

# Green is Beautiful

Winter 2009

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

## Beacon Hall's Irrigation System

Out of Africa

Water Water Everywhere?

OGSA 2009 Conference Recap

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## President's message

It's been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors and a privilege to be elected as president of the OGSA for the coming year. As I reflect on my experiences with the association it's an honor to be following in the footsteps of every past president of the OGSA from its inception in 1924. A very big thank you must go to our immediate past president Jeff Stauffer, a friend and colleague. Jeff's dedication to the association over the past 8 years is inspiring in itself and we can be proud of Jeff's term as president. I'd also like to thank Sean DeSilva for his dedication during his tenure on the Board and we all wish Sean the very best in his future endeavors.

Once again we were blessed with a successful Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. All early indications show that we surpassed past delegate numbers and exhibitors showing once again that this event is one of the premier trade shows and education events in the industry. I must acknowledge the many hours of planning, organization and commitment by our Conference Chair Jeff Alexander along with his conference committee. Well done Jeff! Certainly I'd be remiss if I didn't extend a gracious thank you to our OGSA staff and volunteers for their dedication to our business; thank you Dorothy, Pat, Deborah and Kendall. A kind thank you must also go to Ken Cousineau and his staff at the CGSA for all their work in managing our conference and trade show. We look forward to the joint efforts of the CGSA and OGSA for the combined 2010 show in Toronto.

I must admit it's a bit frightening to be at the helm of the OGSA but as I look at the history of the association and the dedication of every person that has served prior, it certainly gives me the strength and warmth knowing that I'm not alone nor are you as members. When we look at past issues that have plagued the OGSA and the fight that has been waged over the years to secure our present voice in the golf industry it pushes our inner strength and brings our passion for the game to the forefront. The OGSA's commitment to insure the continued growth of the game while increasing our stewardship of the environment is just one of our strengths as an association.

We are going to be tested by many issues over the year, none of which are more important than realizing our future with Bill 64 and the challenges that we'll face. It's our duty as members to look at these challenges with optimism and enthusiasm. If our mind and actions tell us to fail we will ultimately do so, I personally challenge all of you to look at these issues and face them head on knowing that we will survive and succeed in holding our spot among the game's most influential people.

We are in a period where the economy is being squeezed, resources are crunched and budgets tightened. We occupy a position that will be looked upon to become more responsible and accountable for every action. It's time to show our leadership in the industry and help each other through these periods and place ourselves along with our clubs in a position for success and growth in the future.

We clearly have a journey ahead of us but let's not forget who we are and what we are. Take time to relax and enjoy life to insure that when we're needed we are at our best whether that be for work or our families. Enjoy the coming season and remember "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift"



by Randy Booker  
Otter Creek Golf Club



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# Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



## COVER PICTURE

Goodwood Golf Club  
Photo by Doug Erwin

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

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## Editorial message



by Dorothy Hills

As the March winds blow and you prepare for the upcoming golf season, I hope you will take time to sit down, have a cup of something hot and read the articles in this, our Winter issue of *Green is Beautiful*.

Our regular contributors are always in top form delivering up-to-date information and entertaining reading, on topics including; bluegrass weevil control, health and safety, equipment winter check and the advantages of using Power Point for staff training. The feature article by Colin Young, describes how Beacon Hall has addressed a major irrigation problem. Warwick Fynn from Credit Valley Golf & Country Club takes us on a trip to visit a golf course in South Africa, while Eric Lyons and Katerina Jordan present an article on the possibility of using effluent water on the golf course. You may also find yourself amongst the photos presented in our re-cap of the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show.

Thank you to Tyler Webb for his contributions to "Above the hole", articles about our industry from the perspective of a 2<sup>nd</sup> year diploma student and intern. Congratulations Tyler on a job well done, and best wishes in your future endeavours. If you are interested in becoming the next student writer for *Above the hole*, please read the information and make a submission. If you know of anyone who qualifies, please pass along the information.

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

How would you like to be part of Ontario's leading Golf Course Management Magazine? The Ontario Golf Superintendents Association's official publication, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an opportunity to all turfgrass student interns. The column "Above the hole", authored by University of Guelph Turfgrass intern Tyler Webb is open to a new intern as of April 2009. The magazine's Editorial Committee will be reviewing submissions from Ontario based turfgrass interns in April. The basic requirements include;

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

### How do I apply?

We ask that each applicant submit an article entry. The article will be based on your growth and experiences as a student/intern. Each entry should be approximately 500 words in length and electronically submitted to the OGSA office by March 31, 2009 at: [ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca) please email in using the subject line **Above the hole**, together with your contact information.

The successful applicant will receive one year paid student membership to the Association as well as a writing opportunity in "Green is Beautiful", commencing with the Spring Issue. This is a great mechanism to express yourself within the industry of your future and differentiate yourself from other interns. *Green is Beautiful* looks forward to having you on board.

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# What's new

## Mark Your Calendars

### 2009 OGSA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Event	Date	Golf Course	Host Supt.
OGSA Curling Day	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Club at North Halton	Dean Baker
CAN/AM Challenge	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Essex G&CC	Chris Andrejicka
Pro/Super Challenge	May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Kawartha G&CC	Jennifer Pendrith
Presidents' Day	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Bigwin Island	Scott Heron
Assistants Tournament	TBA	TBA	TBA
Alex McClumpha	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Summit	Phil Brown
*OTRF Fundraiser	Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	The National	Chris Dew



Details of the above OGSA 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.

\*Note The OTRF tournament is not an OGSA event. Details can be accessed on their website at [www.otrf.ca](http://www.otrf.ca)

### OGSA 2009 Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 2009 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. Sean DeSilva has left the board, fulfilling his year as past president, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Sean for his many years of service.

This year's board consists of: Past President - Jeff Stauffer; President - Randy Booker; Vice President - Jeff Alexander, Treasurer - Chris Andrejicka, Secretary - Doug Breen, Directors - Jarrod Barakett, Phil Brown, Rob Gatto, Scott Heron, Stu Leachman, Jennifer Pendrith and Phil Scully who has been appointed to the 2009 board.



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



Incoming President, Randy Booker presents Past President's Plaque to Jeff Stauffer

### 2009 MEMBERSHIP STICKERS

2009 stickers are now available for placement on your membership certificates. If required call the OGSA office at (519) 767-3341 or toll free (877) 824-6472 or email Pat at [ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca](mailto:ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca). Stickers will be mailed upon request.

### New Member Draw

Congratulations to Warwick Fynn, Technician at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club. Warwick's name was drawn from all our 2008 new member applicants, and he received a certificate for a complimentary registration to the 2010 Pre Conference Seminar at our OGSA/CGSA Joint Conference, next March.



Jeff Stauffer presents certificate to Warwick Fynn





**Welcome!**

## OGSA Welcomes our newest members

<b>John Adach</b> Lakeview Golf Course	Class F	<b>Darryl McIntyre</b> Kawartha Golf & CC	Class C	<b>Christopher Thompson</b> Lambton Golf & CC	Class C
<b>Cheyenne Amos</b> Highlands Golf Club	Class C	<b>André McNeely</b> Riverstone Golf & CC	Class C	<b>Kyle Thomson</b> Idylwylde Golf & CC	Class F
<b>Shawn Burns</b> Garden Rive Golf Resorts	Class F	<b>Loren Melhuish</b> University of Guelph	Class S	<b>Derek Tooley</b> Wooden Sticks	Class C
<b>Jeff Cardwell</b> Beacon Hall Golf Club	Class F	<b>Trevor Morvay</b> Deer Ridge Golf Club	Class F	<b>David Trainor</b> Westmount Golf & CC	Class C
<b>Andrew Clark</b> Idylwylde Golf & CC	Class F	<b>Mike Ovell</b> Rocky Crest Golf Club	Class C	<b>Meghan Van Kampen</b> River Edge Golf Club	Class F
<b>Sean Cline</b> Penn State University	Class S	<b>Michael Patrick</b> St Andrew's East Golf Club	Class C	<b>Bryan Wasyliw</b> St Andrew's Valley GC	Class C
<b>Mike Cote</b> Jewel of the North	Class A	<b>Drew Peddie</b> Caves Valley Golf Club	Class F	<b>Justin Westerink</b> University of Guelph	Class S
<b>Edward S. Doda</b> Barrie Country Club	Class A	<b>Joey Policelli</b> Carrying Place Golf & CC	Class C	<b>Matt Whillier</b> Grand Niagara Resort	Class C
<b>Alan Dolick</b> Royal Ottawa Golf Club	Class F	<b>Curt Porteous</b> Rideau View Golf Club	Class C	<b>Jason Whitwell</b> Indian Wells Golf Club	Class A
<b>Christopher Globus</b> Red Lake Area Golf & CC	Class Supt	<b>Mike Rennie</b> Blue Springs Golf Club	Class C	<b>Kory Wilson</b> Idylwylde Golf & CC	Class F
<b>Dennis Hugill</b> Penn State University	Class S	<b>Miles Seegmiller</b> Parry Sound Golf & CC	Class F	<b>Kevin Wingerden</b> CFB Borden Golf Club	Class A
<b>Eric Kirkpatrick</b> Stone Oak Country Club	Class F	<b>Ryan Sloan</b> Rideau View Golf Club	Class C	<b>Alan Wood</b> Highland Country Club	Class C
<b>Jeffry Lauzon</b> Islington Golf Club	Class C	<b>Scott K. Smelser</b> Rarity Pointe Country Club	Class F	<b>Steve Wood</b> Manitouwadge GC	Class A
<b>Rory MacLennan</b> Summerheights Golf Links	Class A	<b>Paul Snelgrove</b> Highland Country Club	Class F	<b>Fredericks McGuire Ltd</b> Tim Fredericks	Class E
<b>Gord MacMillan</b> Rideau View Golf Club	Class A	<b>David Sonley</b> Liftlock Golf Club	Class Supt	<b>Maple Hill Tree Service</b> Chris Morrison	Class E
<b>Mark McCallum</b> London Hunt & CC	Class F	<b>Ken Stein</b> Sleepy Hollow Golf Club	Class F	<b>TY Environmental Strategies</b> Teri Yamada	Class E
<b>Kevin McIntosh</b> Otter Creek Golf Club	Class F	<b>Gary Terris</b> Crimson Ridge Golf Club	Class A		



## From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau  
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

### A New Tool for an Old Pest

Annual bluegrass weevil is a serious pest of golf course turf in Ontario. Our only tool to control this pest has been chlorpyrifos, which is an old organophosphate that has been around since the mid 1960's. It was applied for the control of adult annual bluegrass weevil as they migrated from their overwintering sites in protected areas in trees and leaf litter to the edges of golf course fairways. Suggested timing is when Forsythia are just past full bloom or when they are half green and half gold. The success with this product was not reliable because the wave of adult migration was difficult to predict in the spring, especially if there was a fluctuation of temperature during the normal migration period. Research conducted by Dr. Dan Peck, Cornell University showed that depending on the year there can be one to several peaks of adult migration. Because chlorpyrifos was short lived and only really worked on the adults, the timing was critical and was only successful if the population migrated synchronously or all at once.

A new insecticide, chlorantraniliprole (trade name Acelepryn™) by DuPont was registered in 2008 to control cutworms, European chafer grubs, Japanese beetle grubs and annual bluegrass weevil. Chlorantraniliprole has a novel mode of action. It binds to one of the receptors

in insects that regulates the movement of calcium and locks the calcium channel in a partially opened state. That results in an uncontrolled release of calcium and subsequent interruption of normal muscle contractions. But mammals are not as sensitive to the disruption, so Acelepryn™ is much less toxic to mammals and other vertebrates than the "older" insecticides. It has an LD<sub>50</sub> of >5000 mg/kg body weight.

The timing for control of annual bluegrass weevil with chlorantraniliprole is the same as for chlorpyrifos, namely when overwintering adult annual bluegrass weevils are observed moving from their overwintering sites to mown turf in the spring. Again, this is when Forsythia are in the half green and half gold stage. Because chlorantraniliprole is more residual than chlorpyrifos, there is a theory that the timing for control of annual bluegrass weevil is not as critical. In addition, the label states that applications of chlroantraniliprole to control annual bluegrass weevil will also provide preventative control of European chafer and Japanese beetle grubs in the late summer. If you have areas of a golf course that have traditionally had infestations of both annual bluegrass weevils and grubs, this could help reduce overall pesticide use by applying one well timed application to target both insect pests. Chlorantraniliprole is also registered for curative control of cutworms.

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# Health & safety



by Doug Johnson  
SAFETAID - Health and  
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## What are Your Values and Ethics?

You have a fine golf course that provides quality golfing to your clientele. You pride yourself on the leadership, service and quality that you deliver. That is why you are in the golfing business.

Leaders know what they value. They also recognize the importance of ethical behaviour. The best leaders exhibit both their values and their ethics in their leadership style and actions. Your leadership ethics and values should be visible because you live them in your actions every single day. As a leader, choose the values and the ethics that are most important to you, which you believe in and that define your character. Then live them visibly every day at work. Living your values is one of the most powerful tools available to help you lead and influence others. Don't waste your best opportunity.

As the leader in your workplace have you ever thought about your values? What do you believe in? Are your suppliers, clientele and employees aware of your values? Have you written down and communicated your values to your clientele, suppliers and employees?

What are values? When you talk about values in business you should think about principles, standards and ethics. Values and ethics are what you believe in. Values and ethics are how you believe your clientele and suppliers and workers should be treated every day. Values and ethics define the quality and safety of your course and values and ethics define the health and safety culture at your golf course. Values and ethics define your working conditions.

When you value workplace safety this communicates to your workplace participants how much you value them. As the leader in your workplace take a moment and think about your workplace and write down a few words about what you believe are your values.

Write down your feelings about how you want your

workplace to be seen by your clientele, suppliers and employees. The list does not need to be long. Say it in your own words and communicate this to the workplace participants. In the world of safety we call the folks that you deal with in your workplace (the suppliers and clientele and workers) the workplace participants. And isn't this the case? All these folks participate in ensuring that your business thrives and provides a quality facility to your customers. And without the customers you have no business; so each of these partners is a participant in your business. Or as we say in the world of safety, they are the workplace participants.

Having a clear written set of ethical health and safety values is a huge step towards having a safe workplace that is built on trust, values and ethics. Often a lack of trust is a problem in many workplaces. If leaders never identified their values the mistrust can be understandable. People don't know what they can expect. If leaders have identified and shared their values and are living their values daily and visibly this will create trust. To say one thing and to do another will damage trust and place your values at risk - possibly forever.

Workplace ethics take the same route. Ethics are your principles, morals and beliefs. Leaders that exhibit ethical behaviour powerfully influence the actions of others.

As a leader, choose the values and the ethics that are most important to you, the values and ethics you believe in and that define your character. Then live them visibly every day at work.

You have a productive and ethical workplace. Make health and safety one of these values!

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# Gordon Witteveen Mentors the New Generation of Golf Superintendents

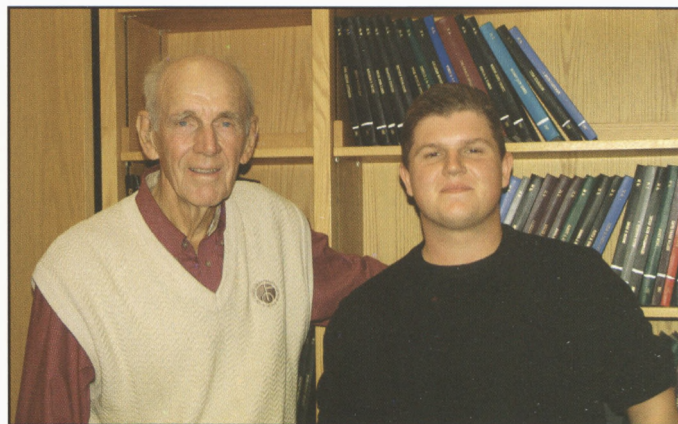
by R. Marie Thorne, Senior Turf Specialist  
Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, Inc.

I had the pleasure of accompanying Gordon Witteveen, Guest Speaker, at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Turf Club, a club comprised of students enrolled in the Turf program at the University of Guelph. Gordon was invited to speak by Justin Westerink, Turf Club President and fellow Dutchman. Gordon shared his words of wisdom in a presentation entitled "Straight from the Heart". In his unique and forthright style, he reminded his young audience, that it takes hard work, many hours, and a passion for the business to succeed as a successful golf

superintendent. He told them the things they should know, (but wouldn't be written down anywhere), the seven deadly sins, and the seven venal sins of greenkeeping, how to get a job and how to lose a job. It was really gratifying to see Gordon impart his wisdom to the new generation with the same passion as one would expect he had on the first day of the job. Despite his years, you can still see that passionate glint in his eye, as he talks turf, the golf industry and the golf superintendents' role in it.



Gordon Witteveen surrounded by members of the U of Guelph Turf Club



Gordon Witteveen and Justin Westerink, President of the U of G Turf Club

## Syngenta Super University

by Tom Brain, Superintendent  
Burlington Golf & Country Club

On December 8, 2008, nearly forty Canadian golf course superintendents exchanged the golf fairways for school hallways, as they participated in the inaugural Syngenta Super University, a unique educational initiative designed to help golf course superintendents build their business skills and enhance their course management effectiveness. "The program recognizes that golf course superintendents are spending less time caring for turf and more on business management," says Gregg Allan, Head of Lawn and Garden.

Syngenta selected golf course superintendents with proven potential to contribute to the industry, who are active members within their community, and who are life-long learners open to sharing ideas in an interactive learning environment.

Held at the prestigious Richard Ivey School of Business in London, Ontario, between December 8-11, 2008, the invitation-only program provided leading golf course superintendents with an opportunity to hone the business skills that are critical to managing successful golf course operations. The program included interactive workshops and case studies to help participants expand their knowledge on key topics such as recruiting, selecting and motivating staff, projecting financial needs, communicating with stakeholders and making investment decisions.

Don Barclay, at the Richard Ivey School of Business and co-creator and director of the Syngenta Super University program



explained that, "the program is really relevant to today's golf course superintendents who need to think beyond the turf to develop working solutions for some of today's golf course issues, such as increased competition, declining rounds, increased costs of operation and the difficulties of keeping a high-end course in pristine condition day-in-day-out."

Bob Burrows, Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Club said, "The program has taught me as much about myself as it has about how I manage our staff. I will definitely be going home to reflect on what I have learned and make some adjustments in how we do business."

All in all, the program was a tremendous success and the participants left invigorated, with fresh ideas to contribute to improving their golf course operations.



## The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Chris Lecour, Course Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course, and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay is the 40<sup>th</sup> course in Ontario and the 674<sup>th</sup> in the world to receive this honour.

"We would like to thank everyone involved in this tremendous achievement. Audubon Certification for the golf course compliments our vision for the entire community at Lora Bay. Our deer yards, wildlife corridors and extensive natural park space are further enhanced by this renowned Environmental Stewardship Program ensuring that Lora Bay will always be a naturally beautiful place to live", says Jim Wilkinson, President and CEO for the Lora Bay Corporation.

Congratulations to The Raven at Lora Bay on achieving the designation "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary". For information on Audubon International [www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org).



*The Raven at Lora Bay 6th Hole*

## Donalda Club Hosts Inaugural Gardening Seminar

*by Paul Grotier, Assistant Superintendent  
Donalda Club*

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, marked the first date of what is hoped to become an annual event amongst golf course gardening circles. Twenty-one gardeners from the GTA and as far away as London and Port Carling braved a dumping of 20 cm of snow in the GTA to attend the inaugural Golf Course Gardeners Seminar at Donalda Club. Host, Brenda Noble, Head Gardener at Donalda Club, and Kyra Zeldon, Horticulturist at Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club, welcomed the group of gardeners.

A variety of speakers were invited to discuss diverse and innovative practices as it relates to gardening in a golf course setting. Speakers included: Lesa Stadnek, Head Gardener at Westview Golf Club, who shared her enthusiasm for Audubon certification and helpful hints she has learned through the certification process; Susan Hill discussed her personal experiences of being a gardener in a wide variety of roles; Caroline deVries, from Tradewinds International, provided some great ideas for designing with bulbs; Jennifer Kennedy, Fitness Manager at Donalda Club,

demonstrated a selection of key stretches and exercises to help the gardeners keep their most valuable tool in good working order; Steve Marysiuk, from Rain Bird irrigation, discussed parts of an irrigation system and some tips for water conservation; and Karen Ross, of Valleyview Gardens, gave a growers perspective of the best annuals for achieving the best success. A light lunch was offered and the seminar concluded on time in the early afternoon, despite the morning delays caused by Mother Nature.

"Based on the feedback that we received, I think that I speak for many of the other gardeners when I say that as valuable as the speakers were, the best part of the day was being able to meet and share with colleagues that we have only met on the odd occasion, know only through e-mail communications or have never met before" says Brenda. Everyone enjoyed the day and judging by the days' success, it would seem fitting that it will undoubtedly translate into another seminar being held next year.





# 15<sup>th</sup> Golf Course Hockey Challenge

by John Taylor and Scott Dodson  
Tournament Committee

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Course Hockey challenge took to the ice this past January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Fort Erie, Ontario with 12 teams representing both Canada and the United States competing for the coveted "Reel Cup."

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

The hockey was competitive but still fun, as was the Tuesday evening "attitude adjustment party" hosted by Club Car which always is one of the highlights of the event. Post game refreshments were provided by Vanden Bussche Irrigation and were greatly appreciated by all the participants. Turf Care Products sponsored the ice time for all participants, as they have for all 15 years of the tournament; no small feat considering that the tournament has grown from a 4 team one day tournament in it's first year, to its current 12 team, two day format. Special thanks to Duke Equipment and Podolinsky Equipment who provided draw prizes for the Tuesday evening party.

When all was said and done, Team Toronto # 2 squeaked out a slim 1 to 0 victory over Team Michigan in an exciting



*The Champions Team Toronto #2*

final, meaning the Reel Cup will reside north of the border, where it belongs, for the summer. Other final day action saw London hold off Northern Ontario, Kitchener got by Niagara in a shootout, ClubLink squeezed by Turfnet, Toronto # 1 took care of Plant Science, and Ottawa was victorious over Southwestern Ontario.

The tournament committee would like to thank all the sponsors, players, referees and fans who come together to make this event happen.

## 15<sup>th</sup> GOLF COURSE HOCKEY CHALLENGE RESULTS

### Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>

Michigan - 7  
Kitchener - 2

Northern Ont. - 6  
Plant Science - 2

Kitchener - 6  
Ottawa - 3

ClubLink - 7  
Plant Science - 3

Michigan - 5  
Ottawa - 3

Northern Ont. - 7  
ClubLink - 1

London - 6  
Turfnet - 2

Toronto 2 - 5  
Niagara - 1

London - 7  
SW Ont. - 2

Niagara - 3  
Toronto 1 - 2

SW Ont. - 2  
Turfnet - 2

Toronto 2 - 6  
Toronto 1 - 2

### Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup>

Toronto 1 - 3  
SW Ont. - 1

Niagara - 6  
Turfnet - 4

Toronto 2 - 4  
London - 0

Ottawa - 2  
SW Ont. - 0

ClubLink - 3  
Turfnet - 2

London - 4  
Northern Ont. - 1

Plant Science - 6  
Ottawa - 4

Kitchener - 5  
ClubLink - 4

Michigan - 3  
Northern Ont. - 0

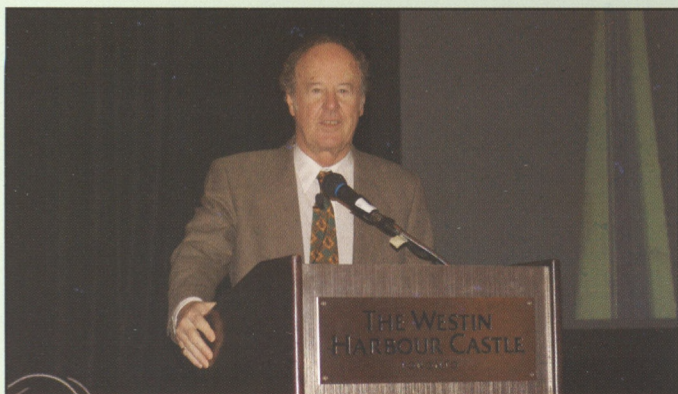
Toronto 1 - 5  
Plant Science - 1

Kitchener - 4  
Niagara - 3 (SO)

Toronto 2 - 1  
Michigan - 0



# 2009 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW



## Pre Conference Seminar

The pre conference seminar, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc, had a record attendance this year, for Dr. Vargas' full day seminar on Management Strategies for the Turfgrass System.

## Opening Ceremonies

Registrants were up bright and early on Thursday morning to listen to our keynote speaker, Brian Burke, President and General Manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs. The topic, "Most people don't want to lead; most people want to be led", was well suited to our current economic situation as it concentrated on tips for "Operating in hard times".

## Awards Luncheon

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



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

## 50 Year Member

This year we were honoured to have 2 fifty year members, Harold Myers and Gordon Witteveen. Jeff Stauffer made the presentation of a 50 year commemorative watch, as a token of appreciation for long and outstanding service to the OGSA.

Harold Myers was unable to attend the ceremonies but sent his greetings. Harold's daughter, Katrina accepted the award on his behalf.



"I am humbled and honoured to be receiving this meritorious award! My 50 year membership with the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association coincides with my 50 year graduation from Ryerson Poly Technic Inst., where I majored in Civil Engineering Technology. Of course, I had no idea where this would lead to (probably a lot of you had the same feelings of uncertainty upon graduation).

Luckily of the 3 job offers I received, I accepted the tech. rep position with a multi-national building materials company as an asbestos cement pipe specialist. A specialized use for this pipe was for irrigation purposes. Before the advent of PVC pipe, I built on this experience over the years and took advantage of the opportunities to ally myself with the golf course industry.

Among the many peers I look up to with esteem are the late Keith Nesbitt, Mac Frost and Renee Muylaert. These people gave me vision and helped me shape my goals. Rene got me started in the golf business. I am eternally grateful for this.



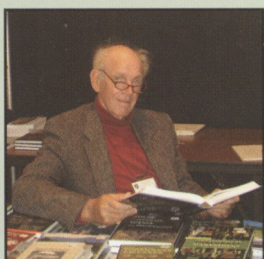
# 2009 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGE

...continued from page 13

As the owner/operator of Oakville Executive Golf Courses, I am blessed to have a wonderful family. My two daughters Alexandra & Katrina are taking over the business.

I have always been around great golf course superintendents. Steve Jones, our present superintendent for 10 years has shown he is the best.

I will work to the end because I enjoy the industry, the people who work in it, and most of all the customers. I find they give you back what you give them!"



Gordon Witteveen was unable to attend the ceremonies, but extended his thanks and best wishes from his winter home in Florida.

"Fifty years seems like a long time but it passed so quickly. I received my OAC degree in 1958 and I remember the first OGSA meeting I attended in the summer of 1958 at the St. Andrews Golf Course near Hogs Hollow in Toronto. With the encouragement of my mentor, George Darou, who was the OGSA President 1965, I persisted and look what it led to! Everyone should have a mentor!"

Gordon has received many awards throughout his career including the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, The Canadian Score Award for Superintendent of the Year, and the John B. Steel Award for his outstanding contribution to golf in Canada.

Jennifer Pendrith, who proclaims Gordon as being a mentor throughout her career, accepted the award on Gordon's behalf.

## 25 Year Member Awards

This year we have 11 twenty-five year members:

Peter Creighton, Chris Dew (not present), Robert Dixon (not present), Gary Gravett, Gavin Kellogg, Bernie Martin, Douglas Meyer (not present), Robert Pattinson (not present), Wayne Rath, Robert Robersonson, Rhod Trainor



## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

### Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary



*Rose Kirkpatrick, grandson Tyler Webb with award recipient Kevin Collier*

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

The 2008 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary was awarded to Kevin Collier, Assistant Superintendent at King Valley Golf Club. As part of Kevin's application for this scholarship, he wrote an essay on "Professional Development and Continued Education – a must for our future superintendent", which will appear on page 18 of this issue.

### Turf Managers Short Course Education Award

An annual award is given to the golf course related student, who upon completion of the program, received the highest overall mark in the course. This year's award winner is Brian Ross. At that time Brian was employed with Taboo, but is now furthering his education at Georgian College. Due to his courses, Brian was unable to be present, but we will ensure that he receives his plaque with our congratulations.

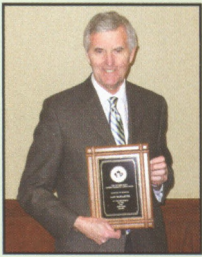
### Turfgrass Diploma Scholarship

The OGSA has developed this scholarship to recognize scholastic accomplishments and potential leadership in the field of turfgrass management. This scholarship is open to students who have completed their first year in a diploma or degree course and are attending a recognized Ontario university of college in a turfgrass study course. This year's scholarship is awarded to Cameron Kusiek, with our congratulations. Cameron is enrolled in the Associate Diploma Turfgrass Management course at the University of Guelph however, due to his course schedule, Cameron was unable to be present.



# MENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

## Heritage Scholarship



Blake McMaster



Iain McMaster

The OGSA developed this scholarship program to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren

of members of the OGSA and are studying a curriculum unrelated to Turfgrass Management.

This year's award winner is Iain McMaster. Iain is the son of OGSA member Blake McMaster, Superintendent, at Royal Montreal Golf Club, and is currently enrolled full time at Concordia University, majoring in English Literature. Iain would like to pursue a career within the academic environment, as a university professor and as a contributor to the tradition of literary criticism.

Iain was unable to be at the celebration and asked his father to accept the award on his behalf.

## GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

The criteria for awarding the Barry Endicott Article of the Year Award is based on originality, relevance, clarity, depth, style, illustrations, and readability. The articles are judged by the Editorial Advisory Committee, and voted on in December.

The recipient this year is Tom Brain, Superintendent at Burlington Golf & Country Club for his article in the May 2008 issue, entitled "Making the Move to Grey Water".

As Tom was unable to be present, Sean McIvor, Assistant Superintendent at Burlington Golf & Country Club accepted the award on his behalf.

## Photo Of The Year Award 2008

The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The photos are judged by the Editorial Advisory committee and voted on in December. The recipient this year is Daryl Jantzen, Assistant Superintendent at Lake Joseph Golf Club. Daryl's wildlife shot of a buck feeding behind the maintenance shop appeared on the cover of the December 2007 issue of *Green is Beautiful*.



## Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Award Donation

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



**VANDEN BUSSCHE**  
IRRIGATION

## I.P.M. ACCREDITATION AWARDS – LEVEL II



In grateful appreciation for the excellent contribution to the environmental success of the game of golf through successfully achieving full I.P.M. Accreditation in 2009, plaques were presented to the following golf courses:

Bathurst Glen Golf Course	Andrew Morin
Caledon Country Club	Leo Daigle
Glen Eagle Golf Club	Michael McCarthy
Granite Golf Club	Dan Brousseau
Orangeville Golf Club	Ken Manwell
Pheasant Run Golf Club	Andrew Hardy
Rideau Valley Golf Club	Gord MacMillan
Westminster Trails Golf Club	Jamie Spencer ( <i>not present</i> )
Wooden Sticks Golf	Scott Clayworth
York Downs Golf & CC	Mike Jackson

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

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



## 2009 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

...continued from page 15

### Best Booth Award

This year we presented our first annual Best Booth Award to Everett Nieuwkoop of Master's Turf Supply. The award was presented for the booth that our judges felt was the most creative and eye catching. Congratulations to Everett and his team!



Everett Nieuwkoop presented with plaque by OGSA President, Randy Booker

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WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!*

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2010 OGSA/CGSA JOINT CONFERENCE  
AT THE SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO  
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## Professional Development and Continued Education; a must for our Future Superintendent

by Kevin Collier

Winner of the 2008 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

Many industries evolve and change over time, however none more than the industry in which we are employed. The turfgrass profession is dynamic and has many dependent and independent variables which make our jobs interesting and unique each day. In order to succeed as an assistant and make the jump to a superintendent's role at a golf club one must possess many skills and traits to have a successful transition. The role of the superintendent has, and always will be drastically changing over time, and it is in our best interest as assistant superintendents to always be furthering ourselves in our apprenticeship as we seek our next challenge.

The next step is not always easy to achieve as we are in an industry that is oversupplied and the economics of this scenario will create a situation that can become tough to overcome. We all need to extend ourselves above and beyond the level of education and experience which we currently obtain. Development of our skill sets, and increasing the number of tools in our tool box will always be beneficial to achieve personal goals and create opportunities to advance.

The responsibilities of an assistant superintendent are increasing with time as the role of the superintendent becomes more complex. First and foremost, agronomy and turfgrass management are most important in our roles, however, many other roles have become extremely important such as; human resources,

business administration (economics and accounting), environmental relations and most of all continuing education and professional development are going to give us the opportunity to succeed.

Upon graduation some feel that they have sufficient tools in the box to succeed however with changing legislation, increasing minimum wage and the push for decreased pesticide use, our tools are starting to diminish, especially entering tough economic times. It is going to be difficult to continue our practices and deliver the same product if we rely on what we learned during our years completing our education. We all collectively need to push the boundaries of our tool boxes because you can always buy a larger one. The larger the resources, skills, experiences, and networks that we create will make us more marketable and successful at our current clubs and will allow for our goals to be accomplished. The future will put us in charge of the direction of the industry, and we all need to prepare for what is to come to ensure that our industry continues to be successful in the future. I want to extend a challenge to all assistant superintendents to exhaust all resources available to gain more education through seminars, conferences, associations, colleagues, colleges, universities and most importantly through our superintendent who is the most valuable resource and sometimes a friend, as we proceed to the future.

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## Member profile

### Interview with Doug Erwin, Superintendent Goodwood Golf Club

by Andy Sandilands, Superintendent  
Black Diamond Golf Club



After having enough of the indoor work environment as the dairy stocker at IGA Doug Erwin started his career in the turf business in 1991, as a summer student at Parkview Golf Club, under the direction of Dave Moon. **"After a few summers outdoors, I was hooked"**, says Doug.

In 1995 he decided to take the short course at University of Guelph and moved to the position of assistant superintendent at Parkview in 1996. An opportunity arose in 2001 to move to Angus Glen Golf Club as the assistant superintendent, working for Ernie Amsler. Doug says **"Ernie was very good at inspiring confidence in you and your abilities and always provided me with great opportunities"**. While at Angus Glen, Doug had the opportunity to help prepare the course for the Canadian Open stating, **"A big highlight was being a part of the Canadian Open and having the pro's walk on the course you spend so much time maintaining"**.

Through hard work and perseverance Doug moved onto a new grow in project as the superintendent at Goodwood Golf Club, located in Stouffville. Goodwood is a unique Donald Steele design with 100 plus acres of native fescue, meticulously matched to the existing stand.

When it comes to keeping his staff motivated, Doug tries to spend as much time interacting with his staff as he can, advocating, **"Keep people as interested and involved in day to day operations as possible, always have an ear for everybody"**.

Doug has been a member of the OGSA for 10 years and feels association membership is vital for the simple reason, it provides you with the opportunity to network and share information and to discuss the relevant issues of the day. Doug lists his proudest moment as being the birth of his daughter Casey, now 4 years old whom he spends as much free time with as possible, along with his wife Kelly who he has been with for 7 years.

#### "In the Hot Seat"

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Favourite major:                                       | Masters                                       |
| • Best piece of turf equipment ever:                     | Toro 3500D sidewinder                         |
| • Favourite golf designer:                               | Donald Steele                                 |
| • Ultimate foursome:                                     | Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Sean Bradbury |
| • Lowest round ever and where:                           | 78 at Parkview Golf Club                      |
| • Favourite movie:                                       | Any Star Wars movie                           |
| • Favourite meal:  | Fajitas at Lone Star                          |
| • What's in your CD right now:                           | Smashing Pumpkins                             |
| • Rate your lawn on a scale of 1-10:                     | 2   |
| • What would you be if not a golf course superintendent: | Musician                                      |



# Golf course highlight

## Goodwood Golf Club

5356 Concession #2  
Goodwood ON L4A 7X4  
Phone: (905) 642-0060  
Fax: (905) 642-0080  
Golf Course Superintendent:  
**Doug Erwin**  
Email: derwin@angusglen.com



Photo by Doug Erwin

### COURSE PROFILE

What region is your club located in?  
Township of Uxbridge, Durham Region

What is the classification of your club?  
Private

Size of membership and number of rounds?  
8,000 rounds (estimated)

Name of Superintendent  
Doug Erwin

How long have you been a superintendent?  
2 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?  
10 years

How many staff?  
4 year round and 14 seasonal

How many mechanics and assistants?  
Assistant: Kyle Whitham  
Equipment Manager: Kevin Hennigar

### COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?  
18

What is the yardage from back & forward tees?  
7,136 yards from back tees  
5,728 yards from front tees

What is the size of driving range and range tee?  
Range tee is 0.6 acres and range fairway is 6 acres.

How many bunkers?  
66

How many ponds, and/or how many times does water come into play?  
Large wetland area in play on 3 holes

Who was the original architect?  
Donald Steele and Associates

What was the year of original construction?  
2006/2007

What type of irrigation system?  
Toro e-osmac

What is the size of your maintenance shop?  
11,000 ft<sup>2</sup> maintenance shop with 2,550 ft<sup>2</sup> aggregate building and 1,500 ft<sup>2</sup> sprayer/fertilizer storage.

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

Greens: 3.7 acres  
Tees: 3 acres  
Fairways: 42 acres

What is your predominant grass?  
Greens, tees and fairways were seeded with Dominant Extreme bentgrass and the remainder of the property consists of fescues and native grasses.

How many USGA greens and loam greens?  
19 USGA type greens

What is the predominant soil type?  
We have very sandy soils on this property.

What equipment do you have in inventory?

- 1 Buffalo blower
- 1 Gandy 10 ft dropseeder
- 1 John Deere 244J articulating loader with tree spade, forks, 1m bucket & plow
- 2 Kubota RTV 900 trucksters
- 1 Kubota L4630D tractor
- 1 Kubota M7040D tractor
- 1 Kubota L3540 tractor
- 1 Ford Ranger 4x4
- 1 Ryan sodcutter
- 1 Salsco speedroller
- 2 Stihl chainsaws
- 2 Stihl backpack blowers
- 2 Stihl trimmers
- 1 Supertilt trailer
- 8 Toro Flex21 mowers
- 4 Toro GR 1600 mowers
- 2 Toro GM 3500D Sidewinders
- 2 Toro RM 5410 fairway units
- 1 Toro MultiPro S700 sprayer
- 1 Toro Procore 880
- 1 Toro Procore 660
- 1 set Toro verticutting heads for 5410
- 1 set Thatchaway Supasystem with verticutters and scarifiers
- 1 Turfco CR-10 material handler with conveyor and spinners

- 1 Turfco 1530 topdresser
- 1 Woods brush mower
- 12 Yamaha work carts
- 1 Dual Express 3000 grinding unit
- 1 Angle Master bedknife grinder
- 1 John Deere 550G bulldozer

### COURSE PROJECTS & PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?  
We have recently completed the construction of 18 holes and the driving range.  
Shop construction was done in-house during the winter of 2006/2007

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?  
The next five years will see the construction of the halfway house, clubhouse and luxury cottages for the members and their guests.  
We are also in the beginning stages of IPM and Audubon certification.

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Wind is an issue here. It is rare to see a calm day and spraying can be difficult. Irrigation accuracy is closely monitored. On the other hand, air movement is great except for a few isolated locations. Also, elevation changes create unique microclimates. Wear tolerance issues in our fescue primary rough areas will be an ongoing challenge. Keeping tall fescue areas thin and playable will be a key factor in the playability of this course. Tall fescues begin at 6 to 10 feet from fairway edges.

Do you have any success stories?  
Fourteen holes were completed in 2006. Seeding began August 27, just in time for all that rain. The sandy soils were the biggest factor in our success. The remaining four holes were completed and seeded by late May 2007. The course was ready to play by August. Minimal play continued until October 31.



# Beacon Hall's Irrigation System

by Colin Young, Assistant Superintendent  
Beacon Hall Golf Club

Water is to a golf course as blood is to your body. This analogy clearly illustrates how important an irrigation system is for a golf course. The current irrigation system and pump station at Beacon Hall is the original. It was installed when the golf course was being built back in 1986-1988. I first came to Beacon Hall at the end of May 2006 and since then one of the main deficiencies has been the irrigation system. The system has lasted over 20 years and has performed relatively well for its time. However, it is deteriorating at a high rate and soon the turf will suffer from this. Moreover, the demands for playing conditions have evolved over twenty years. It is now difficult to keep up these demands with our current system and we cannot do it efficiently. Paul Scenna, our superintendent had to present this to our membership and convince them that it is in the best interest of Beacon Hall to install a new irrigation system in order to preserve and protect their biggest asset..... the golf course.

The reasons that were presented for the irrigation system upgrade were as follows:

- We have limited water storage and supply so we needed a solution to meet our water requirements.
- There is inadequate irrigation infrastructure; such as piping, pump station and valves.
- Our water window is too long; we cannot put out enough water fast enough without disrupting play.
- We cannot water in products fast and efficiently enough.
- There is a lack of control when turning on heads, resulting in over watering.
- There is not enough sprinkler heads and inaccurate spacing leading to improper coverage.
- The current system is at the end of its life. Current technology has expired and the satellites that contain thirty two stations are at their limit.

After identifying the need for an irrigation system you have to come up with a plan to present it to your membership. It is their golf course and they make the final decision as to whether a new system will be installed. We hired a professional irrigation consultant,

Tim Fredericks, with Fredericks McGuire Ltd., to help with this process. He has been very good identifying the requirements to design a system to meet our needs. Leading up to the approval of the irrigation system there has been many meetings and communications to the membership. A huge communication tool is the use of pictures. Pictures speak volumes. Paul used pictures to illustrate the imperfections of our water coverage and water pressure. Pictures don't lie. They are also a good tool in explaining and giving reasoning to your membership. You are the expert and it is your job to convince the membership that the golf course needs to install a new irrigation system. In this case Paul is the expert and acts in the best interest of Beacon Hall Golf Club. He has used all his resources. He brought Tim on board to be our irrigation expert. Jeff Cardwell, the other assistant, and myself help with all the details involved with this whole process. There are many details... too many to explain in this article. These details involve permitting, contract tendering, budgeting etc. It is important to be pro active and start early, even before approval, so when it is approved you are ready. Our process before getting approval took a solid two years.



*New 25 hp pump being installed*



We needed more water to meet the requirements of our new irrigation system. Our pond that feeds our irrigation is fairly small; approximately only one acre and the deepest spot is about 7 ft. Two wells feed that pond both pumping 80 gallons per minute which is not adequate enough to keep up with our demands. Our property sits on the Oak Ridge moraine and our wells pump out of a large aquifer. We received a permit from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to increase our output of our well closest to our fourteenth hole to pull 150 gallons per minute. This in turn required us to upgrade the pump which has already been done. As well as the transfer line from a 3 inch to a 6 inch to harbour the increased water volume. Three phase power was also placed in the same trench as the transfer line which is required to run the upgraded 25 horse power pump and will run off the power at the pump house. Beacon Hall is almost entirely on sand which makes for easy digging. Nonetheless this makes for more frequent trench give ways. Therefore the whole 2100 foot run couldn't be trenched in. Where it was unstable a back hoe was needed, making the trench larger and not as clean resulting in more restoration required in the spring before the course re-opens. Because of our hilly terrain and for longevity anything over 4 inches for this job high density polyethylene pipe (HDP) was specified. With HDP all joints are fused which requires time. The contractors were on site at the end of October, a couple of weeks before starting on the course, to pre fabricate the HDP that was used for the transfer line and some of the mainline, in phase one of this job.



*Fusing Pipe*

We have the water requirements, now we have to distribute the water efficiently to our turf. This will be done through our new infrastructure comprised of proper piping, upgraded pump station, and proper valves and valve locations. Currently, if we water the

whole golf course starting at 9 pm it will run up to, until, or past the first tee time. This makes it difficult for maintenance and doesn't leave much time for the turf to dry before golf begins. Due to this we have to compromise the turf needs when setting up irrigation. After a spray or granular application to the turf we cannot pop up enough heads to water in efficiently, especially in between golf. With the new infrastructure being installed and added pressure we will be able to meet these demands and inefficiencies. Our largest pipe size currently is 6 inches which is not near enough to meet our needs especially with the topography of Beacon Hall. With increased pipe sizing and the upgrade to our pump station; we will be able to push our turf and deliver prime playing conditions with the confidence we will be able to keep up to water requirements and not compromise our turf's health.



*Increased pipe sizing and quality valves*

Valves are another important part to an irrigation system. Right now we cannot isolate the system where we want due to the lack of valves. If we wanted to close something we would have to close a large section of the golf course putting the turf at risk with no water. With the valves specified we will be able to isolate where we want and be able to keep the rest of the system live. Also, the valves specified are quality built for longevity and reliability.

Currently we are unable to water our practice range due to the limited capacity of our 800 gallon per minute pump station. The new pump station will have the capacity to pump approximately 1800 gallons per minute. This will enable our practice range to be watered, which in turn will make an improvement and add value for our members.

The pump station is the heart of the system and the current one is on its last legs and should be replaced. If the doctor tells you to replace your heart because there



is a chance it may fail and you will die you are going to replace it. If the pump station fails in mid July when there is a drought there is a good chance you will lose turf. Moreover, it is incompetent in supplying our needs. Pumps Plus has installed our new 1800 gallons per minute pump station. The pump station is a silent storm vertical variable speed pump with three pumps, each of which has a 60 horse power motor and a jockey pump with a 3 horse power motor. The variable speed will slowly deliver water and ramp up and down to meet the needs on the golf course. Variable speed is very energy efficient. With the amount of snow we have received and our hilly terrain made it difficult to get out to the pump house location. We had to create a road and once everything was out there everything went fairly well.



*Well transfer line being trenched in.*



*Trench cave in during well transfer line install.*



*Intake in irrigation pond leading to wet well*

In order to accommodate the pump station we had to increase the size of our wet well and pump house. Subsequently, we were able to push the old location back to the tree line where it will be out of sight. The install of the new intake and wet well chamber went fairly smoothly because again we are on sand. We had to go 20 feet deep for the intake to work making the hole 40 feet wide, nevertheless it was a big dig. Our irrigation pond is clay lined and we had to be very careful putting in the intake due to this, and restoring the face where disturbed. After the intake was installed the clay was put back and compacted on the disturbed face with added bentonite for insurance. The concrete pad was poured for the pump house and the wet well chamber was keyed in. North Gate Farms was the contractor who completed all of this.

We live in a competitive age and the golf world is always evolving making it difficult for turf managers to keep up with the demands. Currently we lack the control to be more efficient and the number of sprinkler heads for proper coverage. In short, too much is turned on to cover a specific spot and water is placed in undesirable areas such as fescue. Consequently, fescue becomes undesirably thick and in some cases unplayable. There will be heads placed along the edge of the fescue only throwing water in. Our "goat paths" which are paths through the fescue for golfers to walk currently do not receive water making them aesthetically unpleasing. The new system will supply water to these areas. Since they are not very wide they require residential heads properly spaced. We will have single head control rather than multiple head control. When we want to water the rough we have to water the fairways as well due to the lack of control. With the new design we will be able to place water where needed. With the increasing demand for water, control of our irrigation system is imperative. We will be able to water efficiently with what water we are given in the future.



There are not enough sprinkler heads and improper spacing deprives water to some areas of turf. We deal with these areas by setting up manual impact sprinkler heads and in some cases hand watering. There is no even water distribution with manual impact sprinkler heads and a lot of the time we tend to over water leading to bad plant health and inferior playing conditions. Not to mention, disrupting play.

Our property is very prone to lightning damage. To help combat this we are installing the new Toro VP series satellites and the new 800S series sprinklers with the spike-guard solenoid. The VP satellites will also help with single head control allowing for 64 stations and enabling us to run up to 32 stations simultaneously. Also in the specifications is efficient grounding for everything in the system.

There is so much that goes into designing an irrigation system from pipe sizing, pressure requirements, head spacing, head selection, nozzle selection, flow, water resource, isolation and pressure relief valves. Taking all of this and making everything work in harmony to meet your requirements is difficult and is the reason you hire a professional consultant. Everything that is in the specifications is geared towards longevity. A lot of it involves detailed tedious work but if not done defeats our purpose. Dealing with contractors can be difficult when making sure this type of work is done and it is our job to make sure it does get done. Having Tim Fredericks and Jeff McGuire, his associate, on board as our consultants has been great. They are very meticulous and act in the best interest of Beacon Hall. They created the design and specifications and we make sure they are carried out along with their help. NMP the contractors installing the system have been great to deal with and they are excited about the project, just as we are.

Furthermore, you can't just scrap the old system and put in the new. During this whole process we have to keep the course alive or all of this will mean nothing. With all of the trenching going on and that will continue to go on you need locates to make sure the old system is not destroyed. Jeff Cardwell has extensive knowledge of our current system and ensures that the contractors know where everything is. In the specification of the

new design there is colour coated tracer wire with all pipes that goes into the ground making it easy for future locates.



*Upgraded pump station. The building is currently being built.*

Phase one including the new transfer line, pump station install, some main line and everything tying into the existing system for start up next season is almost complete. They will have to come back in spring to restore everything back to normal before play re-opens. Phase two with some mainline work, satellite installs in fescue and out of play areas will start in mid summer with hole closures starting September 1.

We want an irrigation system that will benefit Beacon Hall the most with no frills. Proper pipe sizing, upgraded pump station, single head control, and good quality valves but not having the luxury of a weather station meets this requirement. We used the analogy, "We don't want a Cadillac but we want a Volvo that will last 40 years". A lot of effort and hard work has been put forward to make all of this happen and there is a lot more to be done. It is an exciting time for us and I am certainly looking forward to all of it!



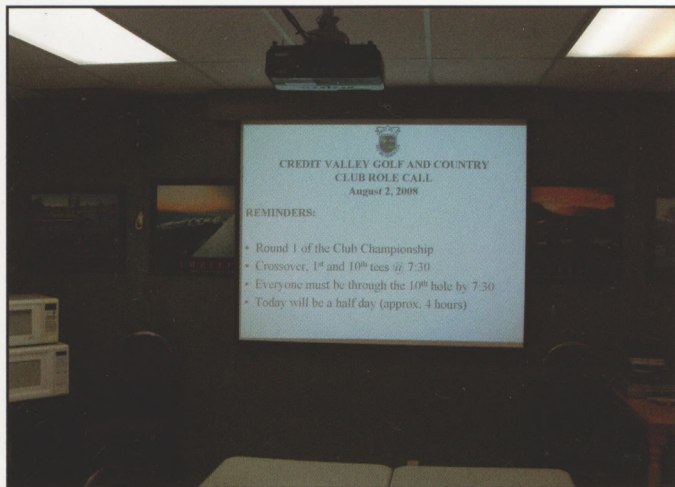


# Second to one

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

## A Powerful Tool

It seems with each new year, businesses must continue to improve organization and efficiency at all levels and there is certainly no exception to this rule in the golf industry. Wages and salaries often represent the greatest portion of the operating budget and combine this with the increasing demand on improving and implementing health and safety and training programs for the staff, it's extremely important that this valuable resource and expense is managed as efficiently as possible. Considering the nature and challenges of employing seasonal staff, such as high turn over rates and different demographics, it can be challenging to achieve this. When it comes to the question, "How can we better communicate, educate, motivate and inform our staff to get the most out of them?" it can be challenging to come up with suitable or realistic answers. One possible solution to this challenge that we have implemented is the use of a digital projector.



After completing our projector setup in early 2008, the projector was first utilized for new staff orientation through Power Point presentations. As it was necessary to train staff on equipment, training videos were used as a portion of a comprehensive equipment training program. Through having the ability to utilize training videos and online training (quizzes) offered by manufacturers, the staff was well informed receiving a good portion of training before even leaving the shop.

To aid in the efficiency of morning meetings, the daily forecast or radar can be displayed to inform staff of working conditions for the day ahead allowing them to

dress appropriately to promptly head out to their assigned jobs after the morning meeting. With staff being properly dressed for the weather or taking the necessary clothes with them, staff were often more comfortable requiring less trips back to the shop as weather conditions often change throughout the day.

Daily job assignments can be simplified through Power Point presentation templates designed for different needs depending on your facility such as shotguns, special events, cutting days, course aerification, etc. When working with templates, staff names can simply be input into the presentation in a timely manner. This can allow the presentation to be cycled for a short time before addressing the staff. As a result, all staff are already aware and educated for their first jobs for the day. Precious time during the meeting can be allocated to highlight special points for the days' jobs or discussing details regarding events or issues with staff.

Since implementing this presentation method, staff are better informed and prepared for the day's events with fewer instances of miscommunication or mistakes, which have a greater tendency to occur through verbal communication or if the daily instructions may not have time to sink in. Through increasing efficiency, staff have responded well, often increasing motivation and morale.

As we have only taken advantage of this technology for one year we look forward to the future as we attempt to take further advantage of online training, organizational and motivational tools. If you choose to try this method or something similar at your facility I'm confident you will find the same.

An advertisement for Robert Kains Golf Course Design Ltd. It features a logo with a stylized 'K' inside a green circle. The background is a photograph of a golf course with a pond and trees. Text on the advertisement includes the company name, a tagline 'Providing the Canadian and International golf communities with a progressive design philosophy and dedication to quality', and contact details: 201-902 8th Street, Canmore, Alberta, Canada T1W 2B8; Phone: 403-678-6980, Fax: 403-678-3841; Email: KAINS@KAINSGOLFDESIGN.COM; Web: WWW.KAINSGOLFDESIGN.COM.

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# OUT OF AFRICA

by Warwick Fynn, Technician  
Credit Valley Golf & Country Club

As I sit here one Saturday morning and watch the snow falling through the window and the temperature sitting at a chilly -12 °C, I realize again how new I am to this beautiful country, Canada. I do miss South Africa tremendously but know that this is my new home and that I am determined to make the best of my new life. My name is Warwick Fynn and I am a superintendent from Johannesburg, South Africa and this is my story of my introduction into the Canadian golf course management industry.

I was born in Zimbabwe and at the age of 5 my parents immigrated to South Africa where I grew up and became a citizen. On the 4th of July, 2008 my wife 'a Canadian' and I landed at Pearson International Airport after applying and being accepted as a permanent resident. I realize now that she was very smart in selecting the dates to arrive here, as she knew that I had never seen proper snow and experienced temperatures much less than 0°C. She tells me now that she really did not want to shock my system with snow piled up 6ft high along the roads and only a high of -14°C!

In South Africa I was the head superintendent at Glendower Golf Club, a private golf course in Johannesburg, where I spent two fantastic years. I have been in the golf course management industry for 8 years and in that time was made chairman of our provincial association called the GCMGA (Golf Course Managers and Greenkeepers Association) and in February 2008 was made chairman of our National body called the SAGGA (South African Golf Greenkeepers Association). Over the past 9 years I created numerous valuable networks within the industry, made some great friends and had worked very hard for my achievements. Honestly, one of the hardest things when leaving South Africa, was knowing that I was going to be starting that process once more.



*Glendower Golf Club*

One of my first objectives when arriving here was to find a permanent position at a pretty tough time of the year. My other concern when I was seeking a position was what type of position exactly that I would be looking for? Although I had already been a head superintendent

for two years, and an assistant superintendent for 5 years at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club, it was not going to be feasible for me to seek the same position that I had. My objective then became to find a permanent position as a technician or as an assistant and join a management team that is motivated, passionate, committed and integrity based with the desire to constantly perfect and develop. Fortunately, with the networking that I did before leaving South Africa, I had been in contact with Jason Hanna of Credit Valley Golf and Country Club and he had agreed to meet with me once I arrived. I met with Jason and Jeff Stauffer, Superintendent and well known personality in the industry, and while finding out about the Canadian golf industry I was blown away by the professionalism and interest that both Jeff and Jason expressed to me. At the same meeting I was very fortunate to also be offered a permanent position as a technician at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club. Since then I have learned that I am very fortunate to have two dynamic individuals that I am able to learn from and highly respect.

In writing this article, I am hoping to show how a superintendent operates in a third world country and to give you an idea of how different, yet similar, our countries are as we all work towards a common goal of maintaining perfectly manicured golf courses fit for world renowned golfers.

For golfing enthusiasts, South Africa is said to be an incredible golfing destination, with its fantastic climate and top class golf courses. Probably, the most famous golf course is the Gary Player Country Club at Sun City just 2 hours out of Johannesburg. It also hosts the Annual Nedbank Golf Challenge, which offers the largest first prize of any golf tournament in the world.



*Sun City Nedbank Golf Challenge*

There are many other world-class courses that have featured on both the European PGA Tour as well as the local Sunshine Tour, and a wealth of other excellent courses.



South Africa over the years has produced some of the finest golfers, these include Gary Player, Bobby Locke, Ernie Els "The big easy", Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman who are all Major winners.



*Royal JHB & Kensington #.11 East Course*

In Johannesburg, where I grew up, we had a variety of different kinds of courses, which provides a great selection of golf course architecture. The summer climate in Johannesburg is ideal for growing grass, with the temperatures ranging from a minimum of 17°C to a maximum of 30°C, low humidity range, and a summer rainfall of +/- 650mm. Our winters were mild, to put it lightly, compared to here! The temperatures over night could often go as low as 0°C but by mid day it would average 17°C. It might be hard to believe, but in the winter of 2007, we experienced our first snow fall (+/- 1cm) in a very, very long time, which happened to be pretty exciting for us! Frost was a given on most winter mornings, and soon after the first couple of frosts, our warm season kikuyu started to turn brown and go into dormancy.



*Bunker rake with frost*

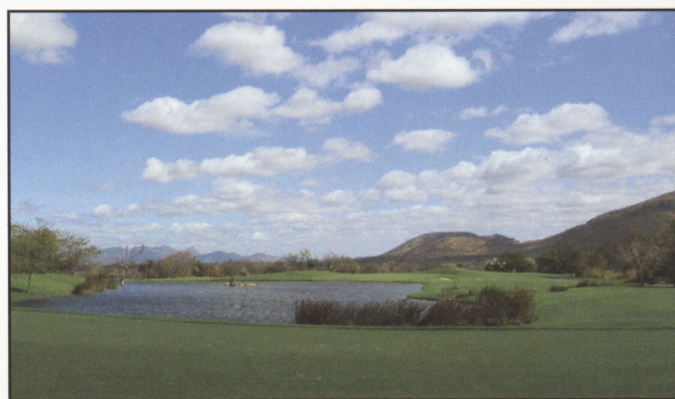
On the courses I have worked on, they all use bentgrass (L93 and Pennncross) on the greens, tees and fairways were Kikuyu (Pennisetum clandestinum) and the rough was a blend of kikuyu and indigenous wild grasses. Below is a photo at the Royal JHB & Kensington Golf Club, which was the first golf course in South Africa to become Audubon Certified, and I was able to assist with that process when I worked there.



*Royal JHB & Kensington Golf Club was the first golf course in South Africa to become Audubon Certified*

Disease problems on the bents were very similar to here. The biggest problem was on the fairways, called Kikuyu patch / Kikuyu yellows which looks very similar to Spring dead spot on bermudagrass.

Unique courses in South Africa include Leopard Creek, where they are situated in the bushveld with wild animals roaming free about the course. Each time you play it was like you are on safari. Leopard Creek also hosted the 2008 Talking Turf where Dr. J.M. Vargas was the guest speaker.

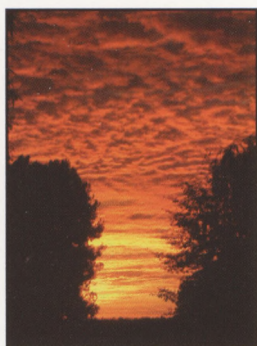


*Leopard Creek CC bordering the Kruger National Park*



My summer mornings usually started at 5:00AM with a beautiful sunrise and a walk down a dusty road to my workshop.





*Sunrise on my way to work*

All the course staff lived on the property which made it very convenient for our early morning starts and also meant there should be no excuses for arriving late to the job. I had my "usual suspects" who would take their chances, usually after pay day at the end of the month, when they could afford a case of beers for a little party the evening prior. At 5:50AM the staff

would clock in on a finger scanning clock system and would then gather together for the tasks to be issued by our assistant superintendent and then translated into Zulu, one common African language, to clarify any confusion. One of the sad realities in South Africa is that a large portion of the population are uneducated and for the majority of the staff only had schooling till the age of about 12, with some never having the option of any type of schooling. Our course staff compliment was 30, including myself and the workshop manager, whom were all permanent, as the course stayed open 363 days a year. We were all very fortunate to have our jobs, especially when you knew that the South African unemployment rate was sitting at 40% of a population of 46 million.

A large portion of the morning was spent monitoring if the correct instructions were followed and that the tasks were being done in line with the prescribed standards. For some of the staff, remembering a simple instruction or a standard like to 'cut a straight line' can take many hours of persistent training and constant reminders. Communication, including the instructions of standards, rules and regulations were very difficult to teach due to language barriers, as South Africa has 11 official languages, as well as poor literacy skills. My best form of training was visual training DVD's provided by the equipment companies and the GCSAA golf course maintenance DVD's which then led into the practical on site training.

Another sad reality in South Africa is the HIV/AIDS pandemic, resulting in an alarmingly high death rate and unfortunately has affected the staff I have worked with over the past few years. A very difficult situation to deal with especially when I had worked with these people for a number of years.



*Royal JHB & Kensington Golf Club course staff*

After 10:00 AM, the majority of my staff would get ready for the secondary jobs on the course. These involve detailed work activities such as, planting trees, trimming around the trees, bridges, bunker edges, sprinkler head cleaning etc. All these jobs need to be consistently monitored by the assistants as correct procedures and standards were often forgotten about. What I would often have to remind myself is to have patience and that things would come together with more experience. Before I delve into the next paragraph I want to outline the cost of living in South Africa, and the current exchange rate of our local currency, South African Rands to Canadian Dollars.

- 1 Canadian Dollar = 8 Rands (All calculations below were determined using this exchange rate)
- A round of golf at a private golf course = +/- \$35.00
- Food generally is about ½ the price to Canada
- Housing is about ½ the price
- The average budget of an 18 hole private golf club was +/- \$ 500,000 per year

Daily staff motivation and enthusiasm seemed to always be a problem, partly due to extremely low salaries, especially if compared to here. The golf courses hourly rates when converted to Canadian Dollars was +/- \$2 and hour which equated to +/- \$320 a month, and an even more alarming fact is that the national minimum hourly wage was less than a \$1.00 per hour! As the leader of this team one thing I always found handy to lift spirits and to create team camaraderie was to organize braais (barbeques) together. This would usually take place outside the workshop during one of the quieter days of the week. The assistants and I would braai some boerewors, chicken and steaks, and serve drinks while the staff relaxed and enjoyed themselves. We would probably braai about 3-4 times a year, and it definitely created team spirit and lifted morale.

Glendower management was exceptionally creative in their team building sessions, including one very memorable day where we took the whole staff complement to Cape Town, South Africa. The flight to Cape Town was a new and scary experience for most of the employees, as only 5 out of the 85 staff had flown in a plane. Once in Cape Town we had a boat ride, also a first time experience for most and a visit to Robin Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned. As you can imagine, this was an unforgettable experience for all.

The second part of my day, would then include myself meeting with the assistants at 10:30 AM to review and combine my scouting/drive-thru list with theirs to prioritize duties into a master list. It would require that we were all on the "same page" to ensure the priorities were successfully completed. At 2:30 PM the staff would clock out and I would then spend an hour or two on duties for the association. Both our local association (GCMGA) and the national association (SAGGA) were quite a challenge to lead, as very few people were willing to give of their time. Myself, and a few of my superintendent friends, found this



aspect of our career to be extremely rewarding and exciting to see the industry develop and succeed.

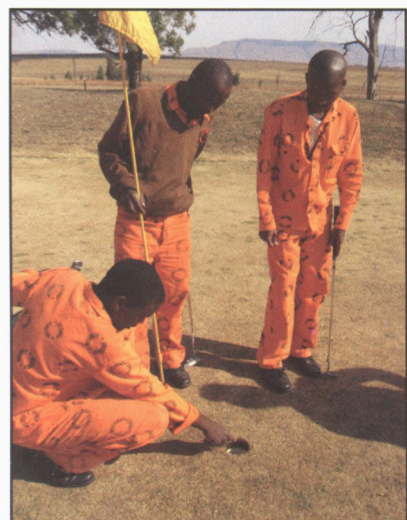
Initiatives that the GCMGA achieved and are still trying to achieve are the following:



*FEGGA Roadshow to South Africa 2007*

- FEGGA (Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association) Roadshow to South Africa.
- A successful graduation of six offenders on the Golf wise programme at Glencoe prison. This initiative is where the South African PGA and GCMGA worked together to give back to the community. Six Offenders in their final year in prison where selected for the programme who were then equipped with knowledge in understanding the game of golf as well as the basic skills needed to maintain golf courses.
- The official formation and signing of the new national body SAGGA constitution.
- My successful trip to the "Home of Golf" in St. Andrews, Scotland, for the negotiations and planning with Elmwood College, for the way forward in the greenkeeper education programme for South African. Funding is still being raised to officially launch this initiative.

As the day would come to a close, there would be a monthly greens committee meeting at 5:30 PM. After the



*Glencoe Prison initiative*

meeting, I would then return to my office to review the irrigation programmes set and call it a day. By this time the sun was setting and I would head back down the dusty road, sometimes take a few photos of the course and sunset, and head for home after a long, yet incredibly rewarding day at my South African office.





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# On the REEL side of things



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

## When you look good, you feel good

There really aren't too many differences between servicing your equipment in the winter rather than during the golf season other than you can usually plan and execute your work, likely without interruption and that the shop floor will be a little colder. Your machinery should have been cleaned before it was put to bed at the end of the season and if it wasn't you'll have to figure out a way to get it done before you roll it into the shop for its winter going over. A thorough cleaning will help to keep debris from entering components and systems when changing fluids and filters and will make it easier to spot other problems. While engineers have been working hard in recent years to design equipment with components that are easier to access, there are still lots of places underneath that won't get touched by normal everyday washing and these are the places that really need to be cleaned at least once per year. Over time, these accumulations can accelerate the wear and reduce the cooling efficiency of hydraulic hoses and tubing. Rotting clippings and fertilizer residue will encourage rust and corrosion to develop in these hidden areas and you could potentially find yourself faced with major frame and component failure that is completely unnecessary and entirely preventable. Even something as seemingly insignificant as a rusted

nut and bolt in a hard to reach area can turn what should be a straight forward job into a time consuming, frustrating nightmare. Cleaning with water only can actually accelerate this process by keeping these areas perpetually moist and can also help to pack the debris into cooling fans and radiators that rely on the passage of clean air to cool internal components and fluids. Using compressed air to clear any remaining dried clippings, leaves, dust and dirt before you hit it with the water will help to ensure that all this doesn't become a permanent part of your machinery. Don't be afraid to get in there and physically remove this stuff, just be careful, take your time and don't use any sharp implements as you may do more damage by poking around with a screw driver or scraper than if you left it alone. Never do any washing or reach in to any piece of equipment with the engine running and of course, always wear your personal protective equipment, especially the safety glasses as I have found that while trying to clean awkward areas, stuff goes everywhere and if it can get into your eyes, trust me it will. TIP: Using a reusable insulated travel mug with a lid not only keeps your coffee hot longer but is better for the environment and perhaps most importantly keeps all this crap from landing in your mug so your last mouthful is grit free!

Some things to watch out for...

pressure washers are great for cleaning exterior body panels and the like but keep in mind that they are called "pressure" washers for a reason and it goes without saying that they should never be directed towards any person or body part. Make a serious effort to avoid spraying high pressure water at or directly on sealed bearing housings, air intake or exhaust apparatus or any electrical components, sealed or not, as water and electricity do not mix and once again, if it can find a way in there it will.

We are fortunate in most of Ontario that Mother Nature generally gives us a few opportunities during the winter months to get this cleaning done while it's not too cold out. Maybe I'm just getting soft but I like to take advantage of these warmer days to prep several machines at once for their up coming service. The water doesn't turn instantly to ice and your fingers will function longer. It can also be an opportunity to add some air to any tires that have gone soft as leaving them half inflated or sitting on the rim can damage the sidewalls setting the stage for potential mid-season flats. Weak batteries are easier to find in the cold as most turf equipment is not designed to be run in sub zero conditions and in an effort to reduce weight and save space are equipped with batteries that have lower cold cranking amp (CCA) values. This should be indicated on a label on the battery. Basically, the higher the number the colder the temperature the battery will perform in. I don't recommend starting these machines when it is below zero (especially anything with a hydraulic system be it a transmission or auxiliary system) but if you have to, let them run as long as you can so the internal oils have time to reach operating temperature before you put them under load. Cold oil is thick and harder to move through pumps, valves and motors and can cause a "lack of lubrication" condition that will

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dramatically shorten the functional lifespan of these components. Temperature differentials can also lead to the formation of condensation in the oil and we all know that oil and water don't mix.

Now I know that this is the "winter" issue but let's face it, winter is almost over and if you're at a facility where most are laid off for the winter months and you are just now thinking about digging through that snow drift that is slowly shrinking from in front of the equipment barn door, best get a move on as you have lots to do to make sure your machines are ready for that first cut of the season.

If someone else is doing your reels for you then get them off and send them out now or you'll risk not having them back in time. If you're doing your own sharpening, don't neglect to check the condition of the bearings and seals in both the reel and rollers. Oily seepage is an indication of worn seals and if the grease can get out then water and debris can get in and it is likely that the bearing has already been damaged to the point where it will need replacing.

The bearings in the rollers are every bit as important as the reel bearings as the rollers are what support the reel, carry it on the turf and control your height of cut. It only takes a tiny bit of play in a roller bearing to show up as a cutting mismatch so use this rule of thumb...if your hand can feel it; your eye will see it.

It is true that oil is the life blood of your engine and changing it on a regular basis will help to ensure that the engine will last as long as the rest of the machine. Typically, engine manufacturers recommend changing the engine oil filter at every second oil change but seeing as the filter is a comparatively inexpensive part that performs an extremely important function, I prefer to install a new one with each oil change. Trying to save a few bucks here is just a bad idea. Also, you should pay attention to the hydraulic oil. Make note of the change intervals noted in your operators manual and though you may not have reached enough hours during the previous season to warrant a change now, keep in mind that you'll probably go over if you leave it till next

winter to change it. If you don't plan on keeping a close watch during the season, why not do it now? At the very least, spin on a new hydraulic filter and top off the oil because this will, as with the engine, help to remove any contaminants that can travel through the entire hydraulic system, doing costly and otherwise avoidable damage to pumps, motors and rams etc.

Changing the fuel filters on an annual basis is another good way to ensure that your engine has a clean supply of fuel to run on. It doesn't take much to clog a port or stick a float needle in a carburetor and I've been told that something as small as a grain of talcum powder can damage a fuel injector. They come in all different shapes and designs and are often hidden from view under fuel tanks and along frame components and several machines have more than one. Gas powered equipment usually has in-line filters while diesels can have both in-line and canister or cartridge type water separators that all require periodic attention. Be cautious though when disconnecting filters or the fuel lines to and from them as they can sometimes still be under pressure so taking a moment to check the manual for any depressurizing instructions is a good idea and always wear eye and skin protection when dealing with fuel system components.

Another important safety system that often gets overlooked is the brakes, until they stop working that is. Usually a simple cleaning and adjustment is all that is required but if you find any components that have seized, broken or are simply worn out then you must repair or replace them and ensure that they are functioning properly

before you allow anyone to operate that machine. And while we're talking safety, make sure that all safety interlock switches are functioning as they should. These safety features are all described in the owner's manual so take a moment while sipping on your favorite hot beverage to review this info then plant your butt in the seat and run through them. The days of simply bypassing a faulty switch are over. Sure you can still do it but you do so at your own peril. If you or your operator have an accident and it is discovered that you have knowingly allowed this machine to go out with a faulty safety system component then quite frankly, you deserve what's coming to you.

There are a lot of things to think about when servicing your equipment but thankfully, it's all written down for you...somewhere. You just have to use the operator's and parts manuals that came with your machine to find it. Your distributor is another great resource and they all have service departments that are staffed with highly trained and knowledgeable staff that know these machines. Chances are that they already have the answer to your question and if they don't, they'll make every effort to find out...it's what they do.

I hope that you will all have a chance to take advantage of at least one of the many educational opportunities that are available over the winter months and while you're at it, try expanding your horizons by sitting in on a seminar that might be outside of your realm of responsibility. It's a great way to gain a new perspective and who knows, you might just learn something new...and that's never a bad thing.



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# Above the hole

by Tyler Webb, Student and Intern

As a student at Guelph we see a lot of snippets; snippets here and there of the golf industry in Ontario, North America and the world at large. Samplings of people, places, things, ideas, and experiences greet us everyday inside of class and out. The problem, if it can be called a problem, is a lack of context. Better yet, it's the lack of a big picture. From all the people we hear from, the places we go, the ideas we talk about and experiences we share its hard to figure out how it all fits together into a bigger picture, even harder to figure out what that picture looks like. Luckily this problem, as I found out last month, has a solution; the OGCM Conference and Trade Show. I attended my first OGCM Conference this year and was struck by three things that helped put all those snippets - each speaker, lecture, and field trip - into perspective.

The first thing that stuck out and struck me was that everyone in attendance were real people. That is to say, everyone I saw were everyday normal people - not professors or guest speakers - just real people united by some common ground. It's hard sometimes to consolidate school life with real life. On one hand you have classes, assignments and professors and on the other you have working hours, jobs and bosses. The two don't seem to mix and the realization that the people who have populated my experiences at Guelph are real everyday people and not an extension of the school or program itself, gave my vision of the big picture a much needed humanity.

The next thing was the real professionalism I saw and felt a part of. For the first time I could look around me and see my profession, and the people who populate it. I was no longer restricted in my vision to 18 holes of a home golf course, or six classes a semester at school. There was in front of me the whole industry I've become a part of, which put into perspective our connections and diversity within this single professional field.

Lastly, I must preface by saying that I was lucky enough to be invited to the awards luncheon during which a slideshow of photos from the old to the new played. Hearing the stories that accompanied each picture, seeing the people around me in those same pictures, their recognition for each event that the pictures recorded and the genuine laughter and joy they expressed at reliving those memories I was struck by the real history we have in this organization.

At the end of the day my experience at the OGCM

Conference was informative, fun and interesting, but most importantly put 6 years of working in the turf industry into perspective - a tall order for one day. And although my second to (hopefully) 25th conference may not feel as new and perspective changing as the first, I look forward to them, to getting to know those real people in our profession and becoming a part of the history we all share.

*The University of Guelph cannon gets 'turfed', a yearly tradition for Turfgrass students at Guelph. Included this year was a teeing area, bunker and green complete with pin.*

*Photo by: Becky Eggett of Turfgrass 10A*





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# University of Guelph update

by Eric Lyons and Katerina Jordan

Assistant Professors, Department of Plant, Agriculture, U of G

## Water water everywhere?

Despite the amount of snow and rainfall since the Fall of 2007 water usage will remain an issue, particularly within urban centers and to those who work in turfgrass management, especially on golf courses. Golf is considered a luxury consumer of fresh water so now, more than ever, the golf industry is looking to alternative sources of water. In this search many sources have been identified and some have even been implemented on a limited scale. Research and understanding of the effects of these alternative water sources on turfgrass quality is very limited but there are some things to be aware of when exploring these sources.

### Turning to Alternatives

As demand for fresh water intensifies, the need for alternative sources for irrigation is increasing. In 1995, approximately 2.3 billion people world-wide lived in water-stressed river basins and it is believed that this could increase to 3.5 billion by 2025. Irrigation with reclaimed water could alleviate the water limitations created in part by increasing demands. Currently, around 20 million hectares (~ 50 million acres) of land are irrigated with wastewater world-wide, and this is likely to increase markedly during the next few decades as water stress intensifies (Hamilton, A.J. 2007). However, the long-term effects of wastewater irrigation have not been thoroughly studied. A recent paper on the subject identified the following areas as requiring greater understanding for the long-term sustainability of wastewater irrigation: (i) accumulation of bioavailable forms of heavy metals in soils, (ii) environmental fate of organics in wastewater-irrigated soils, (iii) influence of reuse schemes on catchment hydrology, including transport of salt loads, (iv) microbiological contamination risks for aquifers and surface waters, (v) transfer efficiencies of chemical contaminants from soil to plants, and (vi) health effects of chronic exposure to chemical contaminants (Hamilton, A.J. 2007).

### Environmental benefits and concerns

Nutrients and other salts present in waste treatment liquid by-products go unused and can lead to environmental pollution if the water is not properly disposed. However, treated waste-water can be used as a supplemental source of nutrients for plant production, with additional nutrients added (Michitsch et al., 2007). Thus growing turfgrass with sewage water potentially paves a way for effective disposal of sewage water and subsequently pollution control (Thanunathan et al., 2000). There are examples of this being put into practice with varying success throughout the world.

One golf course using treated sewage water is Wynstone Golf Club outside Chicago in Illinois. The course, a Jack

Nicklaus signature design, opened in 1989 and has a very interesting arrangement with the surrounding community that came about as the development was being planned. There was a limit to the amount of treated sewage water that the local rivers could safely handle so in order to move forward with the proposed development a non-traditional way to handle the increase in treated sewage needed to be explored. The solution was to apply the treated sewage to the golf course as opposed to disposing of it into the river. The golf course is required to use in excess of 75 million gallons of treated sewage wastewater a year. This is more than three times the typical water usage for a golf course in the Chicago-land area.

A large holding pond next to the maintenance facility accepts the treated water from the surrounding community. This pond is used for irrigating the property and the water use is monitored closely to ensure that the course is using the water at a sufficient rate. In wet years and during times of excessive rainfall it becomes difficult to manage the golf course because in addition to the rainfall there is the obligation to dispose of the water from the holding pond. Many areas of the golf course have been converted into naturalized areas to eliminate traffic and to allow for saturation of the soils for prolonged periods. One of the greatest concerns with the use of the treated water is potential environmental risk. To monitor this risk testing wells have been placed throughout the property to make sure that the grass is doing its job and properly filtering any undesirable material out of the water. In addition, the many water hazards around the course are tested regularly to ensure that there is no contamination from the reclaimed water. The freshwater ponds found throughout the course are not connected to the reclaimed water and present a significant challenge by limiting the area of the course to which the treated sewage can be applied.



*Holding pond for the treated municipal waste water*



The quality of the treated water is also an issue. One of the biggest issues with the use of treated municipal wastewater is the salt and sodium content. Often water captured from parking lots and roadways has significant salt and sodium contamination, but in the case of Wynstone the salt was coming from a very different source, water softeners. Water softeners reduce the amount of calcium and magnesium in water by replacing it with sodium. This process creates a large amount of salt water. In order to overcome the issues with the sodium in the water the golf course tried to replace the sodium based softener salt with a salt that contained something the grass actually needed, potassium. The potassium based softener salt was delivered to the home owners and helped alleviate some of the problems associated with the excessive sodium content but the cost of providing the homeowners with the more expensive salt was prohibitive.

Issues from applying excessive amounts of water to the land that would normally be minor annoyances can become much greater problems. One such example is the handling of rainwater run off from the surrounding houses. Anytime a landscaping project is completed it can change the amount of water entering the golf course property through above or below ground run off. What would have been small amounts of runoff under normal circumstances now has major effect in an area that is already handling excessive amounts of water. Despite the young age of the course the greens are dominated by annual bluegrass. This may very well be due to reduced rooting because of the poor irrigation water quality and the fact that the greens are rarely able to dry out. Annual bluegrass has the ability to survive with limited root mass so may be selected for in an area of poorer water quality. Finally, wear is an issue at every golf course, but even more so at Wynstone because of constant wet conditions in certain areas.



*Large amount of annual bluegrass on the greens*

Despite the challenges concerning excessive water and poor water quality the Director of Grounds and Greens Operations, Curtis James, is able to maintain wonderful playing conditions on the golf course. In addition, the course provides a needed service by acting as a filter for

treated municipal wastewater and ensuring that the water is of much better quality before reaching the groundwater system. Besides, one would think that during the seasons when natural rainfall is limiting, the stipulation for water use is likely a blessing rather than a curse.

Wynstone Golf Club is just one of many golf courses using treated municipal sewage water as a source of irrigation water. Some of these other courses have agreed to dispose of a certain amount of water per year and have specific agreements regarding the quality of water coming from the wastewater treatment plant while others have no formal agreements at all. Some courses are exclusively on reclaimed water while others have a freshwater source with which to flush the soil. In many cases, it is unclear what the long-term effects of wastewater as an irrigation source will be on soil and turfgrass health and quality. In some cases, obvious problems have been linked to wastewater irrigation, such as the complete defoliation and loss of trees that happened to lie in the path of the irrigation system. Either way, with growing concerns regarding the limited water supply in our urban centers and the increased concern of how treated municipal wastewater might be polluting fresh water lakes, the move towards using reclaimed water as an irrigation source is happening. There are many challenges that must be overcome, and as it occurs new challenges will present themselves. It is not a move that should be made lightly, and much more research is needed to determine both short-term and long-term effects. In the past year a multi-year research project funded by the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has been initiated at the GTI to explore the challenges of moving to reclaimed water sources in turfgrass management. Through this research we hope to create a knowledgebase from which to guide turf managers in the changeover to the use of effluent and other sources of reclaimed water.

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## Off the fairway ...



by Daisy Moore

For many years now I have struggled with what to say when people ask me what I do for a living. Call it my ego. When I worked in the fertilizer business, I would go on and on about the science and chemistry of growing plants, only to stand accused of being a peddler. Nowadays when asked, depending on

who is asking I'll say, "I am a horticulturist" or "I run a gardening business" or "I am a landscape consultant" or, lately, "I am a gardener". "Gardener" conjures up fluffy images of floral hats, pink gloves and a hobby you do when you retire. As Rodney Dangerfield would say, "no respect". There is little I can do to change that and that's okay. I just have to come up with another name for it.

On the golf course, the clubhouse lends itself to gardens. This area includes the beds surrounding the building itself, as is our habit, plus, the areas that separate the milling about from the course itself. Gardens act as an interface and can be virtually anything you want them to be to reflect the style or status of the club. In these beds you can demonstrate the limitless possibilities of form, style, combination and colour available in the plant world. Some courses will hire a gardener to do this, others take it on themselves or someone on the staff has a knack or shows a leaning in the gardening direction and are appointed the task. Over and above that it depends on the budget and the resources and the will to make it so.

If you do research at the library, you will find gardening/horticulture in the technology section (the 600s), wedged between engineering and country living. I was surprised by this. Gardening is an applied science where technology and natural systems meet. The natural sciences section (the 500s) including botany, ecology and all the other ologies we had to memorize in school also hold books of interest to the gardener. This is a growing section where more opinions and ideas about sustainable living and the environment are being sought. Re-learning how nature works. These ideas are spilling over into gardening and landscape design. The arts & crafts section, (the 700s) also contain gardening books surrounding the idea of architecture and design. Books about gardening seem to be in every section of the library.

I recently gave a presentation about clubhouse gardens at the Ottawa Valley Turfgrass Association conference. In preparation I sent out notes far and wide to seek photographs of clubhouse gardens that I could use to discuss the subject. It was a treat to go to the computer every day to see who had sent me what. Despite the vast difference in all the examples, the commonalities were there in the site demands, the limitations, the size of garden beds, the view from a distance and so on. Many are faced with stairways and walkways, circle beds, slopes and flagpoles, with gardens attached to them, as well as foundation plantings. Colour

and bounty are important. The lion's share of what I was shown relied heavily on annuals for their colour and in quantities that have always boggled my mind. I can also say that ornamental grasses have become a popular part of golf course gardens. From my experience, plant purchases are a budget item on the golf course. This is a good thing and hopefully the plant budget won't suffer come the next budget meeting. Re-shuffling a few funds towards plants of a more sustainable nature would be a progressive plan. Flowering shrubs go a long way in contributing to a show garden. Roof garden plants (sedum, sedges etc.) are readily available now and work well for the exposed but central areas. This would be a drought-tolerant alternative to mulch.



Ottawa Hunt Club hosted the Canadian Women's Championship

Another observation from my mini-survey was the sharp contrast between the cultivated gardens around the clubhouse and the out of play natural areas in the distance. The natural areas are commonly ridden with unsavory weeds and line the fairways like a choker. It is a good idea to leave things to nature, but when the area is in trouble, you have to move in and help. They look that way because the area has been disturbed. Take an inventory of what is growing and remove the thugs. This in itself might solve the problem and improve things drastically. This will give desirable local plants a chance. Physical removal of weeds is a new reality for people but if you time it right and know what you are after, then it is doable. You just need the resources and the will to make it so.

*Daisy is a professional horticulturist. She operates a garden design and consulting business from her home in Elora. She is the host of the radio program "Ask the Gardener" Saturdays 1-2:00 on am570 [www.daisymoore.com](http://www.daisymoore.com). has samples of her work.*



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# Looking back

## 20 Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

The Board of Directors in 1989 were: Neil Acton (president), Deer Creek; Gord Nimmo (vice), Sarnia; Thom Charters (past), Weston; Rhod Trainor (editor), St. Thomas; Greg O'Heron, Peterborough; Ted Ellis, Greenwood; Bruce Burger, Galt; John Taylor, Twenty Valley; Scott Dodson, Summit; Ed Farnsworth, Deerhurst; Mark Hagen, Wyldewood and David Gourlay, Beacon Hall. Cindi Charters was the office secretary.

Neil Acton left Brooklea and took the position at Deer Creek, while Marlon Gieseler, Neil's assistant, took over Brooklea. Richard Ziegel left Burlington Springs and went to Deerfield. Ted Ellis left Greenwood and went to Blue Springs, Mark Hagen moved from Wyldewood to West Haven. Mike Creek took Mark's position at Wyldewood. Gary Hastings moved to Rockway and Doon Valley from Merry Hill. Jerry Richard, the assistant at Toronto G. C., started at Craigowan. John Anderson moved to Hockley Valley and Don Crimble replaced John at IBM. Bruce Dodson left Emerald Hills to become superintendent at Hawkridge and Jack Austin, formerly of Turf Care Irrigation, went out on his own forming Canadian Irrigation Consultants. Mark Schneider went to Beachgrove, Ryan Beauchamp, the assistant at St. Thomas, went to Westminster Trails, John Cherry left Cherry Downs for the National while Ken Wright left the National and went to Devil's Pulpit. David Gourlay, Jr. left Beacon Hall and started at a new course in Ottawa called Eagle Creek. Bob Heron took over from Dave at Beacon Hall.

New members: Vince Dermott, Markland Woods (B); George Allison, Western Trent (B); David Brooke, Scotch Settlement (B); Nancy Pierce, Toronto Golf (F); Jack Little, Dalewood (F); Ian Bowen, Lakeview (B); Mary Beth Kelly, Ladies (F); Doug Walsh, Westmount (F); Rob Sharp, Glenn Abbey (F); Bill Dickinson, Champion Turf Equipment (E); Stephen Jones, Deer Creek (B); James Hopkins, Fawn Brook (B); Raymond Yule, Glen Cedars (B); Jay Kulak, Port Colborne (B); Peter Dickey, Glenway (B); Robert MacGrandles, Ridge Pine Park (B); Jack Austin, Canadian Irrigation Consultants (E); Everett Nieuwkoop, Ontario Seed Co. (E); Dan O'Conner, Saugeen (F); Steven Holmes, Donalda (F), Greg Anderson; Victoria Park (F); Alex McLeod, Monterra (F), Terry Fries; Merry Hill (F), Paul Scenna, Jr., Mississauga (F); David Tascone, Wyldewood (F); Jordon Lucas, Galt (F); Ron Legato, Scenic Woods (A) and Perry Beausoleil (F) Carleton.

Annette Anderson was the Turf Extension Specialist from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the OMAF Turf Hotline was established which was a very good success. Golf course architect C. E. (Robbie) Robinson passed away on December 29 at the age of 82. Mr. Robinson was the uncle of Robbie Robinson of Hidden Lakes Golf Club.

The Michigan/Borders Cities Golf Meeting was held

on April 3rd at Essex Golf and Country Club hosted by Stew Mills with Dr. Joe Vargas as the guest speaker. The Western Ontario Golf Superintendents Association had meetings at St. Catharine's, John Piccolo; Brookfield, Henry Schmitz; Port Colborne, Jay Kulak; Glendale, George Garner, and Bridgewater, Steve Sherwood and Wilf Wallace. The Taylor Barnes tournament was held at Bridgewater Country Club, which was won by Ted Bishop of Rolling Meadows.

The Georgian Bay area was seeing an influx of new courses. Ron Heesen, at Monterra, was preparing for a July 1st opening. Tom McBroom was working on the Hockley Valley Golf Club with Superintendent, John Anderson. Bob Cupp was building the Deerhurst Highlands Golf Club adding to Ed Farnsworth's established 18. Rene and Charlie Muyaert were building a second 18 holes for John Hughes at Horseshoe Valley and a new 18 hole course in Orillia, called Hawkridge, where Bruce Dodson is superintendent. Tournaments were held at the following courses: Bonaire, Randy Fielder; Lake St. George, Greg Louth; Cranberry Village, Charlie Terry; Barrie, Ed Doda and Muskoka Lakes, David Smith. All golf days began at 12 noon and the cost was \$20.00 per person.

The Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, hosted by Rhod Trainor. The low team was Herb Holzsheiser and Thom Charters from the Weston Golf Club.



# FAST FOREST

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# Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
Golf North Properties

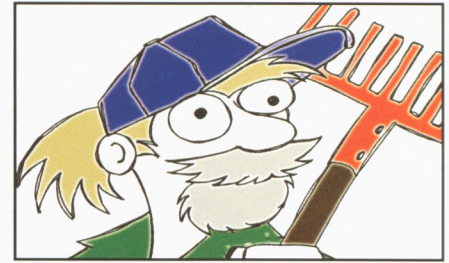
## Disposable Income

Our household income is 100% dependent upon the disposable income of other people's households. Krista (my wife, social apologist, and scullery maid), teaches people to ride horses - a fairly pointless exercise by anyone's standard. When horses were the primary mode of transportation around the world, a riding instructor was a valuable member of society. When knights were trotting off to war and fighting on horseback, there was a very real advantage to having superior balance in the saddle. A "good seat" could save your life. Well-trained horses could expand your empire. Today, none of those things are true. She might as well be teaching people to churn butter. For the most part, the equine world is pretty much over-run by little girls who wish they were princesses, and middle aged women who still think they are.

My pay cheque is derived from an equally tenuous source. If people ever lose interest in counting how many whacks it takes to knock a ball across a field and into a hole, I'm unemployed. If people ever have to choose between a round of golf and a new transmission for the Chevy, we're all in a heap of trouble.

I overheard a couple guys talking the other day, and apparently there's this unsubstantiated rumour going around that the economy isn't going too well at the moment. Something about a worldwide recession? First I've heard of it! Although I should have known that something was up when the bank stopped trying to sell me mutual funds. My concern is that if people have less disposable income, they might stop playing golf and riding horses. I figure that my options are either to find a new line of work that people actually need for survival (like food production, hospital work, or skate sharpener), or convince the masses that playing golf is a basic necessity of life.

Generations ago, a guy named Abraham Maslow published a pyramid shaped diagram called Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Like all academics, he named it after himself in a vain attempt to justify a lifetime of toiling in a stuffy, windowless room filled with mouldy books - only visited by keener students grovelling for extra marks. This diagram, which is now shown to every Sociology student on the planet, lists the basic needs/wants of human beings in the order that we actually need them. Physiological needs, like air, water, and not being eaten by bears, are at the base of the pyramid. The next level is all about the security of having a dependable source of those things, like a house with a door, taps with water in them, and a fridge with food



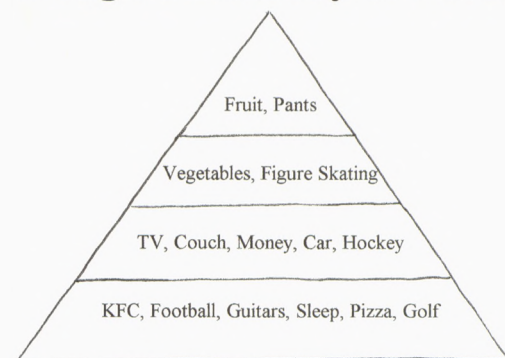
in it. A job would be at this level. Having a job that you actually like is way farther up the pyramid. Recreation is even further up again, in the "Self Actualization" section. Maslow saw things like golfing as far less important than a good spousal relationship - Oprah would agree, but that's bad for us.

We need to convince people that playing golf so often that your wife leaves you is not only acceptable, but hard wired into your psyche. We need to get the message out there that given the choice between having a house and having a golf membership, the mentally stable person will always choose the golf membership. And I've found a way to do it - Wikipedia.

Anyone who ever saw Maslow's chart in high school will not remember exactly what it looks like, and search for it on the Internet. The first thing that pops up will be Wikipedia. It's true, I just checked. In spite of the fact that anyone can put anything on Wikipedia, most people still accept whatever's on the screen as gospel. I propose that someone from the RCGA should edit the chart and place golf on level one, right next to the need for excretion. A couple weeks back Wikipedia announced that they were hiring fact checkers to try to stop this kind of thing, but we all know that the fact checkers will just go to Wikipedia for verification, so we're set.

So that's the plan. We get people to play more golf by putting it on the Internet that you'll die if you don't play on a regular basis. Either that, or I suppose we could just advertise.

## Doug's Hierarchy of Needs





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