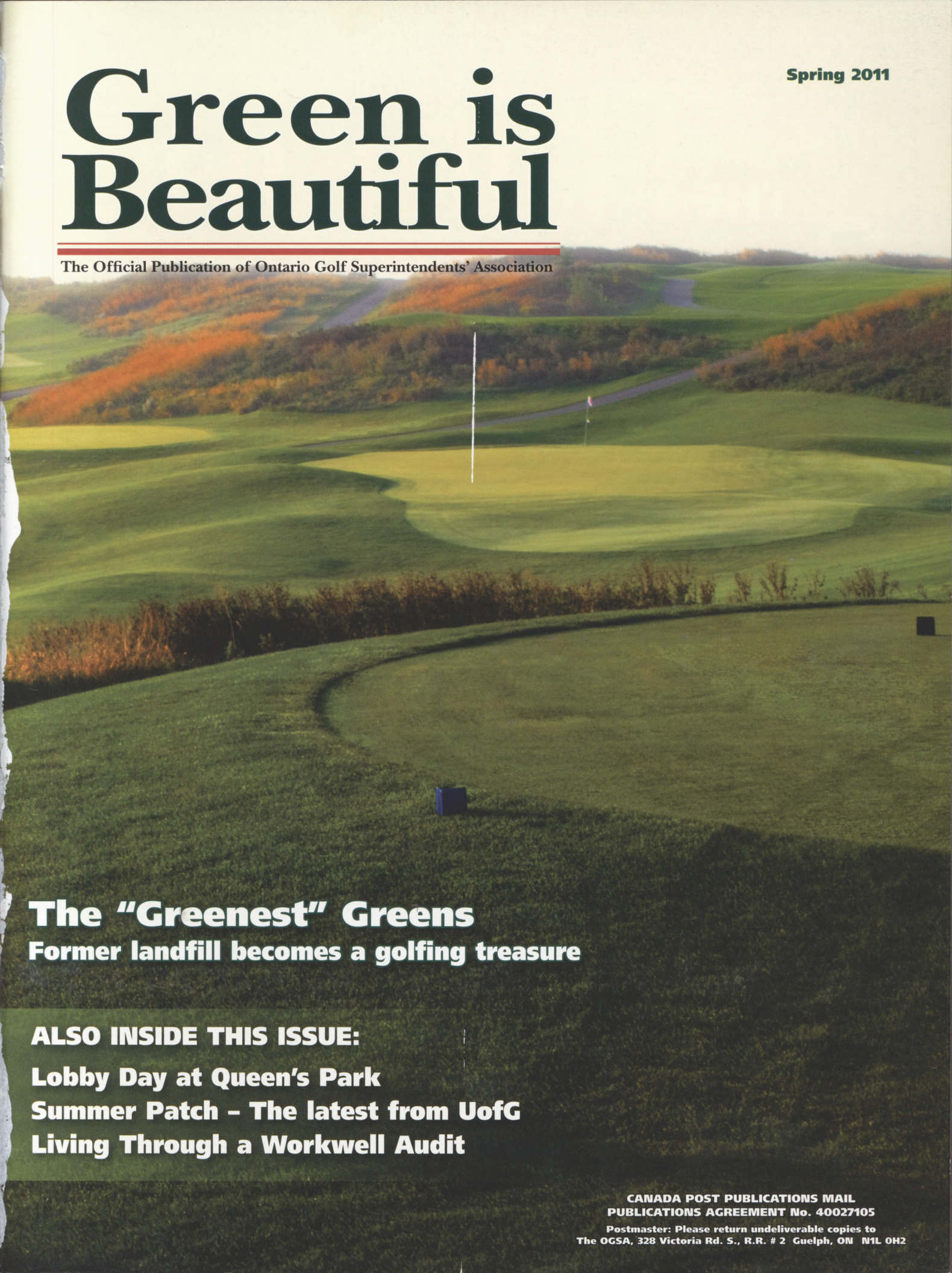


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Spring 2011

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



The "Greenest" Greens

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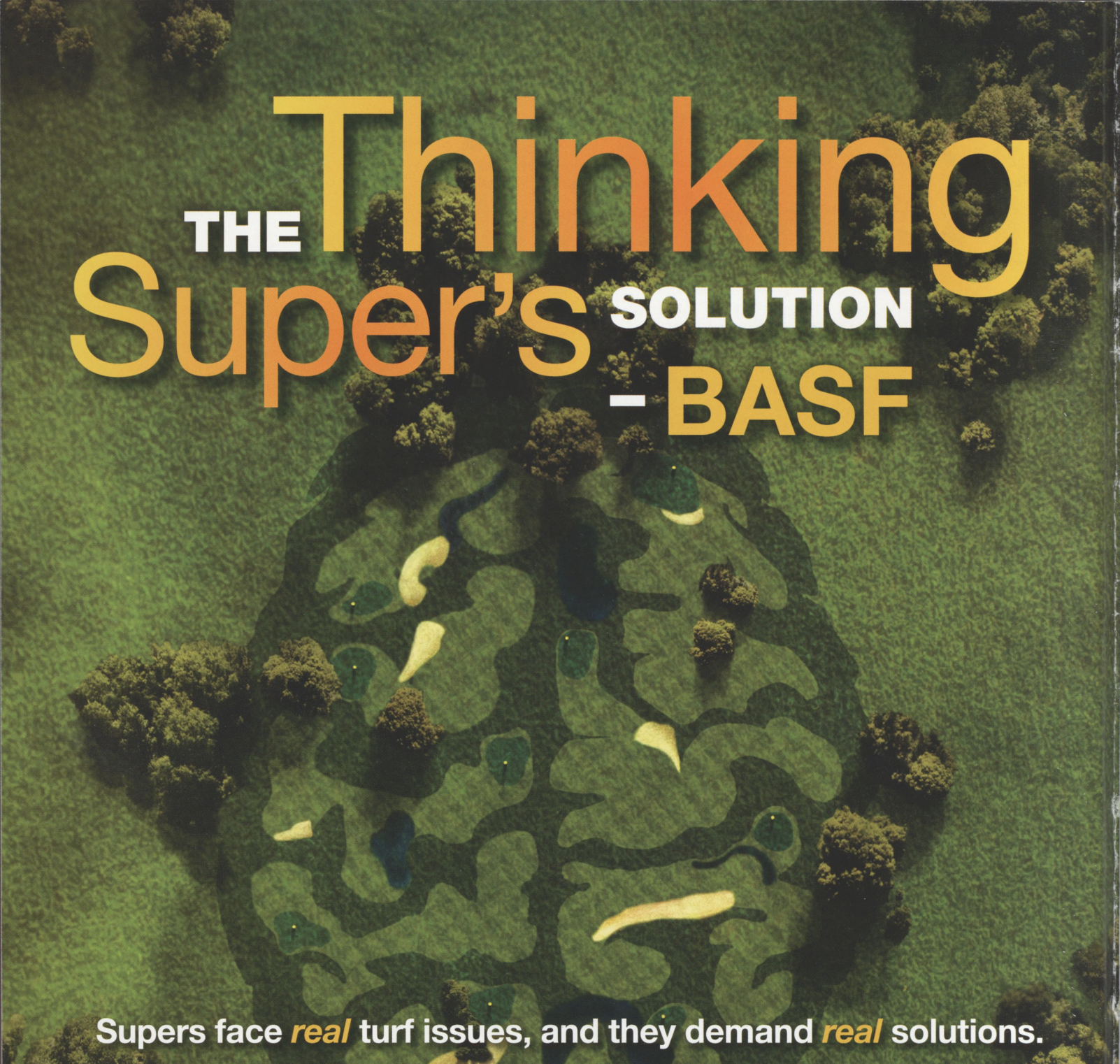
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Chris Andrejicka,
Essex Golf &
Country Club

After speaking to many fellow superintendents across the province, most have emerged from the winter with very little damage this spring. This is in stark contrast to the vast amount of damaged turf experienced last spring. Everyone seems to be very excited to get into action for the 2011 season.

Mother Nature, of course, has had other plans, as I write this message the spring of 2011 is turning out to be one of the coldest and wettest in recent memory. According to Environment Canada, records for the most rainfall and total precipitation were broken this month in several Ontario locations, with some receiving between twice and close to four times the amount of rain normally expected in April. Of course for most seasoned superintendents we always know better weather will eventually arrive and we will have to deal as best we can through what we are dealt with.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce Stu Leachman has resigned from the Board of Directors and has headed west with his family to Lake Louise, Alberta. On behalf of the OGSA I extend my thanks for his dedicated service on the board since 2008. We wish his family all the best in their future journeys.

As the golf season starts I would encourage all of our members to participate in this year's OGSA golf events. The OGSA Presidents' Day is on July 25th at Toronto Golf Club, the popular Summer Scramble is on August 30th at Springfield Golf and Country Club and wrapping up the season is the Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament on October 3rd at Oslerbrook Golf and Country Club.

There has been a measured decline in participation at our golf outings over the past few years. If I have learned anything over the past 20 years it would be the value of getting away from your club to play golf, network and enjoy the fellowship of your colleagues. Getting away is great for recharging your batteries and even learning from what we see at other facilities. We tend to get wrapped up in all the mundane tasks at our clubs and everyone needs a fun break or game of golf away.

Over the past few months a number of members have inquired about the OGSA setting up meetings with party leaders heading into this year's provincial election. I can report director Mark Prieur met with Ted Arnott, Deputy Opposition House Leader in regards to concerns over the current IPM framework. The meeting was very fruitful. In the coming months we will be requesting to meet with the current Environment minister and if a new government is elected we will be meeting in November with the new minister. We will update the membership on our efforts.

Let's look forward to drier and warmer weather and a successful maintenance season. ■

Brett Murray
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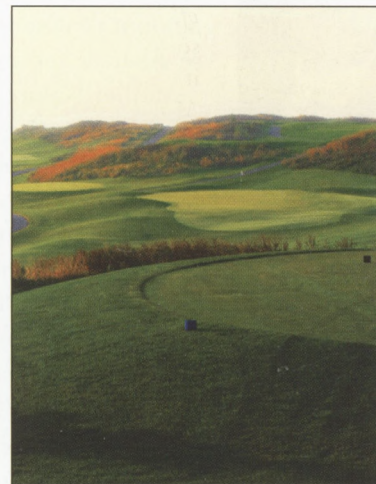
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

BraeBen Golf Club, Hole #5

Photo courtesy City of Mississauga

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Green is Beautiful 2011

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

EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

Rather than tell you what you will find in this issue, which, presumably anyone can deduce from the *Table of Contents*, I would rather discuss something a little different. Let's face it, if you're actually reading the *Editors Message*, it's not to find out what is in the rest of the magazine.

So, I'd like to begin by mentioning John Gray. The last hole my group played at the 2011 CanAm Challenge at Essex Golf and Country Club was the tenth. Next to the tenth tee is a sign honouring former Superintendent John Gray who held the position from 1915 until his death in 1958. This got me thinking about the many superintendents who used to devote the better part of their lives to one golf club. Although this was certainly more common back then, it's still very impressive and admirable.

It's something we just don't see nowadays. I suppose it's because loyalty, patience and trust is too often overpowered by the all mighty buck. Or sometimes public perception, whether right or wrong, can dictate the outcome over situations that it is not qualified to govern. To be fair, I suppose the lack of longstanding tenures is also a result of an individual, though

successful in his role, looking for new challenges. It's easier for us to move around now and try new things. In years past, the thought of moving into another position when you are successful in your current one probably wasn't too common.

But there are still some superintendents out there who have been with their golf clubs for multiple decades. Regardless of the type of club or the ownership structure, I think this deserves some acknowledgement. Although some may argue that doing your job every day for a long period of time is no big deal, I disagree. Sometimes when the ordinary is done for long enough, it becomes extraordinary.

Given the time of year, I'd like to use the game of baseball to illustrate my point. Getting a hit in a baseball game is no big deal. Do it 56 games in a row, like Joe DiMaggio and it becomes legendary. On any given night, a dozen pitchers get a win in baseball. But if you are one of those pitchers on 511 different nights, like Cy Young, one can't help but be in awe. Perhaps the most relevant example from the baseball world to our topic of enduring superintendents is the number 2,632. That's how many games the 'Iron Man' Cal Ripken played consecutively.

I would like to offer a tip of the cap to all those longstanding superintendents out there. Here's hoping this is the start of another great season of golf in your storied careers. ■

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Dorothy Hills with OGSA Past President, Jeff Alexander.

DOROTHY HILLS RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On March 26, 2011 Dorothy Hills was almost surprised upon arrival at Victoria Park East Golf Club for her retirement party.

Dorothy was accompanied by her husband Larry, and joined by her children and many of the friends she has made while performing her duties as executive manager of the OGSA.

These friends included current board members, past presidents, and association staff and while Dorothy did find out about the surprise a few days before, that is indeed all she knew.

Past President Jeff Alexander presented Dorothy with a gift certificate for an all expense paid weekend in Toronto, which included show tickets and dinner, overnight accommodation and transportation for two. Dorothy was given a watch as a keepsake of her time spent at OGSA and a book of messages and memories, sent in by members and friends from across Ontario. Dorothy was very appropriately given honorary membership in the OGSA.

Jeff praised Dorothy's efforts in building the association and increasing the profile of the golf superintendent, outlining her exceptional managerial style and outstanding abilities.

Dorothy spoke of how her position has allowed her to form lasting friendships and has enriched her life.

And of course, a great time was had by all!

CAN/AM CHALLENGE 2011

On Monday, May 2, 2011 the annual Can/Am Challenge was held at the Essex Golf and Country Club in LaSalle, Ontario. Despite the many weeks of cold, damp weather which preceded the event, the course was in wonderful condition. Host Superintendent Chris Andrejicka, his Assistant Greg Brown, and the rest of the maintenance crew at Essex put in a lot of long hours to ensure participants were treated to a course that was in mid-season form.

After enjoying a nice breakfast in the clubhouse, the shotgun started at 11:30 a.m. and it was during tee off that the sun came out and players were able to shed their jackets. Despite the sun's disappearance at times, it still turned out to

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2011 OGSA Tournament & Event Schedule

Event	Date	Golf Course	Host Supt.
Presidents' Day	July 25, 2011	Toronto Golf Club	Al Schwemler
OTRF Fundraiser*	Aug. 9, 2011	Greystone Golf Club	Adam Trenton
Summer Scramble	Aug. 30, 2011	Springfield Golf & CC	Ray Dlugokecki
Assistants Tournament	Sept. 26, 2011	Pheasant Run Golf Club	Andrew Hardy
Alex McClumpha	Oct. 3, 2011	Oslerbrook Golf & CC	Jason Honeyball

**Note The OTRF tournament is not an OGSA event. Details can be accessed on their website at www.otrf.ca*

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.

Our Regional Associations are welcome to list their events in the OGSA "Calendar of Events".



Essex Golf and Country Club

be a better day than we have been used to in the last month. After catching up with guys from all over the province and the Michigan area, it was clear the slow start to the spring



L-R: Paul Scenna and Chris Andrejicka

season has been felt everywhere. Hopefully this event was the start of a great golf season in Ontario, Michigan and all over. Congratulations go out to the Americans who managed to retain the Cup.

CAN/AM Winners:

First Place Teams

American 1st Low Gross Team	Score
Greg Brown and Jason D'Andrea	160
Canadian 1st Low Gross Team	Score
Mark Durand and Doug Wilson	169
American 1st Low Net Team	Score
Tim Dark and Ken DeBusscher	61
Canadian 1st Low Net Team	Score
Wade Beaudoin and Mike Johnson	68

Second Place Teams

American 2nd Low Gross Team	Score
Eric Davey and John Kulka	164
Canadian 2nd Low Gross Team	Score
Thom Charters and Wayne Rath	170
American 2nd Low Net Team	Score
Jeff Burgess and Tavis Horton	65
Canadian 2nd Low Net Team	Score
Rob Ackermann and Paul Scenna	69

Closest to the Pin #7.....	Dan Dingman
Closest to the Pin #12.....	John Kulka
Closest to the Pin #17.....	Bill Fach
Longest Drive #6.....	Greg Brown

Skins Winners: Jason D'Andrea #1, Paul Brown #9, Dan Dingman #10, Doug Wilson #14

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Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University.

Dr. Katerina Jordan, University of Guelph.

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WHAT'S NEW

PRO SUPER CHALLENGE

Despite cold temperatures and a biting wind, a great day was had by all at Wyndance Golf Club in Uxbridge, May 17, 2011 where 118 golfers braved the elements to play the spectacular course.

The format of play was two man, best ball and the top team was Golf Professional Rob Mininni and Superintendent Chris Emerton from Tangle Creek Golf and Country Club with a score of 67.

Other teams taking prizes were Diamond Back Golf Course a close second with 68 and Cobble Beach Golf Links also with a 68, placing third. Fourth place went to the team from the Granite Club.

Steve Scott from Lakeridge Links Golf Club had a great day winning both the Longest Drive and Closest to



L-R: Chris Emerton and Rob Mininni

the Pin prizes for the superintendents. Brian Urbach, Golf Professional at Midland Golf and Country Club claimed the Closest to the Pin for the pros and Chester Morin from Mill Run had the Longest Drive.

Teams from Wyndance Golf Course, Caedarbrae Golf and Country Club, Lakeridge Links Golf Club and Wooden Sticks Golf were the skins game winners.

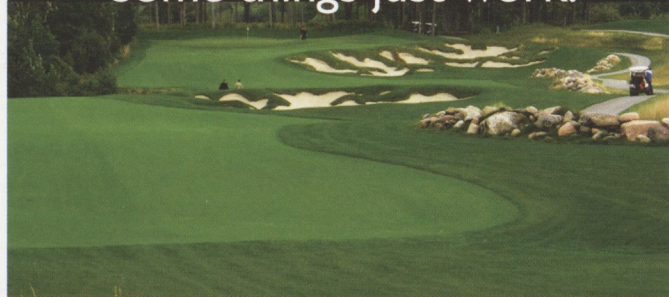


Welcome!

OGSA Welcomes our newest members

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Ambassador GC	
Ryan Brogan	Class C
Deer Creek GC	
Kevin Harders	Class Supt
Northern Dunes GC	
Dan Hartford	Class A
Sunnybrae GC	
Roger Kelley	Class A
Southbrook GC	
Mike MacGillivray	Class Supt
Bayview G&CC	
Chris Millard	Class C
Hockley Valley Resort	
Leasha Schwab	Class Supt
Foxbridge GC	
Cam Shaw	Class S
University of Guelph	
Ben Smirnov	Class D
Uplands Golf & Ski Club	

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Lobby Day at Queen's Park

by Scott White, Superintendent
Donalda Club

On April 20th, 2011, the Ontario Allied Golf Associations (OAGA) descended on Queen's Park to kick off the golf season and increase awareness of the role of golf as an important driver of Ontario's economy. The goal was to make inroads with the provincial government in an effort to ensure the golf industry becomes more engaged in determining policies that impact the sector, both environmentally and financially. OAGA is represented by The Canadian Society of Club Managers (CSCM), the Golf Association of Ontario (GAO), Ontario PGA, The National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA), club owners and the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (OGSA).

A little over a year ago, an environmental impact study was performed to answer an unknown question: How big is the golf industry? For those of you like me who did not know the answer to this question, the information gained was a bit surprising. Golf is the most popular sport in Ontario with 2.3 million players enjoying the game (over 6 million nationally), far outpacing all other sports, including hockey. These golfers fuel an industry that contributes 4.3 billion dollars annually to the economy, which represents a full 1% of the GDP. Of the 123,000 golf related jobs in Ontario 43,000 of them involve working directly on the golf courses, which is larger than the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industries combined (40,000 jobs). The message: We are a large industry made up of small and medium sized businesses that is vulnerable to a lot of excessive red tape.

The lobby day team was made up of 12 delegates representing the various groups and associations of the OAGA who had private and group meetings with ministers, members of provincial parliament (MPP), and policy advisors. Some 30 meetings took place, representing approximately one-third of the sitting members of parliament, including a press conference outlining golf's positive impact. The MPPs who accepted meetings included Julia Munro, MPP, Critic for Small Business, Consumer Services and Red Tape, Paul Miller, MPP, Critic, Tourism, Recreation and Sport and the policy advisor to Sandra Pupatello, MPP, Minister Economic Development and Trade.

Having sat in on seven meetings personally and the

breakfast discussion with two additional MPPs, the message was clear: Golf is a substantial industry that needs greater representation at the table with the policy makers when bills are put forward. For the most part, MPPs gave the impression they were engaged and interested with very few meetings being cut short. However, I would be remiss if I told you that all of the meetings went exceptionally well. Fellow lobbyists noted a disconnect between a few of the MPPs and one or two individuals who were more concerned with how golf related to their specific portfolio. I am also aware that MPPs have the difficult task of smiling and nodding to people all day long, but for the most part, the officials were interested in hearing our concerns. My personal example of environmental stewardship and golf course success was the increasing evidence of improved water quality in the East Don River as it leaves the club's property when compared to the data taken when it arrives upstream. MPPs, like most citizens, need to hear these stories of success to dispel the myths and raise the level of awareness.

During the meetings, topics ranged from Bill 64 (pesticides/IPMAccreditation) and source water protection, to the methodology in property tax assessments, to liquor laws. On Bill 64, the focus was addressing concerns with the legislation moving forward, with particular emphasis on the public meeting requirements in 2012.

I believe there was a measured level of success accomplished with the lobby day and that this process needs to continue moving forward. Although we as a group did not go to the meetings with a specific request on our first visit, connections have been made which hopefully, going forward, will garner meetings with key representatives of the government such as the minister of finance. At the end of the day, the politicians at Queen's Park know as little as the public about the good things being done by the golf courses in Ontario. This fact further strengthens the notion that we, as members of the OGSA, must continue to spread the word to our golfers and surrounding community.

A word of thanks should be passed along to my OGSA teammate for the day, Phil Scully, whose lobby team included some of the most influential members of Parliament, including Cathy Worden, Senior Advisor to the Premier (Economy and Infrastructure Policy).

You can find more information about the Lobby Days being held across the country on the NAGA website: www.canadagolfs.ca. ■

Business Continuity Planning

With the number of recent world disasters such as the earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, New Zealand and Japan and of course the tsunami in Japan. We should all think about our own Business Continuity Plans (BCP).

If your business was struck by fire, windstorm, loss of electricity, illness or some other tragedy how would you cope with the effects of the loss? Have you taken the time to update your BCP and have you taken time to consider how you would get back into business after a catastrophic loss?

If we look at the effects of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and compare it to the earthquake in Haiti it is very easy to see that planning for an eventuality is the key to recovery. We all know the effects of both situations are far from over. However, if we look at the recovery process, it is enlightening to see how the Japanese have already commenced their recovery while Haiti is still mired beneath the rubble. Japan was hit by two major natural disasters yet their businesses are in the process of restarting and producing. What a difference planning makes!

Since the earthquake and tsunami, Japan and the world have learned a great deal about disaster preparedness, business continuity planning and facility design. The effects of future similar natural disasters are expected to be much different in Japan. The Japanese are already planning for the next earthquake and tsunami. Building design, infrastructure design and emergency response systems are all being re-evaluated to ensure they meet the needs of the future. The Japanese are not sitting back. They are looking forward and preparing for a future event even as they rebuild from these last two major events.

Think about your life and business. Have you taken the time to define what would happen in your life or business if a situation occurred that would impact on the operation of your business?

I personally have been thinking about this quite a lot these past few weeks. I have started having discussions with my friends and family about "disaster planning". Sometimes these discussions are difficult as no one wants to think about what might happen. And no one wants to think they personally may not be capable of looking after their family and business.

People tend to believe, "it will never happen to us"! Look around you and watch the news and you will discover there are people just like us who have been involved in a tragedy. How well they were prepared for this eventuality reflects their BCP.

People and companies that have plans to address unlikely

events tend to recover more quickly and tend to experience less trauma. Those who are unprepared tend to lose.

So which camp do you subscribe to in disaster planning and business continuity planning? Are you the person who will wait and see or are you the progressive person who has a BCP in place that will make your business and life recovery a reasonable step back to productivity?

A BCP describes how to resume business after a disruption. A Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) deals with recovering Information Technology (IT) assets after a disastrous interruption.

Recognizing some services or products must be continuously delivered without interruption is important in developing a BCP. Critical services or products are those that must be delivered to ensure survival, avoid causing injury, and meet legal or other obligations of an organization. Business continuity planning is a proactive planning process that ensures critical services or products are delivered during a disruption.

A BCP includes:

- Plans, measures and arrangements to ensure the continuous delivery of critical services and products, which permits the organization to recover its facility, data and assets.
- Identification of necessary resources to support business continuity, including personnel, information, equipment, financial allocations, legal counsel, infrastructure protection and accommodations.

Having a BCP enhances an organization's image with employees, shareholders and customers by demonstrating a proactive attitude. Additional benefits include improvement in overall organizational efficiency and identifying the relationship of assets and human and financial resources to critical services and deliverables.

To get more assistance, check out the government of Canada site which deals with Emergency Preparedness at <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/prprdnss-eng.aspx> or give SAFETAID a call.

Have a great summer! ■



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Summer Patch

What to look for and how to beat it

By Melissa Bassoriello and Dr. Katerina Jordan
Photos courtesy M. Bassoriello

Over the past five to six years, summer patch has become more and more prevalent throughout the province and when weather forecasters predict a hot and dry summer, golf course superintendents start fearing the worst. People often ask why diseases like summer patch have become worse over the years and our best speculation is a combination of factors, including the loss of non-selective fungicides (e.g. mercury) and greater stress placed on turfgrass plants leading to more symptom development.



Fig. 1 Symptoms of summer patch on an annual bluegrass green.

With the extreme weather Ontario experienced last summer, diseases such as summer patch were observed throughout the GTA (where temperatures were highest) and a number of golf courses lost a significant amount of turf through the summer (Fig. 1). The purpose of this article is to discuss a little bit about the biology of the pathogen and the disease, go over some recommendations and let you know about some of the research we are conducting on the disease at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI).

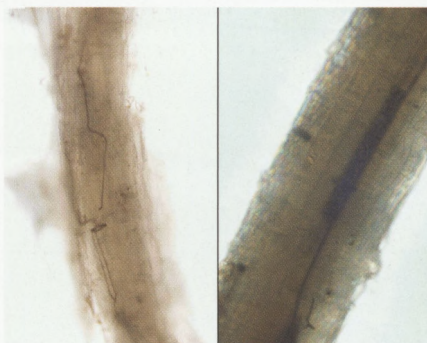


Fig. 2. *Magnaporthe poae* structures: (left) root with dark runner hyphae and hyphopodia and (right) growth cessation structures

The pathogen:

Summer patch is caused by the fungal pathogen *Magnaporthe poae*. It is within a group of fungi called the ectotrophic root infecting fungi or ERI. This group includes the take-all patch pathogen, *Gaeumannomyces graminis*, and the necrotic ring spot pathogen (*Ophiospaerella korrae*), both common pathogens on turfgrasses. These fungi propagate primarily through runner hyphae that run along the surface of the root. Some species produce infection structures, called hyphopodia, that aid in penetration of the root tissue and allow the pathogen to enter the vascular system of the plant root. These hyphopodia are helpful in diagnosis as are other specialized structures called growth cessation structures (Fig. 2). Once the pathogen invades the root tissue, it affects the flow of water and nutrients to the leaves and over time leads to death of the plant. Summer patch is quite destructive on a number of species including annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), fine fescues (*Festuca spp.*) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), although on golf course greens we see the most damage on *Poa annua*. As the name implies, the

disease appears during the heat of the summer but the pathogen actually colonizes root tissue and begins infection when soil temperatures are between 18 and 20°C. The ideal conditions for disease to develop are temperatures between 30 and 35°C combined with wet soils. However, disease has been found to develop at lower temperatures following rainfall or when other factors, such as high soil pH, exist. In addition, symptom development is dependent on the health of the plant, not just presence of the pathogen.

How to deal with the disease:

With any root disease, the first line of defense is a healthy plant. The deeper and stronger the root system, the more damage the plant can withstand before symptoms develop. This means training your roots to grow deeply early in the season, before there is too much stress. One way to encourage deeper root growth is deep and infrequent watering. This ensures water is available deeper in the soil profile and does allow for constant moisture at the soil surface. Compacted soils will also lead to shallow and stressed root systems. Conduct an infiltration test to determine how well your soils drain and perhaps consider having a bulk density test done as the greater the pore spaces in the soil, the more room for the roots to grow. Core aeration has been shown to significantly increase infiltration rates and subsequently improve soil health over time. Also make sure you keep up on thatch management. Excess thatch will encourage shallow rooting and reduce infiltration of water and nutrients, all of which will increase stress on the plant and increase symptom development from summer patch.

Although a healthy root system will certainly reduce symptoms, the pathogen needs to be managed as well. Soil pH is a major factor in disease development, so reducing the pH near the roots should help decrease disease. Research conducted at Rutgers University has indicated the use of ammonium sulphate alone can reduce disease development on fairway height turf. However, if your irrigation water has a high pH, any reduction in the rootzone pH will be temporary. With respect to application of fungicides, treating summer patch curatively is very difficult to do. Therefore, preventative application is recommended assuming you have a chronic history of the disease and conditions are likely to be conducive for development of summer patch during the season. The recommendation is to take daily soil temperature readings at a 5 cm depth. Once the temperatures exceeds 18°C for five consecutive days, it is time apply your fungicide. There is some debate as to the best time of day to take your soil temperatures, with one school of thought being 11 a.m. the other being 3 p.m. (the warmest part of the day). There are good arguments for either and our recommendation is to pick a time somewhere in between those two and make sure you are consistent with the time each day you take measurements. With respect to application of your fungicide, there is also debate as to your application volume when putting down your product. The goal is to apply in enough water to ensure that your material reaches the roots, as that is where the pathogen will primarily be, but to not surpass the root zone as this would lead to wasted product. The actual amount will depend on your infiltration rate, your irrigation system and your root depth. Finally, the best way to reduce your incidence of summer patch is to reduce the amount of *Poa annua* on your green. You don't have to go with full conversion, but the more

creeping bentgrass you can get into your turfgrass stand, the healthier your green will be overall.

Current research on summer patch:

The main issues which arise with summer patch include difficulty with diagnosis (especially on site), understanding the effectiveness of various cultural practices and controversy over proper treatment. We have initiated a three-year project at the GTI to answer these questions. The primary objectives of the study are to develop management practices for the disease, determine host specificity and pathogenicity to gain a better understanding of disease development, and to develop a rapid and user-friendly diagnostic tool for detecting the presence of *Magnaporthe poae*. It is our hope the information we gain will ultimately help to decrease fungicide use by increasing the efficacy of preventive applications.

At this point, 30 samples have been collected from golf courses that were either showing symptoms of summer patch or had the disease in the past. Runner hyphae characteristic of *M. poae* that were observed on roots of the samples were isolated and plated on culture media. These isolates are being stored and will be used to challenge the various ecotypes of annual bluegrass collected from golf courses throughout the province. In addition, a preliminary field study was conducted in 2010 to determine the best application method for fungicide efficacy and at this point, results indicate a slight decrease in disease development with watered-in treatments (Fig. 3). However, the study will be repeated in 2011 and results will be disseminated when the project is complete. Once *M. poae* has been morphologically and genetically identified (through DNA analysis) from the samples, work will begin to develop an on-site, user-friendly diagnostic assay.

continued on page 14...



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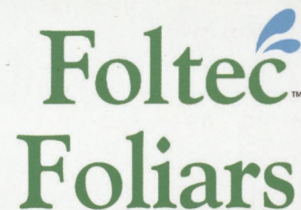
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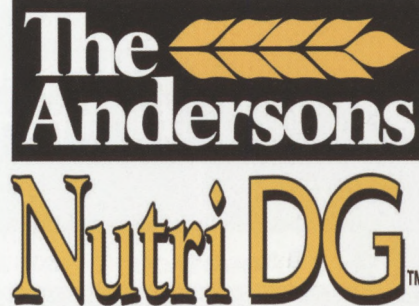
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Fig. 3. Results of 2010 field trial. a) no pesticide applied, b) azoxystrobin application, not watered in and c) azoxystrobin application, watered in.

At this point, we are looking for golf courses from which to collect samples so that we can increase our collection of both isolates of *M. poae* and ecotypes of *Poa annua*. If you have had a history of the disease, or if you note symptoms that you believe to be due to summer patch this season, please contact Melissa Bassoriello at 519-824-4120 x53016 or Katerina Jordan at 519-824-4120 x56615 to have us come and sample from your golf course.

Beyond that, let's hope for a mild summer and healthy turfgrass all season long. ■

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Bob Pattinson



Bob Pattinson recently retired as the golf course superintendent at the London Hunt and Country Club.

*by Tim Webb, Superintendent
Sunningdale Golf & Country Club*

In 1959, at the age of 13, Bob Pattinson began working in the pro shop at the Tillsonburg Golf Club. By the time he was 16, Pattinson recognized his passion for grounds keeping and decided to make a switch to golf course maintenance. He worked for Harold Anderson who was the golf course superintendent and professional at the time. Since then, Pattinson has continued to work outside on golf courses for the past 50 years or so.

After seven years at the Tillsonburg Golf Club, Bob accepted a position at Jasper Park Lodge Golf Course in Alberta, which lasted three years. There Bob worked for Jack Miligan, an innovative superintendent who could fabricate almost everything because of a lack of equipment.

After returning to Ontario, Pattinson attended university and continued to work in the golf course business at The Cutten Club for a period of two years. It is interesting to note, he initially began his studies by enrolling in the Arts program at

the University of Waterloo. After his second year in the program, Pattinson's wife, Darryl, supported his decision to change his career path by entering into the Horticultural Program at the University of Guelph.

In 1972, at the age of 24, Pattinson graduated with an associate degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph. Representatives from the London Hunt and Country Club arrived at the university and recruited Pattinson as their first assistant and he held this position for the following 20 years. In 1991, Pattinson was promoted to superintendent following the sudden passing of Superintendent John Bennett. He continued to hold this position for the final 19 years of his career. Perhaps the hallmark of Pattinson's lengthy service as superintendent was his unwavering commitment to the job. In his own words: *"most would find this very disturbing, but I was available 24/7 from April to November"*.

Over the past 39 years, Pattinson has seen the course mature and the design change.

continued on page 16...

— IN THE — HOT SEAT

Q – Favourite major
A – The British Open

Q – Favourite piece of
turf equipment
A – Utility vehicles

Q – Favourite golf designer
A – Tom Weiskopf

Q – Ultimate foursome
A – Tom Watson and my two
brothers, John and Jim

Q – Lowest round and where
A – 67, age 16, Tillsonburg
Golf Club

Q – How long were you
superintendent at
London Hunt?
A – 19 years

Q – Favourite movie
A – Kelly's Heroes

Q – Favourite meal
A – Pickerel fish dinner

Q – Favorite course played
outside of Canada?
A – The Quarry Course,
Bay Harbour, Michigan

Q – What was the best and
worst product invented
during your career other
than equipment?
A – Best: replacement for
Mercury based fungicides.
Worst: Merfusen granular
fungicide.

...continued from page 15

He has been there for three bunker renovations, range renovations, irrigation upgrades and numerous tee additions.

In the early stages of his career, Pattinson realized there was a lot more to learn. He knew he had to attend more seminars, ask more questions and network with other superintendents who could provide insight into the challenges of the job. Pattinson also recognized the importance of being a member of industry associations, and, as a result, has been a member of the CGSA and OGSA since 1968. He also encourages

other members of the maintenance team, such as assistants, mechanics and even club members to be involved in professional associations. He believes this can be of real benefit to them.

Pattinson's words of wisdom for people in the golf course industry are, "*listen, listen and listen*" to your committee's and members.

A typical morning for Pattinson would start with him watching the weather channel. He also enjoyed heading out to tour the course even before the staff arrived.

After 50 years in the business, one can only imagine the stories Pattinson could tell. One early morning he

was surprised to find out how well a John Deere sand trap machine could float upside down in a pond or that a Cushman vehicle could get stuck up in a tree.

With Pattinson's official retirement date of May 31, 2011 now passed, he plans to relax by fishing, playing golf, reading, travelling and not watching the weather channel. Pattinson has lived on the property for several years with his wife of 41 years. Together they have two children, Clancy, who is a teacher overseas and Fred, who works in the golf course industry.

Bob attributes a great deal of his success to his wife Darryl, who was the driving force behind his career. ■



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Golf Course Superintendent:
Brad Bell

Assistant Superintendent:
Craig Senior

Equipment Manager:
Mike Carr

*Photo credit:
Brad Bell, Superintendent
Hole #18*

COURSE PROFILE

About the Course

Lakeview is over 100 years old. It held the 1923 and 1934 Canadian Open. The original construction cost was estimated at \$99. The course was redesigned in 1922 by Herbert Strong to its current layout.

Established: 1907

Original Architect: W.J. Lock

Type of Club: Municipal

Number of Holes: 18

Number of Rounds Annually: 40,000

Practice Facility: Putting green and hitting nets

Biggest Maintenance Challenges

High traffic and tight tee time constraints make it difficult to implement all of the cultural practices that are desired.

Due to the age of the golf club, many generations of irrigation and drainage can lead to chasing ghosts.

A CLOSER LOOK

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type: Poa / Bent

Predominant Soil Type: Sandy Loam

Type of Greens: Soil push up

Recent or upcoming construction:
Irrigation renovations, addition of some forward tee decks

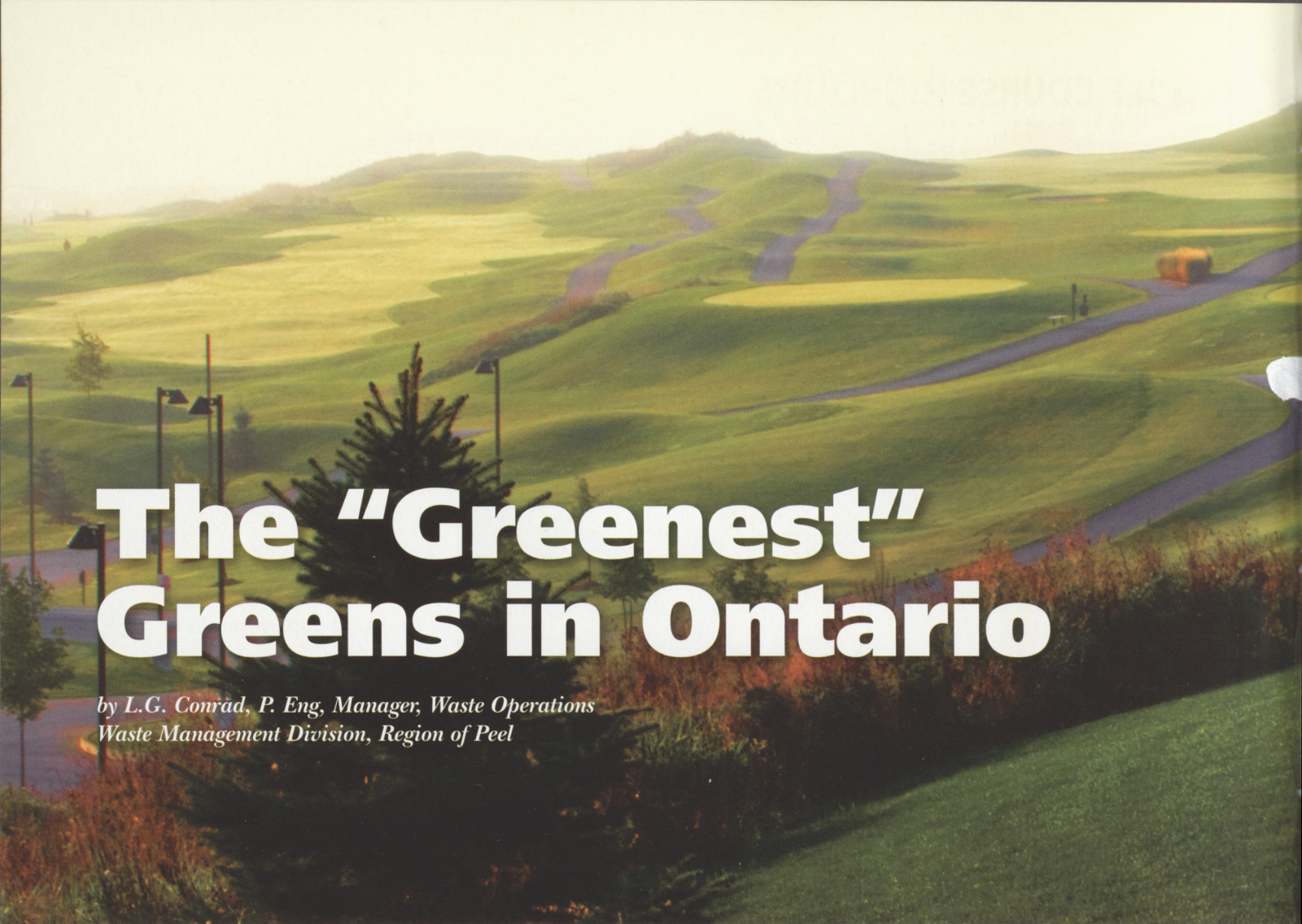
Course Length: 6340-5193 yards

Size of Property: 118 acres

Size of Greens: 118,000 sq. ft.

Size of Tees: 77,000 sq. ft.

Size of Fairways: 900,000 sq. ft.



The "Greenest" Greens in Ontario

by L.G. Conr d, P. Eng, Manager, Waste Operations
Waste Management Division, Region of Peel

As you step up to the tee at BraeBen Golf Course in Mississauga, it's hard to imagine that just 10 years ago, the Scottish Highlands inspired course, was a landfill serving more than one million Peel residents.

The Region of Peel's Britannia Landfill Site operated from 1980 to 2002 during which time, more than 13 million cubic metres of waste was deposited.

When construction for the landfill began in the 1970s, the Region of Peel wanted to find a creative way to manage the landfill following its closure. The unique solution was to create a golf course on top of the closed landfill and to safely extract the landfill gas and convert it into energy.

The Region recognized it is not in the business of running a golf course, but knew where to go for this expertise. The City of Mississauga, one of the municipalities that make up the Region of Peel, was brought onboard to manage the grounds and run the clubhouse.

Golf course architect, Ted Baker and Associates, designed the layout and contouring of BraeBen to be a dramatic and challenging course without signs of the previous landfill. As part of the site redevelopment, a 9-hole par-3 academy was created on the south side of

the site; a double-ended driving range in the central section; and an 18-hole par-72 championship course on the remaining land.

In June 2005, the 200-acre ecological masterpiece located at Terry Fox Way and Matheson Boulevard in the centre of Mississauga's Heartland community was completed.

BraeBen's public 18-hole championship course features remarkable terrain, swaying fescue grasses, gnarled trees and shrubs, pristine fairways, punctuated with challenging bunkers – all reminiscent of golf's early beginnings. As in the Highlands of Scotland, wind is a factor on most days and golfers of every skill level can challenge themselves from the red, white, blue or black tees. The course is also a sanctuary to a diverse wildlife population. Hawks, falcons, coyotes and foxes all enjoy the dramatic terrain.

Gas Recovery System

When Britannia Landfill was redeveloped into BraeBen Golf Course, Integrated Gas Recovery Services (IGRS) was selected to install a gas recovery system, which uses the captured landfill gas to generate electricity.



*Overlooking the tee block at hole #5.
Photo courtesy City of Mississauga*



*One of the on-site gas wells located to the back of the site.
Photo courtesy City of Mississauga*

The landfill gas is captured in a series of on-site wells and piped to the nearby gas-to-electricity facility where it is converted to green electricity. The facility contains gas processing equipment and three reciprocating engines with

a total generation capacity of approximately 5.5 megawatts of power. This represents enough green electricity to power 5,000 homes on a daily basis for the next 20 years.

The green electricity enters the power grid under Ontario's feed-in tariff or FIT Program.

The FIT Program was enabled by the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009. The Ontario Power Authority is responsible for implementing the program that aims to:

- help Ontario phase out coal-fired electricity generation by 2014
- boost economic activity and the development of renewable energy technologies
- create new green industries and jobs

Through the life and closure of the landfill, various environmental control systems were installed and monitoring programs established to manage the landfill and ensure the local environment is protected.

Over eight kilometers of pipes have been installed in the waste to capture leachate (liquids) and landfill gas, which are by-products of decomposing waste. The site is located in a natural clay deposit that encapsulates the leachate and landfill gas until they are collected.

continued on page 20...



Hole #6. Photo courtesy City of Mississauga.

Golf course architect, Ted Baker and Associates designed the layout and contouring of BraeBen to be a dramatic and challenging course without signs of the previous landfill.

An average of 20,000 cubic metres of leachate is captured and treated annually on-site and at the Region's Lakeview Sewage Treatment Plant.

Fifty-five groundwater wells around the site are tested semi-annually, for a total of 110 tests per year. These tests ensure the leachate does not escape the barrier and impact off-site groundwater.

Over 60 vertical gas extraction wells collect landfill gas for the IGRS facility. A flare is available to burn off excess landfill gas if it exceeds the capacity of the facility.

Forty-five landfill gas probes are tested monthly, for a total of 540 tests per year, and the golf course grounds are tested monthly when the golf course is operational. This ensures local air quality meets regulations set by the Ministry of the Environment.

The Region of Peel diverts approximately 640,000 cubic metres of surface water runoff per year to an on-site retention pond, which provides wetland habitat and additional flow for the Carolyn Creek Watershed. The creek is tested every month to ensure the water is clean.

All test results are reported to the Ministry of the Environment to ensure the former landfill meets environmental and health regulations. Compliance with

these regulations and the site's Certificate of Approval verifies that the former Britannia Landfill Site is properly managed.

Compared to conventional landfill gas management where landfill gas is vented or burned, this gas-to-electricity system is a smart solution because it uses available resources and improves the local and global environment by:

- generating electricity that does not require burning fossil fuels
- displacing the need for fossil fuel electricity in the hydro grid
- destroying 250,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide equivalent) annually, thereby reducing impacts on climate change
- generating greenhouse gas emission reduction credits
- improving local air quality
- turning a waste by-product into a valuable resource

Those who golf at BraeBen can take pride in being among the greenest golfers on any greens.

BraeBen Golf Course is located at 5700 Terry Fox Way in Mississauga. For more information visit www.braeben.com or call 905-615-GOLF (4653). ■

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Living Through a Workwell Audit



by John Ingham
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto

Now more than ever, Superintendents and assistants are being required to dedicate a significant portion of their time and resources to "health and safety" in all its forms: from developing policy, to implementing proper training programs, to recording incidents and conducting accident investigations.

Most managers are aware of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) – a workers compensation insurer for the province of Ontario. Fewer are aware however, of the "Workwell" program created and implemented by the WSIB. Workwell "performs on-site health and safety evaluations of firms when their injury experience indicates there is a higher risk of injury at their workplace (compared to other firms doing similar work)". As an industry, golf courses tend to employ a high

proportion of young, inexperienced, seasonal labourers and therefore have become increasingly targeted by Ministry of Labour inspections in recent years. Consequently, our industry has been identified as being at higher risk of workplace injuries.

Our experience with the Workwell program began in September 2009, when we had our initial on-site visit and audit. The auditor works with a very specific checklist of items. They assess everything from whether the proper material is posted on the Health and Safety boards, to determining if various policies are in place, to conducting random interviews with staff aimed at confirming whether adequate training and safe work practices exist. All told, the checklist included a dozen categories with more than 120 items. Each item is assigned a point value based on its relative importance. A passing grade requires a score of at least 75 per cent. Assuming your company does not receive a passing grade on the initial audit (very few do!) a follow-up audit is scheduled to confirm compliance in all deficient areas. Our follow-up audit was scheduled for May 2010. Failure to achieve a passing grade during the follow-up visit results in a WSIB "premium surcharge" – the lower your grade, the greater the penalty.

Needless to say, we spent a lot of time working on health and safety over that winter. As the superintendent and I looked at the various "areas of deficiency", it became apparent, in almost every case, the problem simply boiled down to a lack of documentation. We, like most, already put considerable time and effort into training staff and supervising workers closely to minimize the risk of injury. We already had preventative maintenance practices in place for all equipment, and operators were already

conducting pre-use inspections before taking out their machines. What we were lacking in all these areas was adequate documentation. As part of our audit, the auditor gave us a disk that included examples of proper documentation, we felt it best to closely follow the examples we were given. The process for compliance therefore became a case of re-formatting our existing documentation and policies to coincide with the structure used during the audit itself. Additional material was created to fill the gaps where policies and procedures had not previously existed. Standardized training records were created for all departments. Standard Operating Procedures and Hazard Analyses were revised or created for every piece of equipment on the property. Pre-use safety checklists were created and attached to clipboards posted in the equipment storage building. Policies and procedures were updated and expanded considerably. When all was said and done, we ended up with a "Workwell Binder" with over 300 pages.

Our follow-up audit occurred the following May, and there was certainly a sense of relief when we passed. There is no disputing the initial investment of time and effort to satisfy the requirements of the Workwell program is significant. The hope is the system becomes easier to deal with once everything has been put in place.

The Workwell process provides a benefit to the Club's bottom line by avoiding increased WSIB premiums and minimizing lost productivity due to workplace injuries. More importantly however, is that the policies, procedures and systems created during the process build a culture focused on health and safety, thereby helping to ensure that everyone gets home safely at the end of the day. ■



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Sacrifice for the Job We Love

by Alan Dolick, Assistant Superintendent
Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club

I am not completely positive, but I'm pretty sure it was on my first day of turf school that I was told the harsh truth that if you are looking to get rich, being a superintendent wasn't the right place to be. At that point I didn't care; I had just finished four years of university studying something that no longer peaked my interest, and all that mattered was that I was starting a program that was interesting and fulfilling.

What they didn't tell you was infinite riches weren't the only thing you would be giving up. Summer vacation with friends and family, going to concerts, or even watching the third period of the playoffs would no longer be an option during the golf season. We as assistants and superintendents give up a lot during the summer months to do the job we love. And I can say with certainty that at some point or another you have been given a hard time about it from a loved one or friends as they head off to do something more fun than going to bed at 9 p.m.

But what they also didn't tell you in turf school was that it would all be worth it. The sacrifice is worth it because this job is what I love to do and I know this industry is filled with people who feel the same way.

Face it, there are draw backs, but how many people get to see the sunrise every morning? Or are surrounded by

natural beauty every single day? Or truly get to experience the fruits of their labour? I can say with confidence not many people get to experience any of these things with regularity.

We work in a highly competitive industry which often results in direct competition for jobs and yet we all are very supportive of each other. When you stop and think about it, someone benefits from another losing their job, it creates space at the top and then the dominos start to fall. Yet, we go to one another for advice, direction, and always have a great time in social settings together. There are not many professions which have this type of close relationship with their colleagues and competitors.

When people close to me say things about how I have no life during the best part of the year, I agree with them. But I quickly counter by asking them how much they love their job, with the answer generally being a big NO! When it comes right down to it, I would gladly sacrifice my two weeks of summer vacation, late nights, or watching overtime in the conference finals.

I sacrifice because I understand life is better when you wake up every morning and get excited about what you get to do with the day. So the next time you are hot, exhausted, and sick of looking at that dead spot in the collar on the 8th green, remind yourself why you got into this job in the first place. And for me anyway, it's because I couldn't imagine doing anything else. ■



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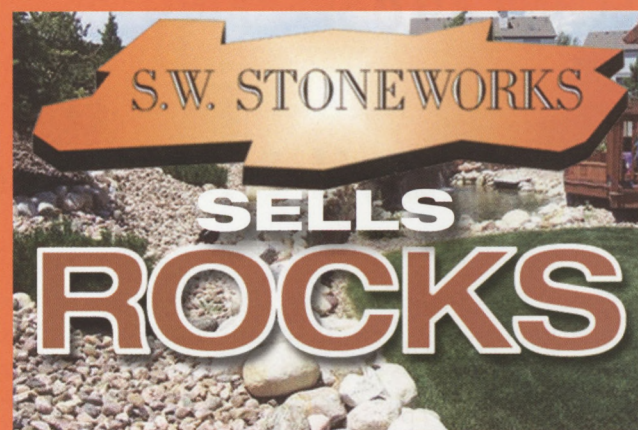
Choosing to come to the University of Guelph for the Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management Program (ADTM) has been one of the most significant and impactful decisions I have made in my recent life. Not more than two years ago today I was pulling tarps off my former course in Jasper, Alberta when I thought to myself, "you know, I think I could do this as a career for the rest of my life." And so the journey began.

Cut to present day – my fellow classmates and I are just beginning to wrap up our first year at the University of Guelph and what a crazy season it has been. I could not have asked to be placed with a better group of guys. Coming from extreme ranges in age, experience and backgrounds, we have all meshed into a very tight-knit group of friends; we hang out together, study together, and support each other in all of our undertakings. Since our introductions in September, we have shared many experiences such as attending industry conferences, travelling to Alabama for the "experience at FarmLinks" and even putting on an ace of a symposium last November, which we raised funds, organized and executed on our own (much credit goes to Tim O'Connor, our communications guru). At turf club we have seen and heard from some of Ontario's most influential superintendents including Keith Bartlett, Jeff Stauffer and Rob Ackermann, just to name a few. There isn't enough room in this magazine to touch on all the tremendous opportunities we have been afforded as turf students here at the University of Guelph.

Now, as our first year wraps up and we all prepare to head off to our internships, I sometimes lie awake at night thinking about what we have accomplished this year and what's in store for us this summer. Some of the A-list destinations include Taboo, The Ridge at Manitou, Deer Ridge, Quail Hollow, Medina, the TPC network, and Baltusrol. All of our host properties will give us the chance to practice the newly learned skills from irrigation, and cultural management to IPM practices and administrative responsibilities. For many of us, it will be our first chance at building a professional network and establishing our identities and rapport amongst other Turfies in the biz. Most importantly, I think our chance to observe some of the industry's best supers in action will provide valuable insight into what all of our careers have in store for us. I cannot wait to see all the pictures and hear about all the experiences everyone had once we all return in the fall. ■



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Using Soil Moisture Meters

Many superintendents are taking advantage of the technology of precision instruments that are available on the market today to take the guess work out of determining moisture levels on their turf playing surfaces. They are a little bit pricey but well worth the money.

One of the meters has two probes that, when inserted in the ground, measures the percent water volume content in the soil. Some models allow you to stand upright and take 15-20 readings quickly around each green at any given time. With a real percent moisture number reading to use to regulate water, you don't need to count on how they look and feel. With readings taken at frequent and consistent intervals, it will become apparent which areas are the driest and wettest. The instrument will help determine when to water greens at night and how much. Most superintendents claim they water less and their greens are firmer and faster.

Some models will hook up to a GPS unit and allow you to capture moisture data, download your measurements to

your computer and generate maps. This map can be given to everyone with a hose to identify areas requiring different levels of hand watering. This helps "even out" the greens to help deliver consistent firmness throughout the day.

It's important that turf managers know their water requirements, application rates and problem spots in their irrigation systems. It's a time where there are economic and environmental reasons to use less water. There also seems to be far fewer summertime problems if you can keep your greens dry and firm. Let's hope this summer is not too wet to allow for it. ■



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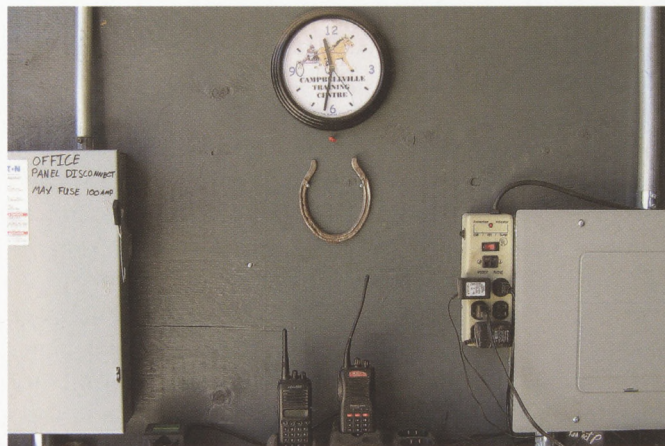
The curious case of the shop cat and the spooked steed

Located in the hamlet of Copetown, just west of Hamilton, Flamborough Hills beginnings dates back to 1961 when the existing dairy farm land was converted to 18 holes of championship golf. The golf course was originally named Windsor Park, but when ownership changed hands in 1985, it was renamed Flamborough Hills. In 1994, a third nine was built, thus completing the 27 hole layout found today. "There's always something going on here" says Flamborough Hills course Superintendent Joe Adams, referring to the constant construction including the layout redesign of two holes in 2009 and 2010.

Joe, who has been the superintendent at the club for an astonishing 22 years, he began at Flamborough Hills as the course mechanic. Three months into his job, the superintendent's position became available and Joe was approached by the owner and asked to fill the vacancy. After consulting with his wife, he accepted the offer. "I sometimes miss the mechanics side of the business and still like to get my hands dirty from time to time," says Joe. One might wonder how his current mechanic feels about Joe encroaching into his shop and toolbox. Well, seeing as the current mechanic is his son, Don, it seems a moot point. Joe's assistant, Steve Curry, affectionately known as "Red" rounds out the management team.

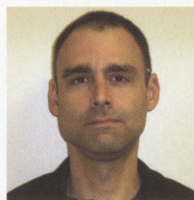
"Weird things happen around here," Joe admitted to me upon my first visit to Flamborough. Sitting at his desk, I had to peer around the shop cat, who had decided to sit on Joe's desk placing himself directly between the both of us. "He'll leave as soon as he thinks you're OK." True to his word, about five minutes into our conversation, the cat leapt off the desk and proceeded to get comfortable on his blanket on the couch. As the story goes, the previous shop cat was found dead on the road by the maintenance shop. "I came to work one morning and our cat was gone. I'm a big animal lover and it was upsetting to have our cat disappear." Well, as the saying goes, "all things happen for a reason". Turns out, the following day, another cat showed up at the maintenance facility and would not leave. "He showed up at our shop door," said Joe as he pointed to the now sleeping cat. "He has been with us ever since."

As our conversation continued, I happened to comment on their new maintenance shop. As we all know, it's not always easy to convince an owner or membership to invest money in a building they will rarely use. With all of the construction projects on the go, Joe was able to convince the ownership to invest in a much needed maintenance shop. Times were indeed busy as Joe was not only responsible for



overseeing the construction of the new shop but also of a new green. "We had just moved into our new shop and were about to put the first cut on the green that morning when the most unexpected thing happened." Meanwhile, the staff had been making bets on who was going to make the first dent in the shop. The bet should have been on what and not on who.

A stone's throw up the road, a horse rider was in the process of removing a harness off of a horse when suddenly, "the horse ran down the road and then got spooked when a dump truck honked its horn," said Joe. The noise caught Don's attention who looked out the open bay door to see what the commotion was about. Before realizing what was happening, the horse galloped into the shop and crashed into the wall four feet away from Don. Startled, Don watched the horse get up and dash across his shop making his way onto the golf course. "We had just finished cutting the new green when I saw a horse galloping towards the green. Luckily, my staff and I were able to redirect the horse towards our irrigation pond were it finally came to a stop." The worried owner later came to retrieve his missing steed. Obviously, the shop wall has been fixed and done so in true Flamborough Hills style: A horse shoe now adorns the spot on the wall commemorating the now famous day in Flamborough Hills history. ■



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Bird Control Permits – Simplified

During the past couple of months, many of us have been busy getting things ready for the spring season, including attaining our Migratory Bird Damage permits for goose control. We try to do this ahead of time so they are in place by the time the goose pressure needs to be addressed. We've been noticing some changes to the process of permit applications in Ontario this year. Firstly, it's taking up to three weeks to get a permit (three hours in previous years) and many are not being processed without the required summary report as mandated, as often forgiven during the process in previous years.

Just why exactly do we need a Migratory Bird Damage permit? During my recent discussion with Ms. Liz Sauer at Environment Canada, she explained that permits for migratory bird control are required for certain conditions only. So to simplify, here is a summary of facts for dealing with migratory bird permits:

- Permit application process is *free*
- Migratory Bird Damage Permits are issued by Environment Canada (federal) through their provincial branches of the Canadian Wildlife Service to scare/kill migratory birds (waterfowl including ducks, geese and gulls).
- Damage permits are issued if migratory birds are causing or are likely to cause damage to agricultural crops, private property (golf courses, parks, or pose a threat to human safety).
- Permits are only required when migratory birds, in our case Canada geese and gulls, are intended to be *killed*, *translocated*, or if the *removal of eggs* from a nest is required, or if controls are being conducted using a firearm or airplane.



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Photo by Michael von Kaitz

- We do not need permits to scare or harass, migratory birds with dogs, scare pistols, lasers, habitat modification or other non-lethal forms of control. Although no birds can be harmed during any of the processes listed.
- If a permit is required, it is the responsibility of the property owner or manager to maintain the conditions of the permit.

Hopefully this will help in our understanding of what is

required to help alleviate some of the bird pressure on your properties.

My recommendations are this: if the ecology of the land on your site promotes nesting by migratory birds (geese, gulls, swallows etc.) and you have or have had a presence of birds in the past, get a permit to remove eggs. Continue to implement the controls early in the season and continuously to prevent nesting. Be prepared is my motto.

Additional references are available through the Canadian Wildlife Services on Canada geese and applicable laws that protect them. On-line documents include: *Handbook, Canada and Crackling Geese: Management & Population Control in Southern Canada, The Migratory Bird Convention Act, 1994* www.laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/m-7.01 ■



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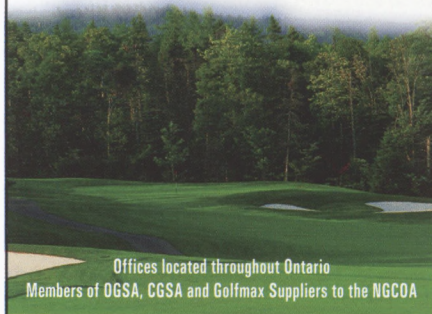
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A+ Annuals



It can be a daunting task to walk into a garden centre with endless aisles of annuals. A former colleague always used to try to help me simplify my decisions by suggesting I plant all my beds in red geraniums or pink petunias, but this wasn't really the answer I was looking for! However, when I discovered I could make a planter that was colourful, interesting, looked good well into the fall and didn't need to be watered twice a day even if it was growing in baking sun all day, I started to think I was making progress. With always more to do in the gardens than there is time in the day, I finally began to appreciate the value of low maintenance annuals.

Whether you're a superintendent without a gardener or a gardener strapped for time, here are a few solutions for getting the most out of your time and your annuals budget. I've listed a set of criteria and included with each plant which criteria it meets. All of these plants should be readily available and inexpensive.

Criteria:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| D Drought Tolerant | SS Grows in Sun or Shade |
| DH No Deadheading Required | L Long Season |

Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus sprengeri*)

D DH SS L

This is one of my favourite filler plants and also one of my staples in areas that are too shady even for Impatiens. It doesn't flower so doesn't need deadheading and the fabulous airy texture makes up for the lack of flowers.

Begonia (*Fibrous and Dragon Wing series*)

D DH SS L

I used to turn my nose up a bit at begonias because they're generally overused, but now I understand why. They're tough and they're easy. They're drought tolerant and won't show signs of stress as early as other annuals, but, like most annuals, will only really thrive with adequate moisture. Tuberous begonias come in a more diverse colour palette. Although, I find they are more sensitive to rotting and require deadheading, however, the ones I planted and *couldn't* deadhead seemed to do just fine.

Geranium Mini Cascade

D DH SS L

This is a favourite of Jacky Miller, the Head Gardener at Glen Abbey: 'These geraniums are the most drought tolerant, and look great whether in full sun to almost full shade - I can always count on these to last up to the end of October, and they still look great!'

Variegated Swedish Ivy (*Plectranthus coleoides*)

D DH SS L

This is a vigorous trailing plant and less used than Ivy or Ipomea if you're looking for something different. Even though it generally doesn't flower, the green/white variegation adds extra interest.

Sweet Allysum (*Lobularia maritima*)

D DH L

This is a fantastic ground cover border plant that is covered in masses of white flowers well into the fall. My records show I still had some plants blooming on November 24 last year! It is drought tolerant but not as much as geraniums or begonias. Although traditionally used in garden beds, I've also tried it in planters with success. It is available in shades from lavender to pink to white, but the white cultivars tend to be more vigorous. An added bonus is the wafts of sweet scent it gives off. If you're happy to let it be, it will usually self seed.

Dusty Miller (*Senecio cineraria*)

D DH L

Another one of those overused-been-there-done-that-annuals, but I tried it, and I've had a change of heart. Once planted they can pretty much be left alone and the grey-white foliage provides great contrast for almost anything. They are very drought tolerant, but how much they grow will definitely be affected by how much water they receive.

Licorice Plant (*Helichrysum petiolare*)

D DH L

This is another great trailing plant that can also be used in the garden if you don't mind things creeping around. It's generally available in three varieties: the Large Silver Leaf is the most common and the most vigorous, so plant it sparingly, the Small Silver Leaf is great for smaller planters or where you don't want it taking over and the Lime Leaf is harder to find, but if you can get it you can make some great colour combos!

Ornamental Grasses

D DH L

Ornamental Grasses are popular for their texture, seed heads, and ease of care. The most common and readily available annual is the Purple Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'*) and there's also a green variety with pink flowers. Although these won't survive the winter, they can be used in fall displays too. If you want to stretch your budget use perennial ornamental grasses in your annual displays and then replant them into your perennial gardens in the fall. Be sure to do a little research as some perennial grasses will give a better first year display than others.

Spider Plant



This is another one of my favourite filler plants. It's strong texture and striped leaf will give any garden bed or planter a bit more pizzazz. My preference is to cut off the baby shoots, but this is optional and doesn't require a lot of work.

Salvia 'Victoria Blue'



One of the most popular annuals, salvia looks great with almost anything. They actually perform better if they don't get too much water, otherwise they can become too large and the stems start breaking and mildews start moving in. You may want to deadhead it a little in the fall to prolong flowering, but otherwise it takes care of itself.

Sweet Potato Vine (Ipomea)



Although the sweet potato vine does show heat stress relatively easily, it's still a staple in my annual collection. It's most often used in planters but can just as easily be used in a garden. Like the Licorice plant, plant sparingly as it will no doubt take over!

Snapdragons



Although Snapdragons require deadheading and won't grow in the shade, they make up for it in that, like Allysum, they can be planted in early spring, last long into the fall, and look great in the heat of the summer too. They will often self seed which can be handy in less formal areas.

Cleaning up the gardens this spring I've even noticed some plants have overwintered!

Now if you're willing to look a little harder or spend a bit more money, here's a list of some other favourite annuals that can help make a strong statement in your gardens:

Purple Heart is a purple foliated trailing plant that loves the heat and hardly needs water; **Stipa tenuissima** is an wispy textured ornamental grass; **Papyrus 'King Tut'** grows about 5-6 feet tall and makes a great statement; and **Melampodium 'Million Gold'** is a rock solid yellow flowering border plant.

In the tropicals department **Crotons** are one of the biggest show stoppers with their bright colours and always receives lots of compliments. **Bird of Paradise** are great for large spaces and **Echeveria** are good fillers for pots and thrive on small amounts of water. **Cordyline** and **Phormium** are alternatives for the typical 'spike' plant and can be used in planters or right in the garden.

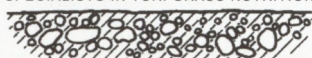
Since you're likely in the midst of annual planting as we speak, I hope this gives a few ideas to make your load a little lighter this year. Happy Planting! ■



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Of Lumberjacks and Arithmetic

Although this is the “Spring” issue of *Green is Beautiful*, it feels to me as though we’ve been at it already for some time now. I hope you all took the time over the winter months to service your equipment, keeping the necessary records of your efforts and, with any luck, had a chance to unwind and recharge from last season’s efforts.

This past winter, I was reminded of the importance of properly training and involving operators in what I’ll call “specialized” pieces of equipment, such as chainsaws and sprayers. This includes, not only the operation of these pieces but the maintenance as well. Having operators take ownership of such machinery will not only reduce downtime and help prevent costly repairs from neglect or abuse but will also aid in reducing the risk of injury or accidents. And that is never a bad thing.

All chainsaw operators should be responsible for cleaning and sharpening their own saws. No woodsman worth his salt would let another man touch his saw – his livelihood and his life depends on it. I have spent many hours sharpening countless saw chains over the years and I have to tell you that one of the things in this business that irritates me to no end is to see somebody take a saw you just set up and promptly dip the tip into the ground at full RPM. One touch of that saw into the turf and the chain is dull. At the speed these components are running, even the smallest amount of aggregate will immediately cause a world of hurt to sprocket and bar and everyone knows a dull saw is a dangerous saw. If everyone who used a chainsaw took a certified operators course, they would not only know how to fell a tree properly and safely, but they would also be taught how to look after that saw and maintain it so it will perform as required, when required, every time.

As with chainsaws, sprayers are another example of a piece of equipment we all have at our courses that now must rely heavily on having well-educated operators. Thank you IPM accreditation process! While every Turf Equipment Technician should know how to calibrate their sprayer, this

is a procedure that should be done, and done regularly, by the person who’ll be doing the spraying. Superintendents have always been environmental stewards (though some may not have realized it) and as such you have a responsibility to your profession to ensure that the equipment you use to apply product is putting out what you think it is – no more, no less. From a financial stand point, who can afford to waste money by unknowingly over treating or possibly worse, under treating your turf? That’s money for your budget that can be used to buy more product you might not otherwise be able to afford or could be reallocated to make another project happen. But mostly it just makes good sense.

Don’t fret about learning how to calibrate your sprayer, it’s just math and a little common sense. The more times you do it the easier it will get. There are several tools out there to aid you with calibration from private consultants and product reps to your local sprayer dealer. Additionally, one sprayer manufacturer offers a free downloadable calibration tool which is really easy to use. I happen to know the fellow who designed this calibration tool and had the opportunity to speak with him. He told me it was created in response to feedback from end users who, quite simply, were asking for it.

The point is, don’t underestimate the value of properly trained operators or these certification programs. While these courses may seem painful at times, a well trained operator is more productive, provides more value for the dollar and will help to keep you in the good graces of the government regulators. ■



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Five Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

In 2006, the board of directors of the OGSA were **Bob Burrows** (pres), Rosedale, **Paul Scenna** (past), Beacon Hall, **Sean DeSilva** (vice), Coppinwood, **Jeff Stauffer** (treas), Credit Valley, **Randy Booker** (sec), Dundas Valley, **Jeff Alexander**, Parry Sound, **Chris Andrejicka**, Essex, **Jarrold Barakett**, Deer Ridge, **Doug Breen**, GolfNorth, **Trevor Clapperton**, Dalewood, **Rob Gatto**, King's Forest, **Chris Nelson** (editor), Markland Wood.

In memoriam

We regret to inform members of the passing of Life Member **Bruce Summers** of the Winchester Golf Club, **Jeremy Thompson**, Superintendent of the Dominion Golf and Country Club and **Tom Yates**, former Superintendent at Castlemore Golf and Country Club.

On the move

Bob Heron retired from Beacon Hall; **Paul Scenna** from Donalda to Beacon Hall; **Scott White** took over from **Paul** at Donalda; **Frank Guthro** to the Forest Golf and Country Hotel; **Greig Barker** to Copetown Woods; **Jeff Allen** to Lake Joseph Club; **Graeme Hughes** to The Maples of Ballantrae; **Scott Jamieson** to Saugeen; **Jamie Camalucci** to Timber Wolf; **Garry McBeath** to Royal Ontario; **Mark Pickering** to Bushwood; **Steve Phillips** to Ingersoll; **Wray Barrett** to Willow Valley; **Chelsea Stroud** to Muskoka Highlands; **Dan Lavis** to Tanandowah; **Allen Couroux** to Bear Creek; **Jeffrey Coward** to Gentlemen Creek and **Jordan Stanev** is the new owner/superintendent of Barry's Bay.

There were many 25 year members recognized at the Ontario Golf Management Conference and Trade Show: **Tim Clarridge**, Spring Lakes, **John Cunningham**, Mandarin, **Ed Farnsworth**, Deerhurst, **Ted** and **Carmen DeCorso**, Victoria Park, **Greg Aljoe**, Oviinbyrd, **Sid Witteveen**, Loch March and **Randy Hooper**, Beach Grove.

Plant Products was pleased to announce the addition of **Gary Tate** as their new representative and **Jason Ireton** was now the Turf Manager. **Jason Harris** left Plant Products to be the owner/superintendent at Orr Lake Golf Club, north of Barrie. Maple Turf Supply was pleased to announce the addition of **Mark Schneider**

serving central and northern regions. **Hutcheson Sand and Gravel** announced two new sales representatives with **Ian Bowen** and **Alex MacDonald**. **Colin White** was now the territory manager for Ontario and Atlantic provinces at Bayer Environmental Science and **Brad Chisholm** was the new sales representative at Master's Turf Supply. **Vanden Bussche Irrigation** was pleased to announce that **Jason Becket** was promoted to golf manager, **Kory Kopko** would be the new golf territory manager for western Ontario.

The GCSAA Golf Industry Conference scheduled for February in New Orleans was canceled because of hurricane Katrina and was moved to Atlanta.

Cindi Charters, who has been the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's executive administrator for the past 15 years, retired on March 31st.

Mississauga, Galt and Oshawa Golf Clubs celebrated their centennial years and Westmount had its 75th anniversary.

Congratulations went to **Dave Gourlay**, who was this year's recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award.

CGSA History of Greenkeeping written by **Gordon Witteveen** was well underway and was planned to be available for our 40th anniversary celebrations.

The Pro/Super Tournament was held at Weston Golf and Country Club hosted by **Rob Ackermann**. The winning team was from Parry Sound, **Jeff Alexander**, 2nd Cedar Brae, **Darren Little**, 3rd Trafalgar, **Mark Prieur** and 4th Deer Creek, **Neil Acton**.

The Spring Field Day was held at St. Thomas Golf and Country Club hosted by **Wade Beaudoin**. **Scott Gardner**, Echo Valley, was low gross with 73.

The 38th Annual President's Day Tournament was held at Rosedale hosted by **Bob Burrows**. Winners were as follows: 1st **Peter Kinch**, Lampton, 2nd **Jarrold Barakett**, Deer Ridge and 3rd **Steve Muys**, Twenty Valley.

The McClumpha tournament was held at Bond Head Golf Club hosted by **Ian McQueen**. **Ron Craig** of Turf Care presented **Bill Fach**, Black Bear Ridge, with the George Darou Trophy for superintendents over 50 with low gross 82. Low gross scores were **David May** and **Kevin Holmes** and low net scores were **David Caldwell** and **Bruce Stanley**. ■

Let the Purge Begin!

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
GolfNorth Properties

A few weeks back, my wife threw out my daughter's hockey equipment. Pretty much all of it. Yep, the skates too. In her defence, it was an accident, and mostly my daughter's own fault. She took all of her hockey equipment out of her bag at the end of the season, and filled it with lacrosse equipment. Then, to avoid having Yoshi the Wonderdog chew it to bits (and also because her equipment smelled like an open sewer), she put it all into a garbage bag under the basement stairs. A couple days later, Krista went on one of her bimonthly cleaning rages, and threw the garbage bag out. I'm actually quietly concerned the bag may rip open, and I'll be fined by the MOE for disposing of a toxic substance in the municipal waste stream – it really smelled awful!

So I was faced with the dilemma of having to buy an entire set of equipment for spring tryouts, knowing full well it likely wouldn't fit her by fall. So instead, I made her do the tryout in her older brother's equipment. Yep, the skates too.

It's not the first time Krista has thrown out something this way. Every few weeks, she'll just snap and trash whatever's in her way. I came home one day to find our couch on the front lawn, because she just decided that she didn't like it anymore. It can be pretty random too – once I had a pair of insanely loud car speakers from my 1976 Renault 17 in the basement, and she wasn't sure whether I still wanted them or not – so she threw one out. One! I have several single shoes because of her. Last winter she threw out my copy of the Township Zoning By-Law and maps, because I left it on the kitchen table – didn't throw out the empty pizza box that was beside it though. Some psych student could do a Master's thesis on her.

But I'm not complaining, it's actually good. You see, she's the only thing standing between me and an episode of hoarders – I keep everything. I have employee reviews from 1997 for summer students who are now in their thirties. I have resumes on file for people who have since died of old age. There's a dangerously high stack of unread golf magazines in the corner of my office, and I have the charging cords from every cell phone, laptop, or Blackberry I've ever owned. I have no idea why I keep these things, but it just never seems right to me to throw them into a dumpster. I have a calendar from 2009 in my desk drawer. No reason, it's just there. I've tried to throw it out, but couldn't bring myself to do it. If Krista came to work with me for one day,



it would be gone. Mind you, she'd likely throw out the desk drawer with it and my laptop if I didn't keep an eye on her.

I also have a cycle to my cleaning rampages, but it's much, much slower. Where she will purge everything that isn't nailed down about once every two weeks, I tend to only do it when I change the company I work for. Since I've been with GolfNorth for 14 seasons, I have accumulated a lot of "clutter". I would wager that I now have more clutter than useful stuff. Sometimes it works to my advantage. If somebody needs a hardcopy of a fertilizer quote from 2001, I likely still have it. The problem is I'm highly unlikely to be able to find it amongst the clutter and it's even more unlikely anyone will ever ask to see it in the first place.

But there are times that saving the apparently banal and irrelevant have paid off for people. In the 70s when the rest of us were mangling our Bobby Orr rookie cards in the spokes of our bikes and then having our mothers throw them out in the 80s, a few people kept theirs around and made a bunch of money. The trick, is knowing which items of clutter will ultimately be valuable. I say keep them all, and let the free market sort them out. Krista just keeps chucking them in the garbage – just like her mother threw out her autographed Wayne Gretzky Soo Greyhound picture. I bet we could buy a lot of hockey equipment for what that picture would be worth today. ■



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