

Green is Beautiful

Summer 2011

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Final Greens Open at Lambton

Completed redesign breathes new life
into Championship Course

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:


How's Your Insect Monitoring Going?

Social Media: Takes Less Time Than You Think

Thinking Outside the Tee Box

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Chris Andrejicka,
Essex Golf &
Country Club

As we head into the dog days of summer I hope everyone's experiencing a successful season so far. Time just seems to be flying by this year. There was a point at the beginning of the year when it was cold and wet and I thought time was almost standing still. With the first real heat wave in July behind us, of course we will be dealing with localized dry spots, increased disease pressure and burnt out staff. During these dog days of summer I have found it helpful to plan an after work activity with your staff to reenergize everyone as well as help strengthen the cohesiveness of your team – of course, sometimes it's just nice to have a night of fun.

Congratulations are in order for one of our directors, Jennifer Pendrith. She is the happy new mother to her recently born baby girl. On behalf of the board, we all wish Jennifer and her new daughter health and happiness.

By now, many of you have seen and participated in the OGSA's first member-wide survey. Moving forward, the board is encouraging both participation and suggestions from you in order to gather valuable information in an effort to provide a snapshot of the state of our profession in Ontario. Our goal is to keep the surveys short and to the point. With our first survey completed, I'm receiving great feedback and suggestions to improve future surveys.

Event participation has seen a dramatic rise this year. I would like to thank everyone for putting aside the time to attend these fun events. Don't forget to register for the very popular summer scramble August 30th at Springfield Golf and Country Club and the McClumpha on October 3rd at Oslerbrook Golf and Country Club – they should both be great days!

The 2012 OGSA conference preparations are just about complete. This year's line up of speakers is very strong and the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls is a beautiful facility. I would encourage everyone to attend.

As I discussed earlier in the year, the OGSA board has struck a committee to provide a strategy moving forward as we approach the deadline to host public meetings. I can report the committee is working hard on the IPM Toolkit. Plans include a professional flash video that can be used at your meeting, an informational power point presentation and a set of written "Guidelines to holding your Public Meeting". This full toolkit will be shown and launched at the 2012 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show and will be provided at no cost to OGSA members. The goal is to have one strategy and one message to the general public to highlight our professional status as land stewards. Keep the good weather coming and enjoy the rest of the summer! ■

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Construction at Lambton Golf Club

Photo credit: David Smith

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Green is Beautiful 2011

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

EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

In season two of the show *Mad Men*, Don Draper fires his secretary, not so much for being incompetent, but for showing little ability to conceal his transgressions. When she challenges his decision by saying she 'covers' for him all the time, Draper responds with this remark: "You do not cover for me, you manage people's expectations."

Of course, Don Draper is a philandering alcoholic who is uncomfortable with the term 'cover' because it implies guilt, but the essence of his statement is still worth examining. You see it's not necessarily about coming up with excuses and defenses for why things went wrong, it's about cultivating an environment of understanding for the times when things are less than perfect. And let's face it, when it comes to our business, things will never be perfect. There are way too many variables beyond our control.

As I read through this issue of our publication, it is apparent social media has never been more relevant. Perhaps these new forums of interaction are the best way to capture and grow an appreciation for our industry – a valuable tool in understanding the challenges faced in our business.

Constant communication, be it with golfers, committee members, owners or general managers, allows for an enhanced sense of understanding because they see the work at all stages. It's tangible. There is a sense of "knowing" you are out there trying and when those same people feel you are accessible, they are less apt to react negatively to certain situations.

We are all guilty of complaining when things don't turn out as we expect and often quick to cast judgment on situations we don't necessarily understand. Just as a golfer might complain about green speeds or how damp the bunkers are.

With these new tools at our disposal, we just might be able to create a little more understanding. If a golfer or committee member sees a blog entry posted at 5:30 am or a photo taken of the course conditions three hours before they arrived on site for their round, it may help to bridge the gap between their expectations and what is reasonable. At the very least, it should help them recognize the hours of work and the effort put in.

After all, we are more understanding and exhibit more patience for the things we can appreciate. So maybe this new wave of communication is not just a method for acquiring information, maybe it's a way to create a window into the business of growing turf and the challenges faced on a daily basis. Perhaps it is the best modern way of 'managing expectations'. ■

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Rob Gatto, left with David Kuypers, right.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Once again, OGSA acknowledges host superintendents from the Ontario Amateur circuit. OGSA Treasurer Rob Gatto presented the award plaque to David Kuypers at Cutten Fields who recently hosted the Investors Group Ontario Women's Amateur Championship. Gary Gravett presented the award plaque to Kirk Stewart from Goderich Sunset Golf Club who hosted the Investors Group Ontario Junior Girls Championship.



Gary Gravett, left, presents a plaque to Kirk Stewart, right.

2011 OGSA SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

These deadlines are fast approaching, so be sure to mark your calendars!

The Heritage Award:

August 31, 2011

The William Sansom Distinguished Service Award

October 1, 2011

The Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

October 31, 2011

Details and application material are available at: www.golfsupers.on.ca

OGSA 50-YEAR MEMBERS

David Gourlay and Robert (Bob) Moote, both OGSA Past Presidents were recently honoured as the



David Gourlay, left, accepts his commemorative 50-year Member gift from Paul White, right.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2011 OGSA Tournament & Event Schedule

Event	Date	Golf Course	Host Superintendent
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

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".



Mark Prieur, OGSA Board Member, left, presents Robert (Bob) Moote, OGSA Past President, with his commemorative 50-year Member gift.

newest OGSA 50-year Members. Current board member Scott White and his father Paul, who is also a past president of OGSA met Mr. Gourlay to present his watch and Mark Prieur

OGSA board member presented Bob Moote with his watch.

FROM THE OFFICE

We thought it might be nice to have some communication with our members through *Green is Beautiful*, to keep you up to date on what's happening in the OGSA office, hence I write the first "From the Office".

We have worked hard putting together our member surveys and hopefully when the statistics are compiled we can provide more information to employers and job seekers. We will also see where we stand with regard to fulfilling that part of our mission statement about increasing the profile of the golf course superintendent.

Our second survey on equipment and supply purchases will be

extremely helpful when we seek sponsorships for our conferences and educational programs. We are sure our associate members evaluate the value of belonging to the OGSA, we should also know what our members spend and who they purchase from.

Thanks to all the members who participated in these surveys. Your feedback is important and very much appreciated.

We are excited to announce the launch of a new member program through The Personal insurance company. In the coming weeks we will be promoting this program. Please include The Personal on your list of companies to approach when you are shopping for your own personal home and auto insurance. The Personal offers savings up to 15% below brokerages, and their



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This program is open to all members, their partners, retired members, honorary members and their children under 25 living at home.

We are working hard preparing for our upcoming conference in Niagara Falls. We have added some exhibitor incentives that will help our associate members support our conference and trade show. We can't emphasize enough how important it is for our members to visit booths and talk to the exhibitors and make yourself available to them. The exhibitors are an essential part of our program and their presence enhances our ability to provide a great line-up of speakers

and sessions. Also at the conference, we will be launching the IPM Toolkit which includes everything you will need to know when planning your first public meeting in 2012. The session will include:

- A video, free to all members, to be used for IPM presentations
- A written guide with tips and hints on complying with legislation
- An improv "session" on how to be more comfortable presenting

Plan on being with us in Niagara Falls next January.

We will continue to keep everyone up to date through *Clippings* and our website which will be changing soon to a new updated website with a new domain name: ogs.ca.

The last three months, my first three working alone at the OGSA office,

have been really interesting, very busy and lots of fun. I have muddled through the event program, three down and three to go, and nothing went seriously wrong. I am learning so much about this position and the industry and at the same time putting my past years of experience to work for the OGSA. It's a great association, with a terrific Board of Directors, professional and helpful staff and a supportive membership.

If you have any suggestions at all to assist with our member services or anything else you believe OGSA should be involved with please don't hesitate to contact us here at the office. Either myself, Pat Thomas or Deb Badger will be happy to assist you.

Until the next time, hoping you are all having a spectacular season. ■

Sally Ross
OGSA Executive Manager



Photo credit: Scott Bowman, Superintendent, Glen Abbey Golf Club



OGSA Welcomes our newest members

Peter Bassin Deer Ridge GC	Class F
Jordan Kitchen Century Pines GC	Class C
Aaron McConnell Bay of Quinte G&CC	Class A
Nicole Renaud Ambassador GC	Class C
Ryan Streach RTF Water Saver Canada	Class E
Barry Raymer The Farm Office Inc	Class E
Jonathan Dendeleleer Total Equipment Rentals	Class E
Geoff Erkelens Total Equipment Rentals	Class E
Karen Verbrugge Turf Professionals Choice	Class E

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Ontario Safety Strategies

As you may know, the Ontario government is in the process of revamping health and safety in the province. You may have heard that Bill 160 has recently received first reading in the provincial legislature. Bill 160 will change the way health and safety is delivered and enforced in the Province of Ontario. This is a positive step forward in moving health and safety to the next level in Ontario.

The Ministry of Labour will be taking over worker and management training for health and safety representatives from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

When Bill 160 becomes law, and if all the proposed amendments are implemented, every Ontario worker and supervisor will be required to receive mandatory information about workplace rights and responsibilities before they start their jobs.

There will be rigorous training standards for workers who work at heights such as changing light bulbs or cleaning in a facility. There will be tougher penalties for those who place workers at risk of death or serious injury. Employers will receive better support in understanding and meeting health and safety standards and greater recognition where these standards are exceeded.

The government has indicated the needs and realities of operating small businesses will be accommodated in labour policies. There will be a renewed prevention organization with focused leadership heading a more integrated, efficient and accountable system. There will be more information and better protection available for vulnerable workers. More open and transparent consultation with the workplace parties, coupled with these and other recommendations, will assist employers in promoting safer and healthier workplaces.

That is a lot of change. This will mean some positive changes to health and safety in the workplace.

The big question is: how does this affect you, the employer? One of the main thrusts of this legislation is to assist employers in their efforts to be effective leaders. Effective leadership clearly contributes to the positive health of an organization. Throughout the development process of Bill 160 it was made abundantly clear the attitudes and behaviours of owners, employers, managers and supervisors were instrumental in defining the safety culture of a company. Preparing the next generation to be good leaders is an important employer responsibility.

Once this legislation is in place, employers will be required to ensure training documentation is maintained and provided training is appropriate to the type of work being performed.

The duty will be on employers to demonstrate that there are comprehensive strategies in place, with clear rules, to facilitate a culture of safety within the workplace. In fact, there may be a push for employers to promote safety in social environments in which they have perceived control.

Many of the discussions involved with the development of Bill 160 supported the view that improved workplace health and safety requires strong societal support. Beliefs, attitudes and behaviours about the value and protection of human life apply equally to family, community, school and the workplace. The perceptions and values of managers and workers can result in actions that promote health and reduce injuries. A culture of safety is complex and influenced in many ways throughout society. Employers will be expected to be leaders in an effort to enhance a positive safety culture.

This is a new beginning in safety in the province of Ontario. This new initiative will fundamentally alter the way in which employers are required to act with respect to health and safety.

From what I am learning about this change, it is my belief the Ontario Ministry of Labour will be taking a much more proactive approach to health and safety and we can all expect the Ministry inspectors will be challenging employers to ensure safety in the workplace is a primary aspect of doing business.

I expect we will live in a future where injuries in the workplace are not an acceptable cost of doing business.

It is my belief these changes will make a major difference to employer attitudes, especially those who believe it is the worker's sole responsibility to work in a safe manner.

Employers who do not establish and integrate comprehensive safety programs and communicate responsibilities to their workforce will be more likely to be held accountable for injuries occurring in the workplace.

Watch for more updates on this issue over the coming months. Also take the time to go to the Ministry of Labour at: www.news.ontario.ca/mol/en/2011/05/strengthening-workplace-health-and-safety.html.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. ■



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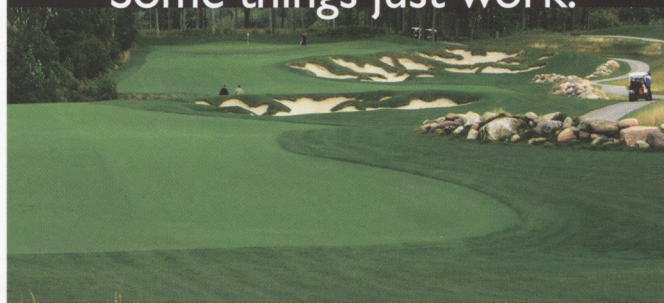


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How's Your Insect Monitoring Going?

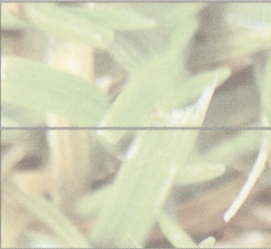
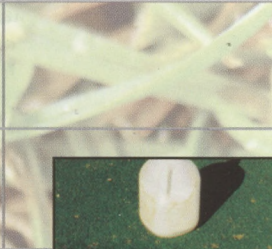













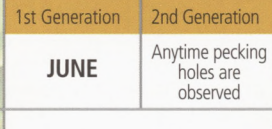






Insects have had a field day this season so far and some superintendents have been caught off guard. The chart below summarizes insect scouting/monitoring techniques, which insects they are good for and what time of the year they should be used on Ontario golf courses.

During the prescribed monitoring period for each insect, it is recommended you monitor at least weekly. Where to do the monitoring is almost an art form more than a science. Certainly, knowing the history of any previous insect infestations will help you determine which greens or fairways to target. Now that mandatory scouting is part of the golf

course IPM accreditation program, you should have good records for at least 2010, which will make your selection of which areas to monitor easier with each year. ■



*Pamela Charbonneau
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The Guelph Turfgrass Institute
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	Soil Sampling Using a Cup Cutter		Soap Flush or Disclosing Solution*		Saturated Salt Solution**	Richmond Linear Pit Fall Trap
	Timing of Application					
Annual Bluegrass Weevil Where to sample: Edges of fairway and collars	Larvae 1st Generation	Larvae 2nd Generation	Adult 1st Generation	Adult 2nd Generation	Larvae	Adult
	JUNE	mid-JULY end of JULY	MAY	mid-JULY early AUG	JUNE	MAY
Black Turfgrass Ataenius Where to sample: Edges of fairway and collars	Grubs		Adult 1st Generation	Adult 2nd Generation		
	mid-JUNE	mid-JULY	MAY	Rarely damaging		
European Chafer Where to sample: Areas with a history of infestation	mid-AUGUST	mid-SEPTEMBER				
Japanese Beetle Where to sample: Areas where large adult populations are observed	mid-AUGUST	mid-SEPTEMBER				
Leatherjackets Where to sample: Wet, poorly drained areas	late-APRIL	mid-MAY				
Black Cutworms Where to sample: Areas with pecking holes			1st Generation	2nd Generation		
			JUNE	Anytime pecking holes are observed		
Sod Webworm Where to sample: Areas with pecking holes			SEPTEMBER			



Soap Flush



Sod Webworm

Application notes:

Break up the cup changer plug over a tray. Most larvae will be between the soil/thatch interface at the 2cm depth. Multiply the number of larvae found by 10 to get the number of insects per 0.1m².

May take up to 5 minutes for the caterpillars to emerge. During hot, sunny days rinse the area that has been flushed with water to prevent the detergent from burning the turf.

Breaking up the core in the bucket will help release any larvae.

There are two good web sites describing this technique*:

http://www.umasturf.org/publications/fact_sheets/insects/ABW_monitor.pdf
http://www.usga.org/course_care/regional_updates/regional_reports/northeast/Annual-Bluegrass-Weevil---April-2010/

*Note: I have not tried this technique

* Mix 15-30mL of dishwashing liquid in 4-8L of water to cover 0.1m²

** Submerge a cup changer plug in a bucket of water with 35g of table salt for every 100mL of water

Too Hot to Water

One of the best parts about working on a golf course versus working at many other urban outdoor jobs is that the grass cools itself via transpiration making golf courses much cooler than areas surrounded by pavement. The primary function of water taken up by the plant is cooling. This allows the plant to continue physiological functions such as photosynthesis and contributes to growth and recovery. When turf stands are deficient in water, we first see wilting, then dormancy mechanisms are initiated to protect the living tissue of the crown while sacrificing the current leaf tissue. Although an excellent survival mechanism, dormant turf is not recovering from wear and if the heat and lack of water persist, plants can become hot enough that death to crown tissue occurs, killing the turf stand.

High temperatures combined with a thunderstorm can lead to excess water, often resulting in what is commonly called "heat scald". This can also occur when the turf stand is over-watered during the heat of the day. Understanding the mechanism of heat scald will help superintendents better manage irrigation during hot weather. A common heat scald theory is magnification of the sun's rays through a droplet of water creates a scenario like a child burning ants with a magnifying lens. A more simple and plausible explanation revolves around saturated soils and oxygen availability.

Respiration is the plant's use of oxygen to convert sugars into energy. Heat scald is the result of the rate of respiration exceeding the available oxygen. As temperatures increase so does the respiration rate and the oxygen requirements of turf increases dramatically. When soils are waterlogged, oxygen available to the roots is reduced, creating a severe energy deficit for the plant. When roots are deprived of oxygen they stop functioning and water uptake is severely reduced. This results in less transpiration and a hotter canopy and before long the cycle creates a runaway scenario where turfgrass death becomes inevitable.

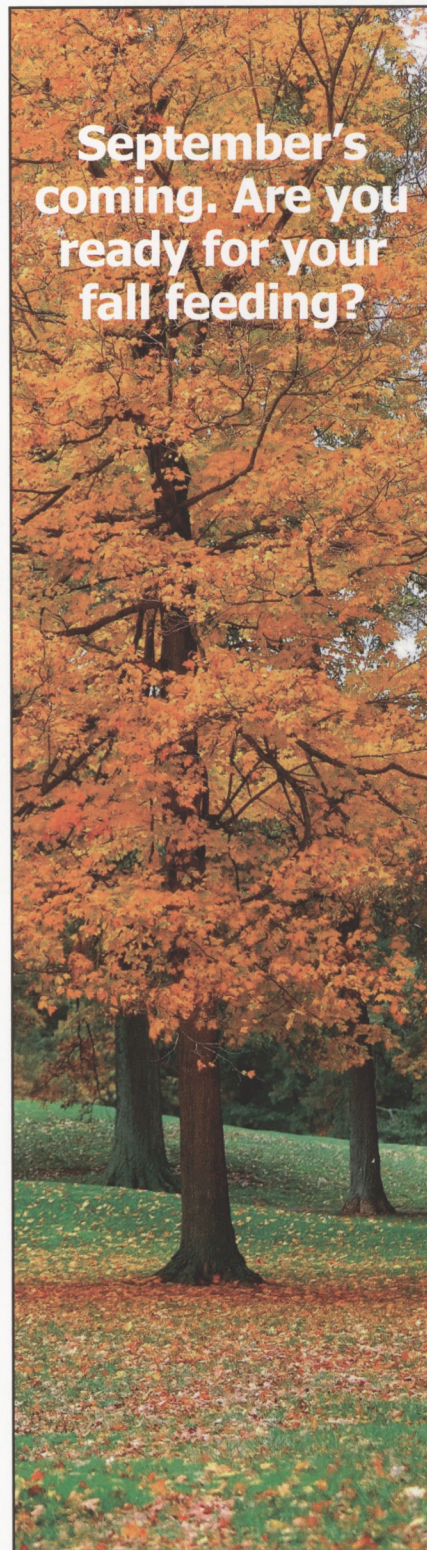
There are ways to avoid heat scald by ensuring there are adequate soil oxygen levels for proper root function. One way is to not saturate the soil with your irrigation system on a hot day. If the weather has been excessively warm root depth may already be compromised, therefore you must confirm you are watering to the depth of the roots and not beyond them. By mid-day, evapotranspiration exceeds moisture in the soil and the plants close their stomates and begin to heat up. When this occurs, you can cool the plants by hand syringing. Syringing is not light, frequent irrigation, it's misting the air above the turf canopy to reduce the temperature of the canopy. When done properly, very little to no water actually reaches the soil. Although a single turn of an irrigation head or hand watering can cool the surface, these practices can also lead to reduced soil oxygen and potentially heat scald, especially if drainage is compromised.

Maintaining both surface and subsurface drainage is an important practice to avoid heat scald; it ensures an excessive rain event does not create saturated soil. Core aeration is one of the best ways to make sure drainage is maintained on greens and tees. Aeration allows water to move quickly through the soil profile, allowing air to follow behind. These steps require planning ahead and managing your water movement for root health throughout the year. This fall and next spring, when deciding on special projects, target the areas that did not drain well or seemed to suffer the most from heat scald. Ensure you have adequate drainage to maintain root health through the heat of the summer and avoid heat scald in the future. ■



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Ray Dlugokecki



"Follow your passion and get as far as you can with work ethic." – Duke

Ray 'Duke' Dlugokecki with Charlie

by Justin Parsons
Engage Agro Corp.

Not many OGSA members can say they have been a superintendent at a golf club for more than two decades. Even fewer can say they have shared a stage with Ray Charles. Ray Dlugokecki has done both.

Dlugokecki, more commonly known in the industry as 'Duke', has been the golf course superintendent at Springfield Golf and Country Club in Guelph since it opened in 1990. Despite Duke's success in the golf course maintenance industry, his early career aspirations were focused on a completely different business altogether.

Duke was born and raised in Kitchener, Ontario. As a child, he and his seven siblings were very involved in music. His mother, who was a professional opera singer, insisted they form a family band. Although they may not have enjoyed the success of the Partridge family,

Duke's exposure to music at an early age certainly had an impact on him. After he finished high school, Duke decided to pursue the craft by attending Humber College for their jazz program.

After a teachers strike halted the completion of his studies in third year, and, given the unpredictable nature of the business, Duke felt it was time to consider other options that might provide a more stable career. As a student, he had taken a job working for the golf course maintenance department at Merry Hill Golf Club in Kitchener. In 1987, after three years with the club, he decided to foster his new found interest in turf maintenance by joining the rebuilding efforts that were underway at Foxwood Golf Club. It was not long before Duke was promoted to assistant, a position he would hold for the next two years.

It was during this time construction had begun on a new course in Guelph called Springfield Golf and Country

Club. With a recommendation from mentor Greg Aljoe, Duke decided to apply for the superintendent's position. "Springfield kinda fell in my lap," Duke admits as he joined the club during the tail end of construction in 1989.

The course would open in June of 1990 and not long after, Duke took the short course at Guelph University. "You learn in a big hurry in this business," Duke says, referring to the challenges that come from trying to maintain an ever-changing environment.

Despite some early struggles, Duke thoroughly enjoyed his experience as a young superintendent. "It became real exciting and I kinda said to myself after the first year: I'm staying here for a while."

Over two decades later, Duke is living in Waterloo with his wife Annette and two teenage children, Joshua and Kirsten. When he looks back on his career thus far, he is most proud of those early days at

Springfield and what he has been able to build since then. "Growing in the golf course from day one, to see it develop, grow and mature under my care is a nice feeling. It's my baby."

Of course, some of Duke's most memorable moments did not take place on a golf course, rather on a stage with other musicians. One night in particular many years ago at a club in Kitchener called 'Lulu's Roadhouse' stands out for Duke. At the time, the club was known for booking older, bigger acts and they would bring in local musicians to fill the horn section. On a night when Ray Charles was performing, a sax player missed one note during rehearsal and was fired. Duke and the other band members looked at each other and knew they had better be on their game. When recounting the experience, Duke simply says, "it was awesome!"

He has also played with The Temptations, Ray Lyle and the Storm, Eddie Money and opened for Meat Loaf. In fact, he has played with over 20 bands throughout the years, which comes as no surprise to Duke. "I knew I would never give it up. I knew it would always be there." Duke loves to play jazz saxophone because it is very complicated and challenging – perhaps the only thing in common with being a golf course superintendent.

Despite his success as a musician, Duke's professional aspirations still lie in the turf industry. One day, he would like to be a part of a course rebuild, perhaps over in Europe somewhere. In the meantime, he continues to keep very busy between his family, the golf course and playing music locally in Waterloo with his high school band, 'Too Much Clutch'.

Duke has been able to find a nice balance in his life between family, work and personal interests.

His advice to others certainly reflects his dedication to finding that balance. "Follow your passion and get as far as you can with work ethic. It's a job, and in the end you work to live, you don't live to work." ■

— IN THE — HOT SEAT

Q – Favourite major
A – The Masters

Q – Favourite golf designer
A – Stanley Thompson

Q – Ultimate foursome
A – Fred Couples, Jim Furyk,
Moe Norman

Q – Favourite piece of
turf equipment
A – Core Harvester

Q – Favourite golf course
A – Augusta National Golf
Club in Augusta, Georgia

Q – Lowest round and where
A – 72 at Springfield Golf &
Country Club

Q – Favourite movie
A – Uncle Buck

Q – Favourite meal
A – NY Strip loin and unlimited
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Q – What's in your CD player
right now
A – Steely Dan

Q – Rate your lawn
on a scale of 1 to 10
A – A 5. It's pathetic.

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Presidents' Day at Toronto Golf Club

by Sally Ross
OGSA Executive Manager

The sun shone yet again on Monday, July 25th for the OGSA's 43rd Annual Presidents' Day Tournament. The temperatures were moderate with a gentle breeze, a fitting day for such a memorable event. The welcome received from Toronto Golf Club was second to none, with the exceptional staff going above and beyond, executing their roles seamlessly while extending their hospitality to 24 clubs from around the province.

The team from Otter Creek with Superintendent Randy Booker won the day, winding up with a trailblazing 23 under par. Randy had a great day, also winning the men's longest drive. A close second, with an impressive 19 under par, were winners from last year, Orr Lake with Superintendent Jason Harris. Third place went to the team from Weston with Superintendent Rob Ackermann. Ladies longest drive winner was Elaine Kierans, Granite Golf Club and the team winning closest to the pin went to Lambton Golf and Country Club, with Superintendent Peter Kinch. Christie Acker, Granite Golf Club and Paul Scenna, Beacon Hall were the individual closest to the pin winners.



Phil Scully (left) presents Al Schwemler with the Host Superintendent plaque.



OGSA President Chris Andrejicka presents the winning team from Otter Creek, the William Sansom Trophy

The pari-mutual betting had a prize pool of \$1,270.00 with the team from Otter Creek taking the lions share due to their team victory.

Master of ceremonies Phil Scully from Granite Golf Club thanked the Toronto Golf Club members and staff for opening up their outstanding facility to host the event. Al Schwemler was presented with the Host Superintendent plaque, and in turn, shared the praise with his assistant Bill Green. ■

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Andrew Hardy

General Manager:
Craig Evans

Equipment Manager:
Larry Murray

*Photo credit:
Courtesy Pheasant Run Golf Course
Highlands Course, Hole #2*

COURSE PROFILE

About the Course

Owned and operated by the Evans family. The property where Pheasant Run Golf Course is located was originally a lumber mill. The course was IPM Accredited in 2008 and Audubon Certified in 2010. Members of the clergy (priests, ministers and reverends) play golf for \$10 on Mondays.

Established: 1981

Original Architect: Rene Muylaert

Type of Club: Semi-Private

Size of Membership: 350

Number of Holes: 27

Number of Rounds Annually: 32,000

Practice Facility: Full range with practice green and bunker

Biggest Maintenance Challenges

Sandy soils can dry out in a hurry and make a great home for ants. Difficult to maintain a vast property with a limited crew of 16.

A CLOSER LOOK

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type: Poa/Bent/Kentucky Blue

Predominant Soil Type: Sand

Type of Greens: 18 push-up native soil
9 California Hutcheson mix

Recent or upcoming construction:
On-going tree maintenance and removal due to shade and safety issues.

Course Length: 5200-6600 yards

Size of Property: 290 acres

Size of Greens: 5.6 acres

Size of Tees: 5.2 acres

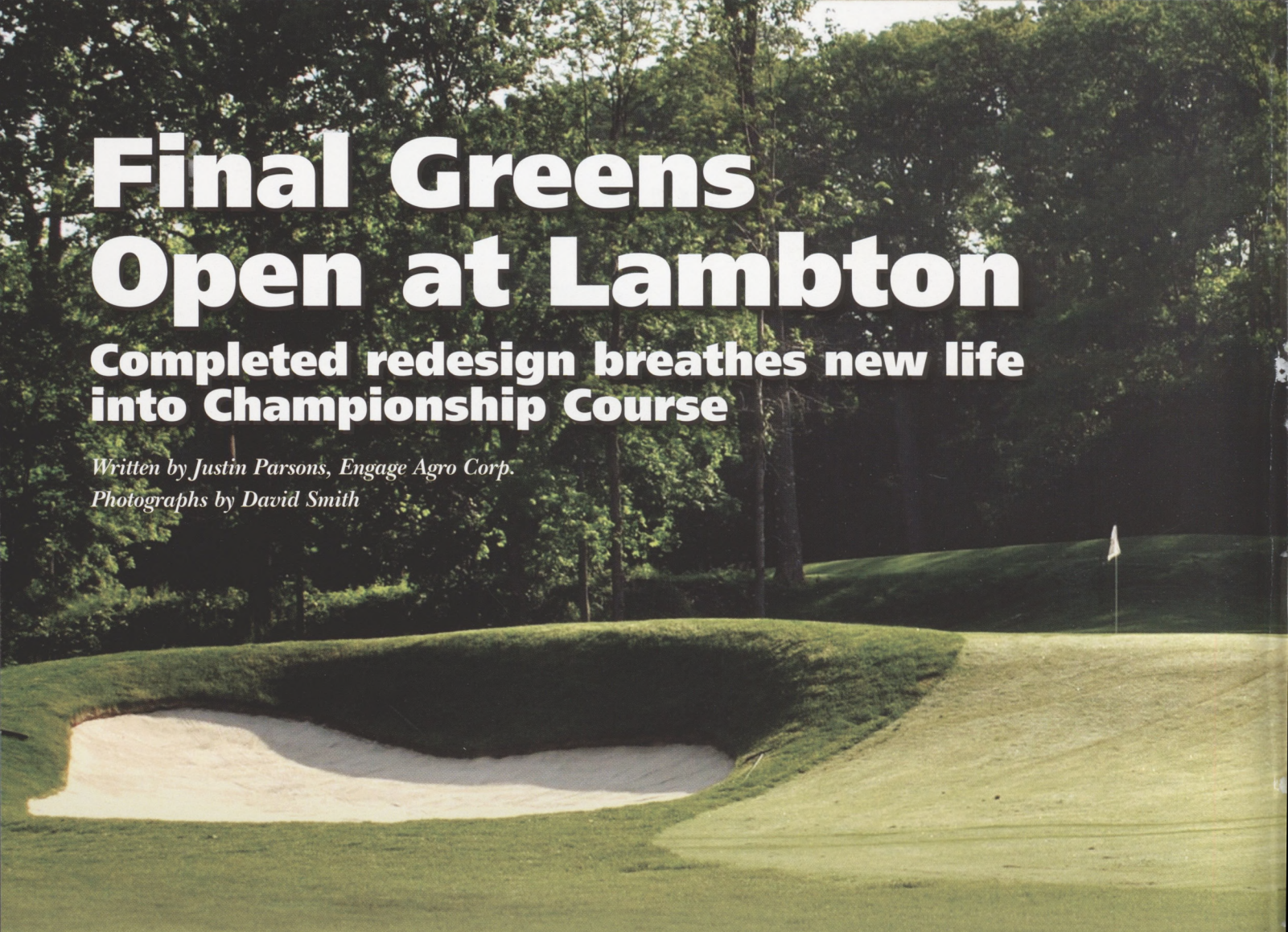
Size of Fairways: 39 acres

Final Greens Open at Lambton

**Completed redesign breathes new life
into Championship Course**

Written by Justin Parsons, Engage Agro Corp.

Photographs by David Smith



Earlier this summer, Lambton Golf and Country Club opened the final two holes of its newly designed 18-hole Championship golf course. This marks the near completion of a massive renovation project of the 109 year old layout that included changes to everything from the irrigation system up.

Grand earth moves were initiated, including complete layout changes to certain holes. Extensive tree work was required, not only the removal of undesirable specimens that shaded green sites, but also three times as many native trees continue to be planted. A complete overhaul of the irrigation system was completed. A new six million US-gallon reservoir was installed and 400 yards have been added to the scorecard.

The end result is new life that has been breathed into an exhausted

piece of land. Like so many of our treasured classic layouts in the GTA, it's not so much the golf course that changes over time, it's the world outside their doors that changes and, in turn, thrusts change upon these courses.

The increase in population has impacted pollution levels of shared rivers and creeks as well as limited the amount of water that can be drawn from them. The expansion of neighboring communities often brings about liability issues with errant shot-making. Modifications to golf equipment technology have, in some cases, compromised the intent of the original design. Moreover, expectation levels from a playability standpoint have influenced the way golf courses are maintained on a daily basis.

All of this adds up to eventual

change. Over the past few years, many of our provinces premiere golfing facilities that were shaped in the first half of last century have undertaken major renovation projects. Although this influenced Lambton's decision to initiate construction, it was not the only factor.

After all, Lambton did not just renovate, they completely reshaped a piece of land which had stood relatively untouched for more than a century. There were indeed many factors that prompted such an extensive and ambitious project.

First of all, the clubs water taking permit was set to expire at the end of 2010 and they knew they were going to need some type of water holding capacity to make the new permit work. The irrigation system was approaching 20 years of age



View of the completed 8th hole



Construction of the 8th hole

and lacked a lot of the intricacies of a modern system. The club was also looking to avoid potential safety issues

with Scarlett road running alongside the third and fourth holes. There are also many agronomic advantages

to reshaping a property. After a harsh winter like most of Ontario experienced in 2009, many clubs would love the opportunity to fix grades, add drainage, improve subsoil mixes and convert back to bentgrass.

These concepts are hardly new, but the idea of tackling all these projects at once is certainly rare. The comprehensive nature of this project meant the course would be closed for an entire year. Although initially that would be tough to stomach for some members, the clubs management team and board went to great lengths to inform the members of the scope and cost of the project. This was done through mailings, emails and member meetings. In addition, Rees Jones, who was retained by the club to draw up the plans for the new layout, addressed the members at the

continued on page 20...



Construction (left) and completion (right) of 1st hole, Championship Course

last meeting before the vote and did a great job of answering the tough questions.

The club also arranged a highly organized system of touring for groups of 20 members at a time through the property to show how the new course would sit on the land. The tours were hosted by golf course Superintendent Peter Kinch, the Director of Golf or Green Committee Members. All of these efforts helped ensure members knew exactly what they were voting for.

In the end, the vote passed comfortably in May of 2009 and work on the three-phase project began in early August the same year. Of course, this does not include the many hours of pre-planning spent by Peter Kinch.

Before construction crews broke ground on August 6, 2009, the maintenance team was able to start some of the process. These duties mainly involved tree work, including preparations for the future site of the reservoir as well as creating tree protection zones for the specimens that were to remain untouched.

The greens crew ran with a slightly smaller staff for the next year, but they kept very busy assisting the process where possible. This work included

leveling and backfilling for the entire irrigation system install, locates, all the sodding and, of course, the grow-in of all the seeded areas, which includes all of the greens. They were very pleased to have help from other club departments as four of the golf professionals joined the maintenance team for the year.

The golf course looks and feels different, despite occupying the same piece of land.

Meanwhile various construction crews worked away at shaping green sites, bunker sites and fairways as well as installing irrigation and drainage throughout the 170 acres of property. Keith Evans was Jones' right-hand man on behalf of the design team and was the main liaison between Rees Jones Incorporated and the golf club during the process.

The goal in the fall of 2009 was to have all of the greens on the 18-hole Championship Course built and seeded with the irrigation in place before the winter. Only two

green sites carried over into the spring of 2010 and they were the slowest to reach playability. "We had great success carrying the seeded greens through the winter," says Kinch which helped ensure the greens were ready for play later that summer.

The irrigation system is virtually brand new. They were able to salvage some of their 8" main that runs through the bottom of the property and some of the pipe on the Valley course. Other than that, everything has been updated, from the construction of the reservoir to the pump house to the number of heads and their placement.

The pump house now has three, 60-horsepower variable speed pumps allowing for an 1800 gpm output. In addition to the interior updates, the building was also moved north of the Black Creek which has significantly improved the clubs water quality.

As for the routing changes, Kinch says, "the design maximizes the land available from an aesthetic and playability point of view." The focus of the layout then, was not necessarily to preserve the original design, but to update it so the potential of the land was fulfilled given all the changes that needed to be made.



Construction (left) and completion (right) of Valley Course hole #2 and Championship hole #16

As a result, the golf course looks and feels different, despite occupying the same piece of land. The second hole was moved and is no longer a par 3. It was replaced by the 5th hole. The green site of the par-3 12th has been shifted to the other side of the Black Creek.

At the tail end of the course, the 17th and 18th holes have been rerouted so the 18th, which used to be a par 3, is now a world class, long par 4 that finishes at the clubhouse patio. The 17th hole has been changed to a demanding par 3. To allow the land for these changes, the clay tennis courts, which used to sit where the 18th tee is now situated, were moved next to the clubhouse.

Aside from major layout changes, there are also many smaller alterations within each hole that help present more variety for the golfer. The shape and slope of greens and fairways, bunker placements and tee deck locations have all undergone modifications. So even though a hole may be in the same location, it just feels different.

The course also plays very different from tee deck to tee deck. As you approach the greens, the depth and arrangement of bunkers provides a little more grit, while the contours of putting surfaces reward good shot-making, without being excessively penal. Despite all the earth moving, the course really does

feel like it's been this way forever. In fact, it's hard to imagine some holes, like the impressive par-4 16th, any other way.

The reception by the membership has been very positive. With the final two holes of the Championship Course opening this past June along with the new driving range and chipping facility, they can now enjoy the full extent of the redesign. With the new placement of some tee decks and the many subtle corners and slopes on greens, there are certainly more options from a course setup standpoint to aid in creating variety for members.

As they enjoy their new 18-hole Championship golf course, they can also look forward to the opening of the final four holes of the 9-hole Valley Course at the end of the summer. As the grow-in of the Valley Course continues, so too does the rest of the property. Although it will take time for the course to take on the maturity it once had, it is now more playable for all handicaps and more harmonized with the land it sits on.

For now though, Lambton resumes play having completed one of the biggest renovation projects this area has seen in a while. The work and dedication it has taken to see this project through is as admirable as the scale and scope of the project itself. ■

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Social Media: Takes Less Time Than You Think

by Andrew Hardy
Golf Course Superintendent
Pheasant Run Golf Club

With the creation of social media vehicles such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs, a new level of information is now available. Recently I ventured into the world of social media with my blog: www.pheasantturf.wordpress.com in early April. I was just looking to provide information for the members and guests at my club. I had kicked the idea around for a couple of years and finally, with some encouragement and advice from the director of golf at my club, I took the plunge. At the start, I was seriously concerned with "writer's block," but now a few months into the blog, I haven't run out of things to write about.

I linked my blog to my Twitter account: @pheasantturf and it's amazing how quickly you can send messages and impact your blog via Twitter. Though I had assumed most

of the people following my blog and following me on Twitter would be golfers, I have been completely shocked at the number of my peers in the golf industry who are following as well. Networking with peers is always a great exchange of information. Through my connections with fellow superintendents across Canada and the US, I have gained access to how the aeration went at a club in Minnesota, how much rain fell in Calgary this spring, and how drought is currently ravaging Florida.

I believe the key to having a successful social media network is the frequency of information. The longer the time between messages could result in a loss of audience. Now, I'm not talking about having something to write about every day, but having something to write and or say at least once a week will keep your followers interested. You'll be surprised, once you have an audience, how easy the topics become and how little time it takes to write a quick post.

I asked a few of our club members about what interests them in my blog. And they said that having an idea what is happening and being "kept in the loop" was appealing to them. Also, since we have 27 holes, they may go stretches based on rotations where they don't get to play one of the nine's for weeks at a time. So the next time they play one of the nine's and a bunker has been filled in they won't be surprised.

Now I know you are reading this and thinking, "where am I going to find time in my already packed day to do this?" I thought the same thing myself and that's why I stalled on going forward with this idea. Twitter posts, or tweets, literally take seconds to produce and you could easily produce a blog post in less than ten

minutes. And as I mentioned above, something small you are doing on the course will most likely be of interest to your players. I have written about renovation projects, staffing issues, bunker maintenance and venting greens. My most popular blog post was on bunker maintenance and actually produced in excess of 100 hits to my blog.

The following are a few of the really good blogs that I have come across:

Jamie Downton, Sawmill Creek Golf Resort and Spa:
sawmillcreekturf.blogspot.com

Jim Flett, Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club:
mlgccgreens.blogspot.com

Tom Margetts, Innovative Agronomics:
www.innovativeagronomics.com/blog

Jason Boyce, Smugglers Glen Golf and Country Club:
smugglersglen.wordpress.com

Chris Tritabaugh, Northlands Country Club, Minnesota:
www.northlandgrounds.blogspot.com

Signing on to an account with Twitter, Blogger or Wordpress literally takes minutes and provides a wide range of options for your platform. Many turf organizations such as the GCSAA, CGSA, the GTI and a large number of superintendents have blogs and Twitter accounts. You might be surprised to see who is blogging and tweeting. It only takes one connection and you're off to the races with the people you can follow. I have found this venture to be wonderfully surprising and rewarding and I will be pressing forward blogging and tweeting. The incredibly positive support from my club's owner and the fact he wants me keeping my blog fresh with new posts has been a huge help as well. ■



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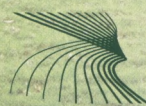
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A Networker Walks into a Bar...

by Matthew Legg, Assistant Superintendent
Weston Golf and Country Club

A networker walks into a bar, his friend walks around it. Confused? In the past, this was the way of networking; schmoozing and shaking hands. Today, technology is paving new ways to network. At no other time has it been so easy to meet someone new in our industry and to gain a valuable working relationship based on a common interest – turfgrass!

Since taking the role of assistant, I have been witness to such a quick change in the way of networking. It was not long ago that conferences were the only opportunity to meet new people and build working relationships. Unfortunately, time at these events is minimal and demand is high; it is hard for even the most outgoing people to touch base with strangers in the industry.

Luckily, in the span of a few short years, this has all changed. I can remember my first invitation to Linked In. For those unaware of this networking tool, Linked In quickly became a handy rolodex of contacts. It was also a tool that helped to break the ice. What better way to show someone you're open and willing to talk then to send them an invite via email with your personal contact information and a photo.

One year later, and one step further, along came Twitter. With an increasing popularity of the smart phone and willingness for my club to keep members informed, in Spring 2011 our Turf Management Team became outfitted with iPhones. Little did I know that with tools such as Twitter, I would be more in touch with industry personnel than ever before.

For those of you not aware of Twitter, think of instant messaging that all can see – messaging on steroids! This

tool allows users to throw out comments, pictures and videos for their array of followers to view and comment on. Within weeks, my profile grew to dozens of followers within the industry, spanning from interns, to professors, consultants, superintendents and everything in between.

On a daily basis, I can bounce ideas off people I would never have met in the old networking world. I can be connected to ideas and solutions of others that can make our operation prosper. Our membership has also prospered, as those with Twitter can check green speeds, frost delays, course updates to understand what we do on a daily basis. Some of our members even stop by and say hi. It's funny how Twitter has broken the ice and created a new topic of discussion while on the golf course.

Technology is allowing our industry to become smaller than ever before by keeping us better connected to each other. But we still must not forget our roots. Face to face is the oldest and best tool we have; the effort of individuals to get together speaks volumes.

As busy as our lives get, taking the time to step back and see a colleague is well worth it. Just recently, a group of local assistants made this effort to touch base once a month. By planning ahead, monthly meetings are arranged and discussion topics are agreed upon. With only a few hours of face time each month, this group of assistants have become better turf managers by listening to each others' questions and issues. Above all else, in these sessions we begin to form friendships that will last years. This is textbook networking at its finest.

There is no excuse not to network these days. Whether via the internet, smart phone or face to face, there is something suitable for any individual to meet others in the industry. So come on in, become a networker and explore the benefits. There are still a few spots at the bar. ■

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ABOVE THE HOLE

Today is what many refer to as the age of information. Never before has mankind had such an opportunity to readily access vast quantities of scientific research, subjective opinion, and for lack of a better term, cumulative human knowledge and experience. Of course no one needs to be told there is a lot of information on the Internet, but I do think people need to be reminded of it from time to time. Twenty years ago it wasn't quite as easy to pick up your iPhone and look up NTEP trial results or find out the appropriate threshold level for cutworms on tee decks. A couple of decades ago, new research was limited to published books, academic journals and monthly magazines. The luxury of instant gratification did not exist. Without cellphones, calls had to be made from inside the office. Other than calling and reading books, how did superintendents come across new information? Someone once told me the salesman often played a vital role in the superintendent's acquisition of outside information. Having travelled to multiple courses in the district, they would offer information on who was doing what and how they were doing it. I think the rest of the answers were found the old fashioned way – by taking risks and finding out for yourself.

These days, superintendents have the ultimate turf tool right in the palm of their hands – the Internet. Hand-held devices now carry turf apps on diseases, insects and plant ID. Pictures, videos, blogs, journals, and refereed papers are just some of the many things that can be accessed instantaneously. Websites like Turf.net or Paceturf.org often have new and insightful things, such as discussions on precision turf management, IPM tips and videos on inventive ways of doing the jobs we have all come to love and hate. Furthermore, the explosion of social networks has made it so easy to keep tabs on what everyone has been up to. Lately, my school colleagues and I have begun sharing

pictures and stories from our internships with each other online. Even though each of our internships is offering something unique, we are all gaining from our collective experiences by staying in touch and taking the time to chat with one another.

Recently, during my internship at TPC Boston, I was shown one of the most underestimated gifts the Internet has given the turf industry: Google Earth. With a purchased retail version, one can instantly view a recent aerial shot of their golf course – within the last 4 years. These aerials are great for presentations, mapping chemical/fertilizer applications, job training, and area calculations. With built-in tools, you can denote the perimeters of tees, fairways, approaches, greens, rough, and native areas. We have catalogued each of these aforementioned playing surfaces for each hole, and recorded them into a data base for easy reference when building an application plan or schedule. I think this is a must for any manager who wishes to employ a precision turf management scheme into their daily grind.

I think it is not acceptable to ignore the valuable tool of the Internet and it's potential in our industry. Increasing water restrictions, constricting IPM initiatives, scarce labour availability and infringing environmental regulations are all hurdles that aren't getting any easier to jump over. Social support, constant networking, embracing technology, sharing knowledge and staying fresh – that's the stuff legends are made of. ■



*Cam Shaw, student and intern
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Advanced Features in New Mower Technology

Quality of cut is probably one of the most desirable needs to provide optimum conditions on our putting surfaces. At this time the, major manufacturers of golf turf equipment have answered with their various solutions to the next generation of greens mowers. All of them now include hybrid technology in their line-ups.

The gap in quality between a walker mower and a riding mower has significantly narrowed or is becoming non-existent. These advancements are welcomed with our recently strained budgets where we are expected to do more with less.

The innovations are focused on quality of cut, user friendly operation, ease of maintenance and being greener for the environment.

Quality of Cut

With the hybrid technology, electric motors spin the cutting reels. The lack of hydraulics minimizes the potential for leaks on the turf. Hydraulic leaks from riding triplexes mowers will be a thing of the past. The frequency of clip is consistent regardless of the ground speed or the load in your bucket, which is beneficial when performing operations such as verti-cutting.

The updated attach points and/or suspensions aid in keeping the cutting units level to prevent unsightly waves in the turf or damage from clean-up passes. Better contour following capability aid with mowing undulations and prevent side-to-side scrubbing of the putting surface.

In some cases, tires have been redesigned to deliver uniform loading across the entire cross-section to eliminate visible tire tracks.

Greener Operation

Energy efficient hybrid claims to save fuel usage up to 30%. Reduced noise levels will allow the maintenance crew to start mowing greens earlier without bothering the neighbours. Tee off times can be maintained as early as possible to maximize play.

User Friendly

Armrests with controls keep necessary levers within close reach. Ergonomic design ensures comfort for operators during repeated use of equipment. Some models have faster transport speeds to help stay ahead of golfers.

Ease of Maintenance

Cutting units are easier to access than ever before and can be easily removed and adjusted. Switching on-the-fly due to an unexpected breakdown can be done quicker than the older generation models. A single operator can go from cutting greens at 1/8" to cutting a fairway at 1/2" in just a few minutes.

What's next?

Robotic operator-free mowers are already becoming available. How long will it be before you have one in your barn? The future is near... ■



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La Dolce Vita at Flemingdon Park Golf Club

When you hear family run business, veal parmesan, espresso and outdoor patio, what image does that conjure? Café Diplomatico, perhaps? Bar Italia? Or maybe Il Gatto Nero? Well, eat your heart out Little Italy, on this fine day, the best espresso can be found at Flemingdon Park Golf Club. Nestled between the Don Valley Parkway and Eglinton Avenue in East York, Toronto, Flemingdon Park Golf Club has not only been satisfying the needs of local golf enthusiasts but also the local community who just want to take in the sights of an outdoor patio, and maybe a tasty beverage as well. If you time it right, you could be in for a treat of Sangiovese wine, bruschetta or even cannoli!

Construction of Flemingdon Park Golf Club began in 1958 under the supervision of golf architect Howard Watson, also known for his work on Scarlett Woods, The Board of Trade (now The Country Club) and The Watson course at Toronto Golf Club. Built on farmland originally owned by Robert John Fleming, a former Toronto Mayor, the 2600-yard, 9-hole course opened for play in 1961.

"A friend told me about the job," says current owner and Superintendent Carmen Schiavone, who left Italy in search of a better quality of life. He started working at Flemingdon as a grounds keeper in 1962, an astounding 49 years ago. His nephew, Carmen Tisi, known as "little Carmen", started his duties as a grounds keeper at Flemingdon in 1968. Not only are they family, but business partners as well.

In 1991, the Carmens bought the Club from the Johnson family. Doris Johnson, who had been acting as the General Manager since 1964, decided to reward the Carmens for their loyalty and service and sold the business to them for a price that was described as a "gift". Since then, the Carmens have been busy at work on the course as they handle the majority of the day-to-day maintenance on the golf course. What is astounding is they are 75 and 70 years young!

"We know people here on a first name basis," says Rocky, son of the younger Carmen. "It's a family run business, my sister Agatha and cousins Vito and Enzo work here as well." They all share managerial roles and bring many talents with them. Agatha, a nurse by trade, assists with sports and medical related injuries. Her brother Rocky, a top chef,

known for his exceptional quality in taste, partakes in the culinary duties. On the Schiavone side, Vito handles the business and IT and his brother Enzo, is described as a "jack of all trades". Slowly being integrated into the family business are the grandchildren Carmelo S. Jr., Vanessa, Christian, Alexa, Jessica, Carmine and Shirquille.

"Through our journey, we have been fortunate enough to have great staff to help us along the way," says Vito. "Our staff are multi-talented and bring many backgrounds and experiences along with them."

Being a smaller operation, there have been some challenges. In August 2005, a 200-year storm flooded the course. The golf course had to be shut down for the rest of the year as the damage sustained rendered the course unplayable. The course was

filled with silt amongst other debris and their equipment barn was completely flooded destroying most of their fleet. Without the use of equipment, they spent the rest of the year hand shovelling the silt and cleaning up the course by hand. "We had a bunch of bunker sand and bunker rakes from a neighbouring course found amongst all the debris," said Enzo. Insurance covered the lost equipment and a new equipment shed was relocated to higher ground.

At 75 and 70 years of age, there are no retirement plans for the Carmens. The golf course is their paradise and their home, says Enzo. "Our fathers do everything on the golf course. They have sacrificed and have gone through thick and thin to deliver the best playing conditions possible. To this day, they still perform tasks the way they were done years before, such as fertilizing tees by hand without the use of a spreader. I tried it myself with less than desired results." So, the next time you happen to be in the area and are looking for a quick round of golf or a "café all'aperto" think Flemingdon Park Golf Club. Before you know it, you might just be known on a first name basis. ■



Clockwise, left to right: Rocky Tisi, Vito Schiavone, Carmen Tisi, Carmen Schiavone, Enzo Schiavone.



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Hot Enough for You?

This is a common question heard almost everywhere this summer. As most of us wanted the rain to dissipate somewhat in May, we welcome it now with the browning of the turf and retention ponds slowly reaching the empty mark.

We have dealt with this heat before, and we adapt. But as water supplies get lower and temperatures higher for extended periods of time, how do birds and wildlife adapt?

During the heat wave in mid-July, I found on a number of golf course sites in southern Ontario, more and more dead birds on the fairways and around drying ponds. At first, this wasn't too alarming as I attributed it to natural predation. However, we began noticing the dying birds included both larger species, such as geese, and smaller migratory birds like blue jays and resident sparrows.

Upon further investigation, it seems birds, like humans,



need to find that temperate zone which keeps us healthy. But unlike humans, birds may not be able to take shelter or find fresh water in order to survive devastating heat.



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Scientists have found during heat waves that increases in air temperatures of as little as two degrees Fahrenheit can double the rate of water loss in a small bird and importantly impact its survival time. This is due, in part, to the fact that when environmental temperatures are above air temperature, birds and other animals have to get rid of body and environmental heat by evaporating water across the skin and by panting. Evaporative water loss increases rapidly with increasing temperature and excessive water loss reduces a birds' ability to stay cool. The resulting high body temperatures can produce heat stroke, which causes damage to body tissues, organ failure and blood clotting that can quickly lead to death.

In Canada and North America, humans deal with heat in a variety of ways, but birds and mammals may not be as lucky in adapting to extended heat wave conditions. As temperature trends show, summers have been getting hotter, with extended heat waves. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts the average temperature of the planet will rise between 3.5-6.5°F over

the next hundred years. This may not seem like a big deal to us, but to birds and wildlife this temperature change could be disastrous when considering the extended heat waves and reduced water supplies.

In North America, Ornithologists and bird watchers alike have been tallying bird counts and their data shows, slowly but surely, more and more avian species are heading further north for the summer. Are migratory trends changing due to global climate change? This is quite possibly a very real trend.

Maybe one day we'll be dealing with pesky pink flamingos in our ponds instead of Canada geese. ■




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Photos taken by: Brenda Forder

Thinking Outside the Tee Box

I have to say that no matter how badly the patio needs weeding or how many plants still need to be planted, it's a refreshing break to visit another golf course and be inspired. I recently had such an opportunity to visit the Granite Golf Club in Stouffville. At this course, located literally just off the fairway of the 12th hole, is something very special. Not exactly what you might expect – not a beautiful stand of native trees or a neighbouring field, but a mass of vegetables growing in tidy rows. What began as a 10' x 10' herb garden four years ago has grown and flourished into an organic vegetable and herb garden that supplies the clubhouse kitchen at the Granite Golf Club with an abundant harvest.

The expansion was driven by newly hired Chef Antony Nuth when he came to the club two years ago and was enthusiastically supported by Superintendent Phil Scully. Chef Nuth was trained in England and France and is passionate about using the freshest produce. During his time living in the Niagara region he was able to build close relationships with local growers and winemakers. So when he arrived at Granite Golf Club he was thrilled

with the existing garden and eagerly nurtured its growth.

Over the course of the expansion, 500 yards of topsoil were brought in and the pile of rocks collected on the golf course over the years were put to good use as a border around the garden. Concrete mesh offers the peas and cherry tomatoes something to grow up. In keeping with being located on a golf course, hazard stakes stand proudly with a label for each variety of produce.

Nicole Cain, the club's gardener, works hard to maintain and harvest the garden, which requires approximately two hours per day of her time. Fortunately, the garden has experienced relatively few pest problems, although green tomato worms occasionally pay a visit. A thick border of close to 600 marigolds keeps the deer and other critters at bay. This was proven to work when the tomato plants were snatched one year before the marigolds were planted. Now as soon as the marigolds go in the garden is left alone.

This year the garden boasts approximately 60 varieties of vegetables and herbs, including several varieties of lettuce and salad greens, Green Zebra tomato, spaghetti



squash, sweet giant onion, Royal Chantenay carrot, and dark red Detroit beets. The lettuce is the most successful producer, so much so that the club did not need to purchase lettuce for two months last summer! Depending on the daily harvest, Chef Nuth is flexible in his planning and adjusts his menu to include the fresh produce. The Chef will soon turn basil into pesto, squash into soup, and leftover tomatoes into jars of tomato sauce that will last into the winter. There are even times when there is more than what the kitchen can use, but it does not go to waste. The extra produce is placed in a harvest basket that members are welcome to glean from. Members not only get to enjoy the garden as part of their meals at the Club, they are provided with the opportunity to watch their food grow as they play golf and love to take a diversion off the fairway to show it off to guests.

And what's the next course on the menu for this scrumptious garden? The Granite Golf Club is blessed with a large area of open space beside the 12th fairway so plans for expansion include increasing the planting area once again (Phil wants to try his hand at growing potatoes), adding a greenhouse and a garden shed, installing an irrigation system, and landscaping the area around the garden.

Bon appetit! ■



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Protecting turf and plant material from the damaging effects of winter is always a challenge. There are many causes of winter damage, among which poor drainage or poor snow cover can be major contributors.

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The Tools of My Travels

A spring. One little tiny spring is responsible for the theme of this article. Allow me to connect the dots.

Here at Donalda we have a rope tow. For those who may be unfamiliar with the concept, I have to admit I was initially, a rope tow is simply an endless rope, looped through a motor and several pulleys, not unlike that which you might find at your local ski hill – only on a much smaller scale. It is used to assist our members and their guests who are walking the course, up out of the valley from our 9th green to the 10th tee, a relatively short run at about 120 ft. but with an elevation change of roughly 50 – who needs a stair climber?

Movement of the rope is initiated when the golfer presses the start button at the bottom of the hill. Once the three safety switches are satisfied, the rope will begin its circuit and will continue its slow meander until it times out after one complete revolution at one minute, nineteen seconds. That's more than enough time for a foursome to make the ascent. There are emergency stop buttons at both the bottom and top of the hill as well as an additional safety switch, designed to stop the rope instantly as it enters the drive house at the top of the hill, should anyone or anything become entangled.

There used to be a little spring that would reset this switch in the event of accidental tripping, which unfortunately seems to be a fairly common occurrence with this particular design. The Technical Safety and Standards Authority (TSSA) who oversee such devices, ordered the removal of the spring stating this particular safety device needed to be manually reset when tripped to make sure no one was tangled in the rope. Safety first, I get it. So we went one further and wired this switch directly into our irrigation system through a nearby satellite so an alarm would sound on our irrigation computer in the main office whenever the switch was tripped. At least now we can know and respond much sooner if something is amiss.

In the end, it means someone, usually myself or my apprentice, now make several trips a day to check the switch status and reset it if necessary. Which brings me back to this: a spring. The rope tow's removed spring has caused me to be into the tool box I have mounted to the back of my golf cart on a fairly regular basis this season. It is a handy collection of tools and assorted hardware, assembled over the years, which allow me to deal with most issues I may run across or be summoned to deal with during the course of any given day. As the old Boy Scout motto says, "be prepared". If you frequently find yourself rooting through the glove box on your cart for that one tool that, undoubtedly, isn't there when you need it, consider putting together a kit of your own.

The Tool Kit

Taking a look in the tool bag, you'll find screw drivers, (I have marked the tops of the handles on this set for quick and easy ID) nut drivers (same handle markings), a wire brush, flashlight, assorted small spooled wire, some bits of jumper wire, wire cutter/crimper, a grease pen, tire gauge, line-up punch, bastard file, chain saw wrench, hand pruners, a medium sized pair of channel locks, vise-grips, side cutters, linesman and needle nose pliers, a small analog multi-meter, pocket 12 DCV spark tester, a pen sized ACV current tester, a small can of 2-in-1 oil and a tube of dielectric grease.

Hanging inside the box are the requisite sets of wrenches (sizes 1/4" through 3/4" and 8mm through 17mm are a good start), and you'll usually need two of each remember. The box also contains several sizes of pry bars, a hammer, mallet, an sharp axe, 20' tow rope with hooks, jumper cables, and a rebuilt recoil starter assembly that will fit any of the 15 walk-behind mowers that could be out on the course cutting. There's also a plastic assortment box containing some common sizes of nuts, bolts and washers along with some tire valves and valve caps, some strips of emery cloth, a tool for gapping spark plugs, various common electrical connectors and some 15 A-blade type automotive fuses that certain implements of ours go through every year during fairway aeration cleanup. There's the 3/4" Johnson bar that I need to adjust the tension of the tow rope, two types of electrical tape and some white hockey tape. It's what I use to wrap the splice on my tow rope to help prevent unraveling. And it never hurts to have a towel and some rags with you too, especially on those rainy days. Basically, if I've found myself in need of it over the years, I have made provisions to deal with it in some manner in the box.

What's the point of this? Everyone's time is at a premium. We're all trying to do more with less time and this requires one to be as efficient as possible. Extending this philosophy to your daily travels on the course by being ready to deal with things as they happen can make your daily journey even more effective. There's no greater time waster on a golf course then having to make that trip back to the shop just to grab a tool that you could have with you already.

Have a fantastic summer and remember: commit to hiring and training an apprentice. ■



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Fifteen Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

In 1996 the OGSA Board of Directors were: **Alex LaBelle** (pres), Merry Hill, **John Taylor** (past), Twenty Valley, **Simon George** (vice), Oakville, **Ian Bowen**, Oshawa, **Paul Dodson**, Lionhead, **Bob Heron**, Beacon Hall, **Paul White**, Mississauga, **Jerry Richard**, Craigowan, **John Gravett**, Credit Valley, **Keith Bartlett**, Thornhill, **Monte Anderson**, Point West, **Jim Flett**, Muskoka Lakes, and **Mark Piccolo** (editor), Galt. **Cindi Charters** was the office manager.

The Pro/Super Tournament was held on May 13th at Glen Abbey Golf Club hosted by Superintendent **Dean Baker**. Low gross team supers were: 1st - **Scott Dyker**, Beverley; 2nd - **Ted DeCorso**, Victoria Park West; 3rd - **Dan Lavis**, Ingersol. Low net team winners were: 1st - **Ray Richards**, Mad River; 2nd - **Rob Stevens**, Conestoga; 3rd - **Steve Hallard**, Cedar Brae. Low gross superintendent was **Robbie Robinson** (79), Hidden Lake and low net superintendent was **Pelino Scenna** (68), Burlington.

The President/Greens Chairman Tournament was held at the Park Country Club of Buffalo on June 16th hosted by **Scott Dodson**.

The Spring Field Day was held at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. **Alex LaBelle** unveiled a plaque in recognition of Dr. Clay Switzer's contribution to the turfgrass industry. Golf followed at the Galt Country Club hosted by **Mark Piccolo**. The Summer Field Day was held at the Cutten Club on August 11th hosted by **Richard Creed**. The Alex McClumpha Golf Tournament was held at Nobleton Lakes Club on October 7th hosted by **Barry Endicott**. **Bill Fach**, Rosedale and **Bob Heron**,

Beacon Hall were the winners.

Angus Glen Golf Club hosted the President, Greens Chairman, Board of Directors and Superintendent Event hosted by **Ernie Amsler**. **Jeff Burgess'** team from Weston Golf Club was the winner.

The CGSAA Conference was held in Vancouver in early March. **Dr. Jack Eggens** was the John B. Steel Distinguished Award winner.

The GCSAA Conference was held in Orlando. **Paul Dermott** of Oakdale Golf and Country Club was the winner of the Environmental Steward Award upon achieving Oakdale's designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary".

The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held for the first time in Toronto at the Constellation Hotel as a result of changes to the academic calendar at the University of Guelph. Over 1,500 people attended with **Bruce Burger** being the OGSA representative on the committee.

The Annual Curling Day meeting was held at North Halton hosted by **Alan Beeney**. The winning team was **Dean Baker**, **Corrie Almack** and **Nigel Rennie**. **Bob Hutcheson** from Hutcheson Sand and Mixes again hosted the OGSA/Hutcheson Ski Day at Osler Bluff Ski Hill on February 21st.

Making headlines around this time 15 years back, were two workers who had been fatally injured while scuba diving to recover golf balls at local golf courses. It was brought to our attention that a golf course could be held responsible if the proper safety measures were not implemented. ■



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Walker

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
GolfNorth Properties

Well, it finally happened. My son Walker outdrove me last week. I suppose it was inevitable – he’s fourteen and in shockingly better shape than I am. My mistake was sending him to golf camp. Who knew having him spend a week learning from someone qualified, would make him better? Now it’s just a matter of time until he’s outscoring me too. I’ve got some time left on that front though, he’s still remarkably easy to throw off his game – thank goodness! If he ever figures out how not to fall apart after I add up his score on the 15th tee and say, “This might be the day you beat me!” – I’m dead. But for now, that phrase is good for a triple bogey on two of the last three holes, every time.

I suppose I could just take some lessons myself and improve my game too. Maybe practice a bit? Re-aquaint myself with the driving range, perhaps? But holding others back to one’s own level of mediocrity, as opposed to working harder, is as much a part of Canadian culture as hockey or postal strikes. Unfortunately, he’s improving at such a rate, that I’m not sure I can hold him back or stay ahead of him. I now fully understand why there is a handicap system in golf – I always thought that it was for gambling, tournament, or league play – but clearly, it was designed as a method of keeping your son from being able to say he’d beaten you, when he obviously had.

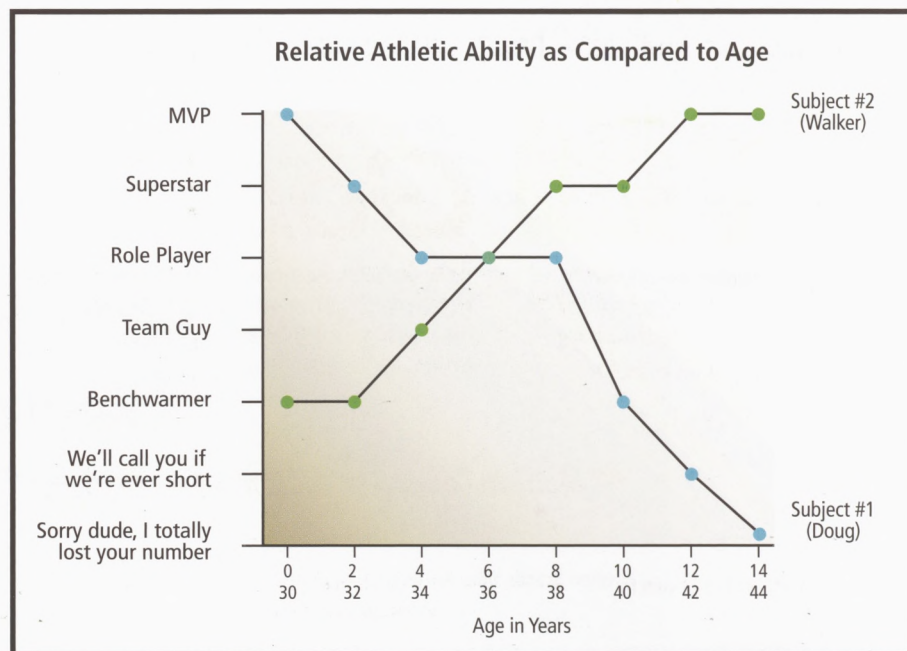
This has happened in other athletic pursuits too. We used to spend a lot of time playing catch with the football, but now I have to choose between standing so far away from him that it hurts my shoulder to make the pass, or move closer and end up with aching

hands because he throws the ball too hard. I haven’t been able to catch him on skates since Major PeeWee. There are plenty of other examples, but it’s just too depressing. Golf was the one remaining sport where I could physically dominate him, but I doubt my dominance will survive the summer. He’s improving at an accelerating rate, while I’m regressing even faster. I believe that our skill levels will intersect on exactly August 12, 2011 – my 45th birthday – and we’ll have the only truly equally matched game of our lives. We should probably play someplace nice.

My friends with older boys, all warned me this day would come. “First they beat you at golf, then the girls start showing up on your porch.” Well, the girls have started showing up on my porch – in quantity. This has to stop, because I’m not about to start wearing pants around the house. At about the same age, I remember my Dad telling me not to waste my time on teenaged girls, “they’re unpredictable, unreliable, and they’ll distract you

from doing the things I need you to do, like baling hay and milking cows.” He was right of course, but it didn’t stop me from wasting the next decade trying to prove him wrong. Now I’m trying to convince Walker of the same thing, but I’m sure he’s not listening either. I’m just hoping that golf, hockey, and football will be a more effective distraction for him than farming was for me. Not likely though, they’ve started showing up at home games wearing his uniform number.

In my office, I have a framed *Green is Beautiful* cover from 2001, where he was a toddler pulling a toboggan up a hill at Orangeville Golf Course. Now he’s outdriving me and about to start high school. But there is a positive side. It used to be when I played golf I was seen as a selfish pig, now it’s called “family time” and heartily encouraged by my wife. As a result, I’m playing more now than I have in any season since we got married. I’ll just have to develop some humility and get some strokes from him. ■





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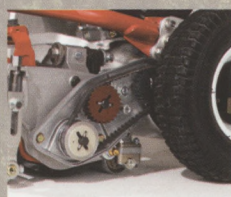
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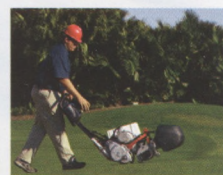
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