outbreak of peace, the Scottish ban on recreation was lifted, and the people were encouraged to golf, drink, and be merry – although it’s terribly unlikely that any of them had ever actually stopped drinking. But it’s only fair to point out, that to this very day, Scotland has been conspicuously and perpetually absent from the Olympic medal podium in the sport of archery.

By 1602, the *royal bow maker* was also the *royal club maker*. Golf courses were springing up all over the British Isles, and the next 300 years of empirical expansion took the game all over the globe – creating a worldwide supply of golfers and lousy archers. This in turn, left the mighty British Empire utterly defenseless, and obsessed with reading magazines filled with articles about straightening out one’s slice, and ads for the latest in gutta percha balls. I figure that the British lost the American Revolution, not for military reasons, but because they wanted to finish the back nine and were late for the battle of Yorktown. When they did show up, the artillery were launching golf balls instead of cannonballs and critiquing each other’s form.



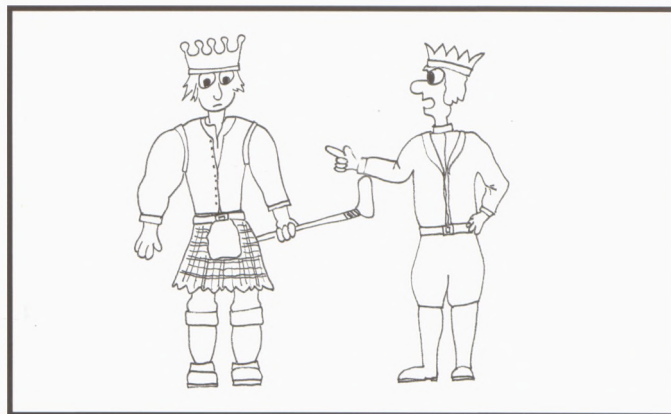
I propose that the whole global enterprise was brought to ruin by golf. If only they’d listened to King James.

I have a similar theory about how curling in a kilt led to the expansion of neo-existentialism in central Europe prior to WWI; that and the invention of long underwear.

All that *sports leading to the disintegration of society* stuff aside, it’s part of the long time love/hate relationship between world political leaders and golf. They all play the game. Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers, even tin pot dictators – yet at the same time they have all tried to separate themselves from golf’s unfounded elitist image. Legend has it that Lynden B. Johnston secured votes for the pivotal *Civil Rights Act of 1964* by playing golf with influential Senators – no doubt on some courses where many of the folks he was trying to help would not have been welcome.

When the G-8 summit comes to Canada in 2010, where are they staying? Deerhurst in Muskoka. (Somebody needs to send me a report too, because I want to know who cheats, who’s a hacker, and who has the most security guard caddies. I’d also wager that Italian President Berlusconi tips the beer cart girl *very* heavily.) Yet protesters are already beginning to criticize the fact that the event is being held at a “posh golf resort”, as if the world leaders would have stayed at a Motel in Acton and ordered in a plate of cold cut sandwiches if golf wasn’t involved.

So the cycle continues. Powerful people love golf, but have a strained relationship with the game and worry about how it will affect their own political fortunes. I can’t think of a single other sport that has been so universally (and uncomfortably) linked to influence and power. And just like in the days of King James, we just want them all to leave us alone and let us play.





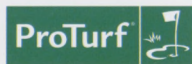
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