

Winter 2011

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

What's New Still Feels Old

Also inside this issue.....

Gardeners Gold

Software and Tools to Support IPM Accrediation

Finding Balance when Dealing with Wildlife

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President's message

I would like to wish all members a very happy and prosperous 2011. Who knows what the season has in store for us this year, but I'm sure if history is our lesson, we as turf managers will have many challenges and rewards to look forward to.

The 2011 version of the OGSA Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show wrapped up on January 14, 2011 at Caesars Windsor. This year's show, for the first time, was held outside of downtown Toronto. Despite the snowy weather, the show was a great success. Delegates in attendance are still submitting positive comments in regards to the show. Over 300 registered delegates and almost 100 vendors were present for the three-day conference. The number of full conference registered delegates was the highest we have seen in several years. All of the special events were very well attended and the education session space needed to be expanded to accommodate the delegates. The IPM seminars were the hottest ticket during the show, and the session with Teri Yamada and Brenda Nailor gave the delegates a hands-on look at what they needed to know and execute in order to have a successful annual IPM report.

Socially, the hands-down winner was the fabulous visit to the Canadian Club Branding Center (Hiram Walkers Distillery). Those who attended were toured through the historic Hiram Walker and Sons head offices and company bank. Tours included rooms where Al Capone negotiated the purchase of 25,000 cases per week of Canadian Club Whisky during prohibition in the U.S. The evening was topped off with a professional whisky tasting, an event enjoyed by all!

Looking ahead to 2011 your board of directors will be busy organizing and facilitating a strategy for the IPM public meeting requirements. The goal is to have a template that can be used by all members when dealing with the public for the purposes of the IPM program. I recommend all our members get involved with your association in any way you can. Submit an article to *Green is Beautiful*, participate in golf outings or volunteer to sit on a committee. The more involved you are the better your awareness of current challenges.

The 2010 season was a very challenging year for many of us throughout the province. If I could make one observation that seems to hold true time after time, when faced with damage or problems, always show your club you are engaged in action to respond to the challenges we face. Pick up the phone and seek advice from your fellow superintendent members. Collectively, we are the biggest wealth of knowledge. Be vocal and transparent. Your club will always be on your side if you engage them from the start.

I look forward to serving you, the members, as President for 2011. If you need assistance, have concerns or need information regarding the association make no hesitation in calling me anytime. Let's look for a great start to the 2011 season. Cheers!



by Chris Andrejicka
Essex Golf and
Country Club

Green is Beautiful

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association



COVER PICTURE

Toronto Golf Club, 14th Hole

Photo by Bill Green

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Justin Parsons
Dorothy Hills
Alan Dolick
Paul Grotier
Jason Hanna
Scott Horsburgh

Green is Beautiful 2011

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

Editorial message



by Justin Parsons

Our first edition of *Green Is Beautiful* for the 2011 season will hopefully prove to be entertaining and informative. In addition to the strong submissions from our regular contributors, we have a great feature written by Bill Green on the renovations undertaken at the Toronto Golf Club. We also have a conference recap which recounts the events that took place last January in Windsor. We would

like to extend a big thank you to our sponsors for helping to make it all possible.

As we head into a new season, I would like to encourage anyone who may have some ideas on how to improve the magazine to feel free to share those thoughts with myself or any member of the editorial committee. Our publication exists to represent the needs and interests of our diverse association and it is your continued support that provides the foundation for this magazine's success. That being said, please note that we are now looking for a student writer to pen our "Above The Hole" column. Sean May's tenure as our student writer is up and we would like to thank him for his contributions to the magazine over the last year.

The 2011 season will also bring about further changes to our publication. First of all, I would like to take this

opportunity to thank Tom Brain and Andy Sandilands for their many years of service on our editorial committee. Their efforts and insights will certainly be missed. Fortunately, Alan Dolick, the Assistant at Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club, has agreed to join our team. Alan's enthusiasm and commitment has already proved to be very beneficial to our publication. We are also pleased to announce the addition of two new columns to the magazine. Both "Technically Speaking" by Jim Flett and "The Wild View" by Michael von Kaitz offer new and engaging information that our readers will no doubt enjoy.

Finally, I think it is only fitting that I close out this message with a warm and resounding thank you to Dorothy Hills. Her tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to this publication have been the driving force behind its growth over the past 13 years. Not only did she form the editorial committee a dozen years ago, she has been the face of the magazine during its most successful years. Her warm personality and generous nature have truly made it a pleasure for all contributors to the magazine during her time. Dorothy's knowledge, creativity and devotion will be sorely missed as we prepare this magazine for another season of golf in Ontario. On behalf of our editorial team, I would like to wish Dorothy all the best in her future endeavours. It certainly won't be the same without you leading the charge.

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What's new

OGSA 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Annual General Meeting was held on January 13th at the 2011 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. Randy Booker has left the board, fulfilling his year as past president, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Randy for his many years of service; we will certainly miss him. At the same time we welcome two new board members: Rod Speake, from Mill Run Golf & Country Club and Scott White from Donalda Club.

This year's board consists of:

Past President – Jeff Alexander

President – Chris Andrejicka

Vice President – Doug Breen

Treasurer – Rob Gatto

Secretary – Jennifer Pendrith

Directors – Stu Leachman,
John McLinden,
Mark Prieur,
Rod Speake,
Phil Scully,
Chad Vibert and
Scott White

OGSA Executive Manager

OGSA welcomes Sally Ross, who will assume the Executive Manager position upon Dorothy Hills' retirement. Born in England and raised in Montreal, Sally has a 15 year background in association management, gained through two previous positions managing construction trade associations in the golden horseshoe area. Prior to working in association management, Sally was employed for a large construction company in Montreal in both clerical and supervisory



L-R front row: Jeff Alexander, Rob Gatto, Chris Andrejicka, Doug Breen, Jennifer Pendrith; L-R back row: Mark Prieur, John McLinden, Rod Speake, Stu Leachman, Chad Vibert, Scott White and Phil Scully



Sally Ross, Executive Manager

capacities within the finance and accounting areas.

Sally has extensive experience managing and organizing all types of events for member driven organizations locally, provincially and nationally and her background has also allowed her to be involved in political, community and philanthropic activities.

Sally enjoys gardening, painting, music and her two Shetland sheepdogs. She lives in Stoney Creek with her husband David, an ICI Construction Project Manager. They have two sons, Michael and Robert.

2011 MEMBERSHIP STICKERS

2011 stickers are now available for placement on your membership certificates. If required call the OGSA office at (519) 767-3341 or toll free (877) 824-6472 or email Pat at ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca. Stickers will be mailed upon request.

2011/2012 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

We will be working on the new Roster to be released with the Spring issue of Green is Beautiful. Please ensure that any changes are emailed to Pat Thomas, Membership Services ogsa2@gti.uoguelph.ca so that our records can be kept up-to-date.

The Roster is a great vehicle for our Associate members to advertise in and drive their message home to their specific clientele. Advertising information and rates are announced in clippings and accessible on our website www.golfsupers.on.ca under the menu heading "Advertise With Us".

MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2011 OGSA Tournament & Event Schedule

Event	Date	Golf Course	Host Supt.
CAN/AM Challenge	TBA	TBA	TBA
Pro/Super Challenge	May 17, 2011	Wyndance Golf Club	Jake Riekstins
Presidents' Day	July 25, 2011	Toronto Golf Club	Al Schwemler
Summer Scramble	Aug. 30, 2011	Springfield Golf & CC	Ray Dlugokecki
Assistants Tournament	TBA	TBA	TBA
Alex McClumpha	Oct. 3, 2011	Osler Brook Golf & CC	Jason Honeyball
*OTRF Fundraiser	Aug. 22, 2011	Coppinwood	Scott Pratt

**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".

2011-12 Writing Contest

How would you like to be part of Ontario's leading Golf Course Management Magazine? The Ontario Golf Superintendents Association's official publication, *Green is Beautiful* is pleased to present an opportunity to all turfgrass student interns. The column "Above the Hole", authored by University of Guelph Turfgrass intern Sean May is open to a new intern as of April 2011. The magazine's Editorial committee will be reviewing submissions from Ontario based Turfgrass interns in April. The basic requirements include:

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

HOW DO I APPLY?

We ask that each applicant submit an article entry. The article will be based on your growth and experiences as a student/intern. Each entry should be approximately 500 words in length and electronically submitted to the OGSA office by March 31, 2011 at ogsa@gti.uoguelph.ca please email in using the subject line "Above the Hole", together with your contact information.

The successful applicant will receive one year paid student membership to the association as well as a writing opportunity in *Green is Beautiful*, commencing with the Spring Issue, to be released June 1st. This is a great mechanism to express yourself within the industry of your future and differentiate yourself from other interns. *Green is Beautiful* looks forward to having you on board.



Welcome!

OGSA Welcomes our newest members

Jason Atherton West Haven G&CC	Class C
Ben Bible RiverBend GC	Class F
Dan Brousseau Granite GC	Class C
Mike Burch London Hunt & CC	Class F
Heidi Cassidy Sally Creek GC	Class C
Mike Claydon Brookfield CC	Class A
Dominic David University of Guelph	Class S
Tim Davis Granite GC	Class F
Katie Dodson University of Guelph	Class S
Donald Egerter Fox Run GC	Class A
Ken Emery Ambassador GC	Class Supt
Jason George Seneca College	Class S
Jeff Hewitt Mill Run GC	Class C
Sean Knapman Burlington G&CC	Class C
Scott Littleton Osprey Valley Resorts	Class C
Dan McAllister Carruther's Creek GC	Class A
Kyle McDade Victoria Park East GC	Class C
Gregg Lawrence Menard Wildwood G & RV Resort	Class F
Brian Neeb Peterborough G&CC	Class F
Peter Petrov Streetsville Glen GC	Class A
Danny Proulx Piper's Heath GC	Class C
Jake Riekstins Wyndance GC	Class A
Mike Sicoli Twenty Valley G&CC	Class F
IPM golfpro Caiden Fairbairn	Class E
Quali-Pro Philip Somerville	Class E
S W Stoneworks Scott Waldner	Class E

From roots to shoots



by Pam Charbonneau
OMAF Turfgrass Specialist

New Products for the IPM Toolbox

I had a bit of a disagreement with a Ministry of the Environment colleague about the “Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act” when it first came into effect. My comment was that the legislation came before the science, technology and innovation was in place to deliver reduced risk/bio-pesticides to the market place. Her comment was that without the ban the science, technology and innovation would never deliver bio-pesticides to the market place. I have to admit now that she was right and I was wrong. There has been a small flurry of new bio-pesticides to the market place and I am going to discuss them as well as a conventional fungicide combination product.

Nivalis is the trade name for *Typhula phacorrhiza*, a fungus that controls pink snow mould (*Microdochium nivale*) and gray snow moulds (*Typhula incarnata* and *Typhula ishikariensis*). The fungus was found and isolated in 1982 by Dr. Lee Burpee at the Cambridge Research Station on Kentucky bluegrass. In his attempt to determine if it was pathogenic on creeping bentgrass, he discovered that it suppressed *T. ishikariensis* by 70% in field studies conducted during the winter of 1983 and 1984. Dr. Lee Burpee moved to Georgia, where snow mould is not an issue and Dr. Tom Hsiang, University of Guelph took over this work on *Typhula phacorrhiza* as a bio-control for pink and gray snow mould. So after almost 30 years of research the product Nivalis received registration from the PMRA on January 24, 2011 for the suppression of both gray and pink snow mould.

How does it work?

Typhula phacorrhiza competes directly with snow mould pathogens for nutrients and space under snow cover and suppresses disease development due to lack of food and space.

The product Nivalis contains mycelium and sclerotia of *Typhula phacorrhiza* inoculated on millet seeds. It provides a much wider window for application than other snow mould control products on the market because it can be applied well before snow cover and it is also rainfast. The mycelium and sclerotia will not grow and germinate (will stay dormant) until the ideal conditions exist for it to do so (near freezing temperatures, darkness and moisture – under snow cover or under a winter protective cover). There is a great deal of research that has been conducted on this product over the past two decades and research reports on the efficacy of *Typhula phacorrhiza* can be found in the GTI Annual Reports from 1985-2006.

Nivalis received registration in January 2011. It has yet to be classified in Ontario and it will be distributed by Agrium Advanced Technologies. www.guelph-turfgrass.ca/Research/AnnualResearchReports/tabid/141/Default.aspx

Civitas is the trade name for a mineral oil novel fungicide developed by Petro Canada. It is an isoparaffin based food grade product that must be used with a green pigment called Harmonizer. Dr. Tom Hsiang has been working on the mode of action and field efficacy of this product since 2004.

How does it work?

Unlike other fungicides that affect the fungus, Civitas affects the turfgrass plants' ability to resist fungal infection and disease severity. This mode of action is called Induced Systemic Resistance.

Because of this novel mode of action, Civitas needs to be applied prior to disease development. As the mode of action implies, it is systemic in the plant and needs to be taken up by the plant roots and translocated to the leaves, shoots and stems. It also needs to be applied when the plant is actively growing and not dormant. The product is intended for use on fairways. If treating tees and greens it should be applied to small test areas as it may be phytotoxic to short mowed turf in some instances.

Civitas can be used to reduce symptoms of dollar spot, grey and pink snow mould and leaf spot. It is recommended that it be applied in the late spring just prior to dollar spot development and in the fall while the turf is still actively growing and before snow cover to reduce snow mould symptoms. It is meant to be used to promote turf health and to be used in an IPM program. There is an excellent webinar on line featuring Dr. Tom Hsiang explaining how he determined the mode of action of Civitas and Dr. Frank Rossi showing his field results with the product at: www.civitasurf.com/label.asp

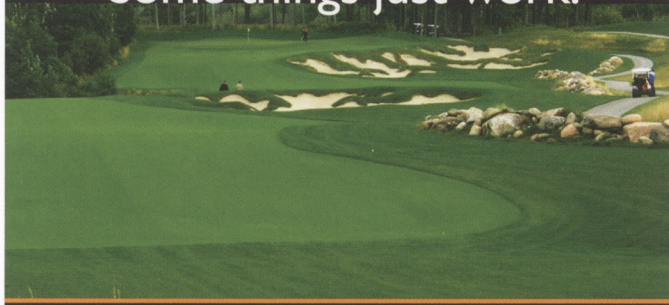
Civitas received registration in Dec. 2010 and it has not been classified in Ontario yet. It will be distributed by Syngenta.

Trilogy is another fungicide that has received registration within the last month. It is the latest in combination product for the control of pink and gray snow mould. It contains iprodione, triticonazole and trifloxystrobin to provide a penetrant, a DMI and a strobilurin in one product. It is manufactured by Bayer Environmental Sciences. It also has not been classified in Ontario yet.

Integrated Pest Management Accreditation Program Update

As usual with launching a new program such as this in a very tight time frame, there are issues that are encountered. To help to deal with some of these issues the IPM Council has extended the deadline for the electronic submission of 2010 Desk Audits until March 15, 2011. Desk review and on site audit checklists have been developed and will be posted on the website shortly. It is very important to check the IPMAP website often to keep abreast of any changes to the program www.ontarioipm.com.

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Have you had your hearing checked lately?

When did you have your last hearing test? I hazard to say it has probably been a while, eh?

As we age it is fairly normal that we may lose some of our hearing. It is a natural process and it is generally not reversible. It is surprising how many people are affected by some amount of hearing loss. More than 10% of Canadians are affected to some degree. And as we age the percentage rises dramatically. If you are between 45 and 65 years of age there is a 25% chance that you are experiencing hearing loss. If you are over 60 the chance of hearing loss rises to 50%.

So how does this happen? And what can we do about it?

One of the primary ways we lose our hearing is through a process called Noise-Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL). NIHL can be caused by a one-time exposure to loud sound as well as by repeated exposure to sounds at various loudness levels over an extended period of time.

Now I am going to get a little bit technical here. So stick with me because this important information can reduce the potential for hearing loss, no matter what your age.

Damage happens to the microscopic hair cells found inside the cochlea. These cells respond to the mechanical sound vibrations by sending an electrical signal to the auditory nerve. Different groups of hair cells are responsible for different frequencies (rate of vibrations). The healthy human ear can hear frequencies ranging from 20 Hertz (Hz) to 20,000 Hz. With loud sound exposure over time, the hair cells delicate hair bundles may get damaged or broken. If enough of them are damaged, hearing loss results.

The high frequency area of the cochlea is often damaged by loud sound. Many people with NIHL have trouble distinguishing high-frequency sounds because the hair cells responsible for high-frequency sounds are located at the base of the cochlea. Vibrations here tend to be more forceful, resulting in more damage to cells.

Cases of NIHL and/or tinnitus are found in children. According to Niskar et al., 2001, 5.2 million children (6-19 years of age) suffer from hearing loss attributed to excessive amounts of hazardous sound.

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) in the USA estimates that approximately 15 percent (over 30 million) of Americans between the ages of 20 and 69 have high frequency hearing loss due to exposure to loud sounds or noise at work or in leisure activities. This translates into approximately 5 million in Canada.

So how loud is too loud?

The pressure of a sound, or the loudness, is measured in decibels (dB). The higher the decibel, the louder the sound.

The amount of time you listen to a sound affects how much damage it will cause. The quieter the sound, the longer you can listen safely. If a sound reaches 80 dB or more and lasts for eight hours, it can cause permanent damage to the hair cells in the inner ear, leading to hearing loss.

Many common sounds may be louder than you think.

- A typical conversation occurs at about 65 dB.
- A motor cycle is loud enough at over 95 dB that it can begin to cause permanent damage after less than 6 hours.
- When listening to music on earphones at the maximum volume level, the sound generated reaches a level of over 100 dB, loud enough to begin to cause permanent damage after just 15 minutes per day!
- A clap of thunder from a nearby storm (120 dB) can cause immediate damage.
- Many activities can produce harmful sound levels (musical concerts, use of power tools such as chainsaws or lawnmowers).

Sound is one of the most common occupational hazards facing people today.

NIHL (noise-induced hearing loss) is of particular concern to workers who may be exposed to a high decibel level of noise in their workplace that is generated by many pieces of equipment working together. Workers are often unaware of the full extent of hearing damage because they go home each day and remove themselves from the noise and the onset of NIHL is a slow, gradual process over a long period of time.

One of the signs that workers may see is that when they get into their vehicles to go to work at the beginning of their shift the radio in the vehicle seems loud when they first start on the road to work. Generally this is an indication that the volume had to be turned up on the way home after their last shift due to NIHL. Their ears recovered somewhat overnight and this means that the radio level needs to be adjusted down on their way to work.

If you think that you might be experiencing noise induced hearing loss take the time to have your hearing checked. You may be able to stop the process of hearing loss.

Have a great autumn! The weather is beautiful.

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Some hazards are obvious

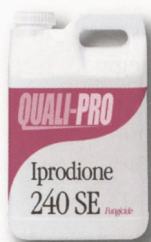


Others are not

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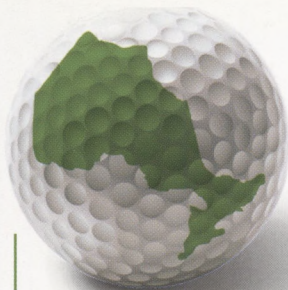
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2011 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT Conference & Trade Show

OPENING CEREMONIES

The 2011 conference was launched early Wednesday morning by Gordon Orr who brought greetings from the Mayor of Windsor. Keynote speaker and award winning Canadian Comedian, Gerry Dee followed with some light hearted entertainment. Laughter was the main message here, putting everyone in a good frame of mind for three days of educational seminars, trade show activities, networking and social events.



Gordon Orr, City of Windsor

golf course superintendent's profession. This contribution must be significant in both substance, and may be, or have been national or regional in nature.

The individual chosen for this award has made numerous contributions to the profession of the golf course superintendent and to the golf industry as a whole. Just a few of Paul's contributions include:

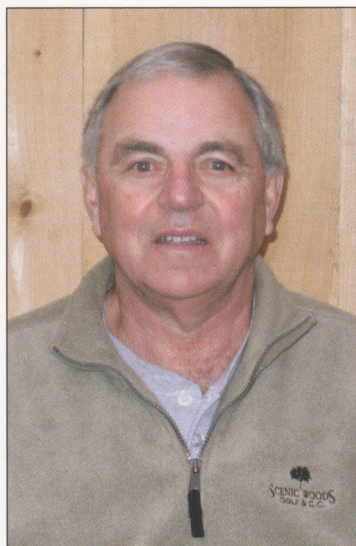
- Property Manager of Oakdale G&CC for 27 years before moving to York Downs.
- He was instrumental in the formation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and acted as an advisor in its formative years, establishing a higher profile for the GTI in moving it from Cambridge to University of Guelph.
- Founding member and first President of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation.
- Founding member and chairman of the Stanley Thompson Society.
- Recipient of the Score Award 1991.
- Recipient of the prestigious GCSAA Environmental Stewardship Award for Canada.
- Recipient of the Toro Environmental Achievement Award in 2000.
- Recipient of the John B. Steele Award in 2007
- OGSA member since 1967

For further information please read the "Member Profile" of Paul Dermott on pages 17 and 18.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Thanks to all who joined us at the Awards Luncheon to honour and recognize those who have achieved special awards during the previous year, as noted below.

5th Annual William Sansom Distinguished Service Award



Paul Dermott, CGCS

The recipient of our 5th William Sansom Distinguished Service Award goes to Mr. Paul Dermott. This award has been named in honour of our first President, William Sansom, who held that position from 1924 through 1932.

This award is presented to a person who the association members feel has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the

50 YEAR MEMBER AWARDS

We are honoured to announce two 50 year members this year, Mr. Robert Moote and Mr. David Gourlay Sr. Unfortunately neither were able to attend the awards ceremony, but in their absence the following presentations were made on screen. We will ensure that Mr. Moote and Mr. Gourlay personally receive an OGSA logoed watch, with our member's best wishes and congratulations.



Robert Moote

Robert Moote

- 1948 Graduate from University of Guelph OAC in Ornamental Horticulture.
- Member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects
- Certified Golf Course superintendent with the GCSAA 1967 OGSA President
- 2008 Honorary Director Emeritus with the Stanley Thompson Association.

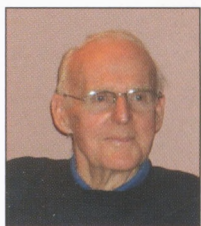
Mr. Moote, Bob to his friends worked with Stanley Thompson at the Cutten Club and travelled with him throughout Canada and the United States and Jamaica.

In 1952 he worked for CMHC Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in Ottawa and Montreal worked with Robbie Robinson designing golf course as well as landscaping for Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Beddeck.

He went to Oakdale Golf Course to build nine holes and stayed there for 20 years from 1957 – 1977. During this time Bob started the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium and it was held at Oakdale for a number of years before it moved to the University of Guelph. He also worked with the RCGA while at Oakdale for 5 years looking after national conferences.

During this time Bob received a degree from the American Society of Golf Course Architects. He formed his own company Moote & Associates, working with his brother David and then later formed R.F. Moote & Associates, and continued to work with his son and brother in the business.

Bob still keeps his hand in the business of golf course architecture, while he and his wife Isobel enjoy retirement in Brampton. They have two sons, David and Stanley and have six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



David Gourlay, Sr.

David Gourlay, Sr.

- OGSA President 1968
- CGSA President 1973
- Score Award – Superintendent of the year 1982
- GCSAA Distinguished Service Award 1987

David was instrumental in the initial set up of the CGSA in the early 1960's and was editor of the CGSA magazine called the *GreenMaster* in the 1970's. He was superintendent at many prominent golf clubs including Pine Valley, Summit, Thornhill and Summerlea Golf Club. David immigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1947 after

WWII and initially worked in the radio repair business in Hamilton. Known as a true gentleman in the business of golf; the Gourlay family tree includes the first official Greenskeeper, Old Tom Morris of Scotland. His legacy includes his son David, the owner of a golf management company in Kansas, and his grandson the current golf course superintendent at Colbert Hills in Manhattan, Kansas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 25 YEAR MEMBERS

Kelly Barnet
Leo Daigle
Charles Eberle
George Forrest
Mark Malott
Gerald Stirling
John Taylor



Present for photos L-R: Kelly Barnet, John Taylor and Leo Daigle

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Justin Parsons

Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary

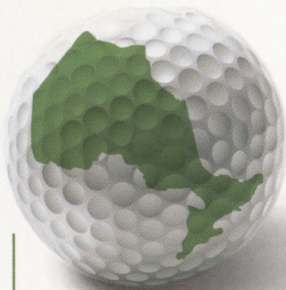
The OGSA, in conjunction with the Kirkpatrick family has developed this bursary program to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishments of assistant superintendent members of the OGSA. This bursary is named after

Hugh Kirkpatrick, who was very active in our association and held the position of OGSA President in 1985.

The 2010 Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary is awarded to Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent at Trafalgar Golf & Country Club.

In Justin's application essay he says, "It may be simple to most people, but my biggest professional goal is to be respected. Not just among golf course members and staff, but also among colleagues and other industry personnel."

As part of Justin's application for this scholarship, he wrote an essay on "Earning Respect" which you can read on page 24 of the magazine under the heading "Second to One".



Rod Bartlett

Turf Managers Short Course Education Award

An annual award is given to the golf course related student, who upon completion of the Turf Managers Short Course, taken at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute during the month of February, achieves the highest overall mark in the course. This year's award winner is Rod Bartlett who achieved an overall average of 92.6 %.



Kathleen Dodson

Turfgrass Diploma/Degree Scholarship

The OGSA has developed the Turfgrass Diploma or Degree scholarship to recognize scholastic accomplishments and potential leadership in the field of turfgrass management. This scholarship is open to students who have completed their first year in a diploma or degree course and are attending a recognized Ontario university or college in a turfgrass study course. This year's Scholarship is awarded to Kathleen Dodson.

Katie has completed a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology and Earth Sciences at Dalhousie University and a Masters Degree in Crop Science with turfgrass management emphasis at Washington State University. Katie is now enrolled at the University of Guelph, working towards her PhD in Turfgrass Science. As a mature student at UofG she spent the past year working as a research assistant at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, was a teaching assistant for Turfgrass Management II 2010 course and is also a mother of three.



Kathleen Grosicki

Heritage Scholarship

The OGSA developed the Heritage scholarship program to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of members of the OGSA and are studying a curriculum unrelated to Turfgrass Management.

This year's award winner is Kathleen Grosicki, who is attending St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, NS. Katy is the daughter of OGSA member

Gary Grosicki, Superintendent, at the Guelph Country Club. Katy's dream is to become a doctor, and one day work with Doctors Without Borders.

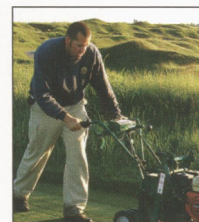
Katy had returned to her studies in Nova Scotia however, her father Gary was present to celebrate the occasion and accept the plaque on her behalf.

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

Barry Endicott Article of the Year Award 2010

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

The recipient this year is Graeme Calder, Sales Representative with Plant Products, for his article "A Dyeabolical Internship" in which Graeme recounts his experience as a student intern at Whistling Straights, during preparations for the PGA Championship. Graeme's article appeared in the Spring 2010 issue of *Green is Beautiful*.



Graeme Calder

Photo of the Year Award 2010

The criteria for awarding the best photo is divided into five categories: golf course, projects, landscaping, wildlife, and finally, best overall. The photos are judged and voted on by the Editorial Advisory Committee. The recipient this year is Jeremy Krueger, Assistant Superintendent, from Westmount Golf & Country Club, for his photo of "Autumnal Equinox" taken from the 5th fairway looking towards the 7th green at Westmount.



Jeremy Krueger



In recognition of the article and the photo awards, we would like to thank, Vanden Bussche Irrigation Equipment Limited who have generously donated a total of \$500.00 in the names of our two *Green is Beautiful* award winners to the OGSA Turf Research Fund. This money will go towards furthering research in the golf industry in

Ontario. Chris Davies, Golf Manager for Vanden Bussche joined with us at the luncheon to help celebrate this event.





L-R Kevin Corriveau, Bernie Grabowiecki, Randy McQueen

This year, for the first time, we included a charity component at our conference. We chose the Essex and Kent Boys Golf Tournament and were very successful in raising funds. Thanks to all those who donated loonies and toonies and to Windsor Crossing for donating such wonderful clothing that was raffled off, and to our speakers, as in lieu of speaker gifts this year, we were able to make a donation to the charity in the amount of \$1,000.

Assisting in the presentation was Kevin Corriveau, who has a golf show on radio 8:00 am in Windsor and teaches golf at St. Clair College. Kevin has also been involved with the charity for several years, along with Bernie Grabowiecki from the charity and the 1992 tournament winner Randy McQueen, who is still very much involved with the tournament.



Nigel Rennie (left)
John McLinden (right)

Best Booth Award

The Best Booth Award was presented by John McLinden to Nigel Rennie. Nigel accepted the plaque for the Best Booth on behalf of ALLTURF. The award was presented to the booth that our judges felt was the most creative and eye catching. Congratulations to the entire ALLTURF team.



Darren Little,
Superintendent,
Cedar Brae G&CC
Winner of the
Grand Prize

Congratulations Darren

Darren Little, Superintendent of Cedar Brae Golf & Country Club was the winner of the 2012 inclusive conference package. *"I would like to thank the OGSA for putting on a first class conference in Windsor. The seminars, networking and camaraderie enrich our industry. I look forward to the conference in Niagara Falls in 2012. Winning the grand prize for next years conference was unexpected. Thanks to board and planning committee for providing an outstanding prize."*

Presidents Reception

One of the highlights of the 2011 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show was the Presidents Reception held at the Hiram Walker and Sons distillery. Delegates were treated to a wonderful evening of gracious hospitality and informative tours and tastings. The historic distillery, known for producing one of Canada's most popular spirits, Canadian Club, provided a great atmosphere for those looking to unwind and socialize in a more relaxed environment. The whisky tasting session was most enlightening as participants not only sampled the distillery's products, but also learned how they are created. Afterwards, delegates had the option of taking the 'speak easy' tour which highlighted the incredible history of the venue and Hiram Walker himself. As it turns out, in 1858, Walker established the distillery across the river from Detroit to escape the country's increasingly restrictive liquor laws. During the prohibition era, Al Capone would often frequent the distillery to conduct business meetings in the basement. It was stories such as these that provided the backdrop for a very entertaining and enjoyable evening.



Virginia Kinney, Doug Breen and Jim Flett with Al Capone in the 'speak easy' meeting room.

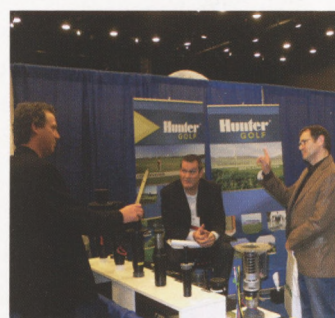
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Kent Essex Golf Superintendent

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in Niagara, Ontario from
January 18th – 20th!



Member profile

Paul Dermott, CGCS

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

When it comes to accomplished careers in our association, you would be hard-pressed to find one that has been more successful than Paul Dermott's. Over the past forty plus years, not only has Dermott been the superintendent of multiple premiere golfing facilities in Ontario, but he has also been a true leader in both environmental initiatives and the support of key organizations which are now the backbone of the turf industry in Ontario.

His venture into the field of golf course maintenance started out rather innocently. After growing up on a farm north of Orangeville, Dermott felt he needed to learn a trade outside of the family business. "Being the oldest of four brothers, I didn't figure I was going to inherit the farm so I needed to do something." While attending the University of Guelph for the Agriculture program, Dermott worked at the Chinguacousy Country Club (now the Caledon Country Club) during the summer months. It was there he began to realize he wanted to specialize in turfgrass management. After attaining his diploma in Agriculture, Dermott headed to Pennsylvania State University to do just that.

Fortunately for Dermott, the superintendent's position at Chinguacousy had recently become available upon completion of his studies at Penn State. "The superintendent at the time, Rene Muylaert, was leaving to pursue a full-time career in golf course design and he recommended me for the job."

Dermott would hold the position for five years before heading to the Islington Golf Club in 1971. During his six



years at Islington, Dermott would host his first major golf tournament, the Ontario Open. He would also plan and supervise the installation of an automated irrigation system. In-house construction projects would become a trademark of Dermott's career. He takes a lot of pride in the amount of work his crews were able to perform themselves over the years.

continued on page 18...

"In the Hot Seat"

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Favourite major: | The British Open |
| • Favourite piece of turf equipment: | The Verti-Drain |
| • Favourite golf designer: | Alister MacKenzie and Stanley Thompson |
| • Ultimate foursome: | Greg Norman, Fred Couples and Bob Heron
(But Bob would have to shorten his backswing so I don't spend all day looking for balls in the fescue) |
| • Lowest round ever and where: | 78 at Chinguacousy Country Club |
| • Favourite movie: | Field of Dreams |
| • Favourite meal: | Steak and potatoes |
| • What's in your CD right now: | Toby Keith |
| • Rate your lawn on a scale of 1-10: | Probably a 7. It needs some work, but it's getting better. |

"Having control and keeping the costs down was good, but I think people learned a lot from doing the construction themselves."

Dermott would then move on to his longest tenured superintendent's job at Oakdale Golf and Country Club where he held the position of property manager for an impressive 26 years. It was at Oakdale where Dermott truly established himself as one of the country's premiere golf course superintendents. In 1991, Dermott was honoured as 'Superintendent of the Year' by the CGSA and *SCOREGolf Magazine*. He was also the recipient of numerous environmental achievement awards including Oakdale's recognition as the first private golf club in the country to garner full certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. He would also host numerous major golf tournaments and help develop the careers of several of today's prominent superintendents.

In 2003, Dermott would move on to York Downs Golf and Country Club where he would serve as superintendent until 2006. The club hosted the Ontario Women's Amateur Championship in 2005, and, two years later, Dermott would receive the John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award by the CGSA. This annual honour

recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of golf course superintendent. As founding member and first President of the Ontario Turf Research Foundation (OTRF) and given his active role in the formation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI), Dermott was no doubt a worthy recipient.

Dermott's contributions to the golf course industry do not end there however. He served as OGSA President for two successful terms in 1975 and 1976 and he is the founding member and Chairman of the Stanley Thompson Society. Most recently, Dermott was awarded the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award this past January by the OGSA.

After all the career achievements and accolades, Dermott is most proud of the many people whose lives he may have been able to touch over the years. *"Seeing the young people that have gone on to be a success, not just the superintendents, has been great."*

As for advice he would offer to anyone starting out in the business: *"It's important to pick your mentors, maintain ethical standards and continue your education. It's a lifelong process."*



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Golf course highlight

Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club

10 Woodley's Lane
Dundas, Ontario L9H 6Y6
Phone: 905-628 6731
Email: greens@dundasvalleygolf.com
Website: dundasvalleygolf.com
Golf Course Superintendent: Jamie Cutting



Photo by Jamie Cutting, Superintendent, Hole #12

COURSE PROFILE

What county is your club located in?
Wentworth County

Is your club private, semi private, public, resort or municipal?
Private

Size of membership?
500

Number of rounds?
36,000

Typical opening and closing dates?
April 15 and November 15

How long have you been a superintendent?
4 years

How long have you been an OGSA member?
7 years

How many staff?
4 year round, 18 seasonal staff

How many assistants and mechanics?
Mechanic: Don Lewis
Assistant: Alan Dolick

How many gardening staff?
1 + Consultant: Judy Johnson

COURSE STATISTICS

How many holes?
27

What is the yardage from back and forward tees?
Back: 6400 Front: 5500

What is the size of driving range and range tee?
Length maxes out at 300 yds
with 20,000 ft² of tee deck

How many bunkers?
40

How many times does water come into play?
6 ponds 5 times

Who was the original architect?
Stanley Thompson

What was the year of original construction?
1929

By whom and when was the course remodelled?
Dave Moote 2003

What major tournaments have been held?
2009 Canadian PGA Women's
Championship

What is the size of your maintenance shop?
7,000 square feet

What type of irrigation system?
Rainbird Cirrus Central Control

What is the size of greens, tees & fairways?
2.1 acres of greens
2 acres of tees
23 acres of fairways

What is your predominant grass?
Poa Bent

Type of greens?
2 USGA
27 Pushup

What is the predominant soil type?
Clay Loam

What equipment do you have in inventory?
(9) Toro Flex 21
(3) Toro GM 3150
(3) Jacobsen LF3400
(1) Lastec Articulator
(3) Toro 3500 Sidewinder
(1) Kubota deckmower
(1) Jacobsen AR-522
(9) Clubcar carryall
(4) Clubcar electric
(2) Yamaha golf carts
(1) Toro Workman
(1) Toro Sandpro
(1) Toro Procure
(1) Toro Hydro ject
(1) Vertidrain
(1) John Deere Aerocore
(1) Case Skidsteer
(3) Kubota Tractors
(1) Massey Ferguson 253 Tractor
(1) Cushman Spraytech 300 gallon sprayer
(1) Smithco Spraystar 100 gallon sprayer
(1) Salsco Roller
(1) Agrimetall Blower
(1) Agrimetall Vacuum
(1) Turfco Triwave

(1) Turfco topdresser
(1) Graden verticut
(1) Vicon spreader
(1) Vermeer chipper
Small Equipment

COURSE PROJECTS & PLANS

What projects have you recently completed?

In the process of completing a new practice facility, updating drainage and installing new wash stations (with water recycling units), spill containment area and pesticide storage building.

LONG RANGE PLANS

What long range plans for renovation do you have in the next five years?

Currently we are in year 1 of a 5 year master plan which includes new bunkers, tee expansion, a new irrigation reservoir and a new clubhouse.

CHALLENGES

Are there any particular challenges you face with your property?

Heavy clay soils
Inadequate, dysfunctional drainage
Excessive trees, shade issues
History of severe disease outbreaks
(Anthracnose, Summer Patch, Pythium)
Neighbouring housing/safety issues

SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have any success stories?

In the past 4 years we have enjoyed 4 great seasons of golf and excellent playing conditions while continually augmenting the golf course both from a playability standpoint as well as aesthetically. Membership is extremely happy and I would count that as a great success.

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL PRACTICES

What type of innovative cultural practices have you performed?

We are big believers in continuous aeration and utilizing different methods and different depths throughout the entire season. We pull 1/4 inch plugs twice a season and solid tine vent every month. We also vertidrain greens 3 times per season at varying depths to coincide with root development.



What's new still feels old

by Bill Green, Assistant Property Manager
The Toronto Golf Club

The Toronto Golf Club embarked on a major renovation project to the Colt course during the 2009 season. After six years of planning, town hall meetings, a membership vote, trials, extensive research, and a trip to England the renovation project got underway on July 2, 2009. English architect Dr. Martin Hawtree completed the renovation in keeping with the philosophies of the original designer Harry Colt. The scope of work included: the construction of 90 bunkers, new tee complexes, re-locating two green sites, green expansions, a new irrigation system, XGD drainage, re-grassing to fescue roughs, alterations to green surrounds, fairway re-grading and alignment, creek alterations, and burial of hydro and telecommunication lines. There were many unique aspects to the renovation project, some considered a bit quirky, but everything was very well planned and thought out.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the project was how we maintained our bent/poa greens and fairways by recycling sod and propagating using cores.

There was a very deliberate effort made to maintain our bent/poa greens and fairways. There are several reasons why it was decided to continue to maintain our current grasses as opposed to a mono stand of bentgrass. Once the renovation was completed, we wanted all the disrupted areas on greens and fairways to look seamless, like nothing had been changed. In the past, Toronto Golf Club had widened fairways in a few locations and sodded with pure bentgrass. Fifteen years later you can still see

If the golf course was an antique, our goal was to refinish it to still look and feel like an antique.

a distinct difference between the existing and expanded fairway. This was something we really wanted to avoid due to the extensive nature of the renovation. In an old golf course like Toronto Golf Club a bent/poa mix provides a certain amount of charm. If the golf course was an antique, our goal was to refinish it to still look and feel like an antique. The Toronto Golf Club has been on its current site for nearly 100 years and most of our Poa, especially on greens has evolved into the perennial biotypes that no longer produce seed heads. When this happens it

puts Poa right up there as one of the top surfaces for putting greens. Never say never, but I can't see Oakmont Golf Club in Pittsburgh changing their Poa greens in the near future. The reality is Poa is one of the most adaptable invasive species on the planet and if you have a good cultivar, why change it.

The typical term in our industry for growing turf from cores is sprigging. For those of you who know Al Schwemler nothing is ever as simple as it seems and you better watch what you say or you will be quickly corrected. As Al had pointed out, sprigging by definition is plant propagation whereby cuttings of stolons or rhizomes are planted for establishment. The more suitable term for the process would be something like vegetative propagation, vegetative reproduction, vegetative multiplication, or vegetative cloning. Any of those terms will be acceptable when discussing our process with Al. For the purpose of this article we are going to use the term propagation.



Prior to construction Dr. Hawtree estimated we would require 5000 ft² of sod for green expansions. As a result 1.5 years before the project began we propagated a 7000 ft² nursery green built on eight inches of our greens topdressing material. We core aerated two passes around every green plus the entire practice putting green. The cores were shoveled into carts by hand and dumped into a pile inside our shop to keep them cool. The cores were then put into our Mete-R-Matic topdresser and spread on the green site. This was the first time we had propagated using cores. Although the process was a success, there was definitely some fine-tuning to be done if we were going to attempt this process on a significant acreage of fairways (where recycled sod was in short supply). Obviously, a majority of handwork had to be eliminated and we felt there was too much lag time between collecting and spreading cores and getting them watered.

By the time renovation got underway; we felt that we had fine-tuned the propagation process but had not put it to wide scale practice yet. We purchased a core harvester and a new Mete-R-Matic topdresser to assist in minimizing manual labor. It was critical that the core harvester could dump directly into the topdresser. This completely eliminated any handwork, with the exception of tie-ins along the edges. The operation of the aerator was much quicker than the rest of the process. In order to maintain flow in the operation, aeration ceased once the core harvester was full and waiting to load the topdresser. This eliminated any chance of the cores drying on the surface while waiting to be collected. All the coring was performed on the closest adjacent fairway and any unaffected areas of the same hole being expanded. This significantly reduced travel time and expedited the process. Aerating was done on a one and a half inch spacing to maximize the amount of cores harvested in any given area. The depth was set at $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to eliminate excess soil waste.

continued on page 22...



Spreading cores on the fairway.



Rolling the fairway after the cores began to puff and swell.



Sod is being laid on the 14th fairway that had been sitting on tarps for over 6 weeks.

One of the keys to successful propagation is to get water down A.S.A.P. On a large fairway we would work in specific zones, dependant on the location of irrigation coverage. Once the cores were distributed in the specific zone, bentgrass was overseeded at $\frac{1}{2}$ lb per 1000 ft², pre-plant fertilizer was applied, and the area was rolled with a sod or speed roller. The zone was immediately irrigated while the process continued into the next zone. Zone size was dictated by the time of day and environmental conditions at any given moment. On extremely hot days watering cores was top priority. Regardless of the stage of the process the operation was halted temporarily to water cores. On a few occasions the soil was watered prior to placing the cores on the soil to cool the surface. It was imperative to never let the vulnerable cores dry out.



Staff are matching the final grade of the new 11th green to the same grade as the original green.



Sod from the 15th green is being rolled and replaced on the green after it had been grown on tarps for 4 weeks.

During the grow-in stages the newly propagated areas were watered several times a day in a similar fashion to establishing turf from seed. Prior to the first mowing, propagated areas were rolled 2-3 times because the cores had a tendency to puff up and swell. The swelling of cores often continued even after several mowings. As a result propagated areas were rolled an additional 2-3 times throughout establishment.

At the completion of the project over 6.5 acres of fairways had been successfully propagated. Every fairway on the golf course was core aerated at least once with the tightest possible spacing. It was calculated that we pulled 16.7 million cores. If all the cores were stacked one on top of another, the string of cores would be 318 km long. The last area propagated was on Nov. 30, 2009, which is now known as dormant vegetative propagation.

The sodding process on the fairways was like a game of musical chairs and the odd man out was propagated. Once an area was prepared and ready for grassing, sod was removed from a hole to be completed in the next phase of the construction process. Priority of sodding was always given to green surrounds and high traffic areas. Fairway sod became a pretty hot commodity and on a few occasions some pretty questionable sod was used. Some of the sod used had sat on skids rolled up for a week, sod was used that had more dollar spot than grass, and some sod that had sat on tarps for so long the first cut had to be done with a line trimmer. There was a large amount of uncertainty on whether the sod was going to make it, but with a little extra care in the form of water, fertilizer, and sand it all surprisingly bounced back.

As part of the project two green sites were completely moved. The greens were rebuilt with the exact same grades as the original greens. A push up style green was reconstructed with the addition of the topdressing layer that had been stock piled from the old green. This construction method was used to maintain consistency with the other 28 greens on the property. At no point during the recreation of these greens was a piece of machinery used. All grading



Completed hole #11 showing propagated fairway. Photo by Bill Green

Everything on the greens was done by hand to reduce the impact of compaction, and for nostalgic reasons, to build them the way they were done back in 1911.

and finish work was done with wheelbarrows, shovels, pitchforks, and rakes. Everything on the greens was done by hand to reduce the impact of compaction, and for nostalgic reasons, to build them the way they were done back in 1911. It seemed to have served the club well over the last 100 years.

After the sod was cut from the green it was catalogued and stored on plastic tarps. There was nothing significant about the tarps; they were your basic Home Depot clear polyvinyl drop sheets used while painting. Once the sod was on tarps, it was constantly monitored and watered while the new green was being constructed. It was very surprising how well the sod did on the tarps and how little water it needed. The sod received regular applications of fungicide, growth regulators and fertilizer. Applications were made using a hand wand and were done on the same schedule as the other greens. After 4-5 weeks of the sod growing on tarps it had a large mass of roots underneath the sod. Several pieces had to be cut with an edger because they had started to knit together. A day after laying the sod the roots were well on their way into the topdressing layer. Green expansions were done in a similar fashion; often times sod from the existing

green had to be removed and stored on tarps to tie-in the expansion. The expansion area was then sodded with the sod that had been propagated on the nursery.

After the first season post renovation the project was a great success from the design, to construction and grow-in. All budgets and schedules were not only met but exceeded expectations. One of the key components of an effective renovation is extensive planning and research that is done prior to the project. Nothing less would be expected when you have 6 years to prepare. Not everything went exactly to plan but problems were quickly identified and adjustments were made accordingly. Many new challenges and setbacks were confronted during the first year post renovation. All of the staff worked hard all year to improve many of the areas affected by the scars left behind after a renovation project. The propagation of cores and recycling sod is one of the biggest accomplishments of the project. After such an extensive renovation The Toronto Golf Club still feels and looks as old as it did prior to the renovation and for that reason alone it can be considered a success.

Photos by Bill Green and Al Schwemler, Toronto Golf Club

Second to one

by Justin Parsons, Assistant Superintendent
Trafalgar Golf & Country Club

The Importance of Earning Respect

The golf course maintenance department represents a very dynamic and diverse work environment. We endeavor to groom and shape a constantly evolving environment with a staff that ranges in age from teenagers to individuals that are well into their retirement years. As assistant superintendents, it is up to us to help make it work, to help bring it all together. For many young assistants, it is their first time managing people in any capacity. This inexperience, combined with the unique nature of our workplace setting, provides a very challenging opportunity for us.

In order for us to succeed in our roles, we must earn the respect of the individuals we work with. After all, we cannot lead a staff if they are not willing to follow us. Though it sounds simple, this often proves to be the most difficult matter we face in our jobs. This, of course, is because we are trying to satisfy the needs of so many people. Let's face it, the golf course has certain needs, as do the staff, the club members, and even ourselves. Often times these needs can be mutually exclusive and it is up to us to ensure that the goals of the department are met and people remain content.

Of course some may argue that staff needs are not important compared to those of the club and its members. But I believe their needs are just as important. After all, they are the ones doing the bulk of the work. They are the ones changing holes, raking bunkers, applying fertilizer and setting reels. We rely on them to the utmost degree. In essence, we don't necessarily manage turf. Rather, we manage the people who manage the turf. With this in mind, their needs become just as important as anything else. After all, if they are unhappy or dissatisfied in any way, it will no doubt have a negative impact on their work performance. This, in turn, makes it nearly impossible for us to meet the goals of our department and the golf club as a whole.

This is why earning the respect of the staff you rely on is so important. When they respect you, they are on your side. They are willing to make compromises for you. They are willing to be patient and understanding for you. Most importantly, they are willing to try for you. In an environment that is as detailed and intricate as ours is, this is how goals get met and success arises.

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Above the hole

by Sean May
Student and Intern

The winter weather came early in December and despite a brief thawing in early January, we saw consistent below freezing temperatures followed by the usual February storms. While most golf courses in Ontario are into the winter routine and preparing for next season, the turf students at Guelph are back into the swing of things.

The first year turf students put together their communications symposium on Friday, November 26, 2010 at the Cutten Club in Guelph, Ontario. The theme for the symposium was "Back to the Future". It featured some fantastic guest speakers including Thom Charters and Ryan Beauchamp. Also there was a panel discussion featuring Dr. Katerina Jordan and John Bladon. The symposium was a very successful event and I would like to personally thank those who attended.

Since then, there have been many activities and industry conferences which took place through January and a number of students, including myself, were fortunate to attend. On January 4-7, a group of eight of us went to visit FarmLinks in Sylacauga, Alabama. We had the opportunity to take part in a variety of seminars presented by Argium Technologies, BASF and Toro, as

well we managed to get in a few rounds of golf. The experience was one that could not be described in words and I would definitely go back given the opportunity. The OSGA Conference & Trade Show was another event a group of us were able to attend. Although the drive in the snowstorm wasn't the best at times, the educational seminars and the entire conference was a great learning experience.

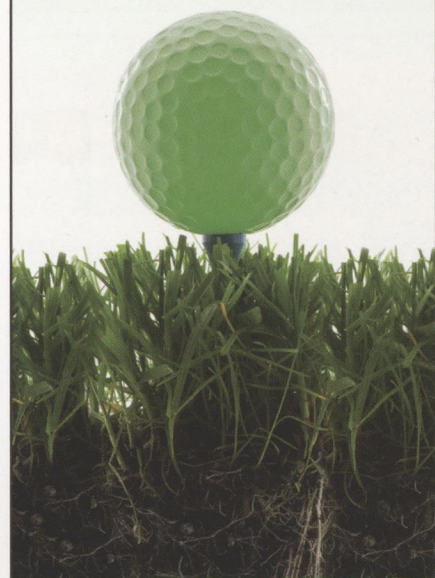
This year, for the first time ever, University of Guelph turfgrass students have decided to enter a team into the GCSAA Turf Bowl happening at the GCSAA show. The team of four have been studying since December; we all look forward to hearing on how they do.

Some of the in-class learning for the winter semester has included, the growing of group greens in the greenhouses, developing tree management plans and preparing for the Ontario Pesticide Exterminators License exam. I am looking forward to the spring and moving forward with my turfgrass career. I would like to thank the OSGA for the opportunity they have given me to contribute to *Green is Beautiful* for the past year and I look forward to writing for the magazine again in the future.



First year Turfgrass Management students attend the "Back to the Future" symposium at the Cutten Club in Guelph, Ontario.

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University of Guelph update



by Dr. Eric Lyons,
Department of Plant
Agriculture, U of G

Water Management Technology: Incorporating New and Old

Maybe it was too many late nights spent studying, but whenever I hear about new technology being promoted I always think of Ron Popiels voice, "Set it and forget it!"

Unfortunately the best new technologies get misused and then get dismissed because they are either promoted in this way, or the consumer over estimates the ability of the technology to replace good agronomic knowledge. This is

probably most prevalent in irrigation technologies and the purpose of this article is to encourage you to get the most out of new technologies while remembering and conserving the most tried and true methods of water management, your soil probe.

Watering to ET

DEFINITION: Evapotranspiration (ET) is the combined potential water loss from a crop. The ET number that is usually determined comes from a central weather station that measures factors such as sunlight, temperature and wind speed to determine the amount of water loss from a typical

stand. Each crop will have an ET crop coefficient, which also factors in the plants ability to conserve water. Watering to ET is typically defining the amount of water that needs to be applied by using the data from the weather station. You apply less water on cool cloudy days and more on hot sunny days.

ADVANTAGES: Typically watering to ET will reduce the amount of water you use if you compare it to watering based on a calendar. If you were watering every three days and you have three cloudy days you should apply less water. Often your central

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controller will calculate this and make the adjustment automatically so you do not have to adjust the program manually. It also gives you records of weather conditions that can then be used at a later time to justify increases or decreases in water use, justifying water budgets.

Unfortunately the best new technologies get misused and then get dismissed because they are either promoted in this way, or the consumer over estimates the ability of the technology to replace good agronomic knowledge.

MISUSE: Often when shifting to an ET system managers increase their frequency, and water more often to replace the water that was lost "that day". This can lead to short roots and increased thatch levels. Another common mistake is that we forget that ET is calculated based on light levels and temperatures from a central weather system. Golf courses have a multitude of microclimates that include high variability in light, temperature and wind, the three factors that affect the calculated ET. In addition, soil type can affect the amount of water available for plant growth.

SOLUTION: Use ET as a tool but remember to make sure you calibrate it to your micro-climates and you remember to use your soil probe to make sure you are watering to depth and to your roots. One area of your course may need to be watered weekly at 60% ET while another may need to be watered at 80% every 4 days. These adjustments can also change as sun angles change throughout the year.

Water To Soil Moisture

DEFINITION: Many devices sold today measure volumetric water content (VWC). This can be done a number of ways but the most common uses a form of Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR).

ADVANTAGES: The advantage of these is you can bury them in the soil and get continuous soil moisture readings letting you know the soil moisture without going out to an area. In addition the hand held devices allow you to send out anybody to record numbers and you can make decisions on those numbers at a later time.

MISUSE: The most common misuse of these instruments is the assumption that the absolute value that the instrument reads is important. In actuality the type of soil, the salinity of the water in the soil and a number of other factors may play a role in the number that you get from these instruments. Also the probes generally integrate the moisture over the length of the probe so you cannot see where the water is (although vertically mounted probes are becoming more available).

SOLUTION: For each soil type or area of the course you need to make sense of that number by calibrating it to your experience and expertise. Turfgrass managers should take their soil probe and their soil moisture meter out together and see how they relate. Once you have calibrated the instrument to your expertise then it becomes a valuable tool. The advantage of this is you also get a good idea of where your roots are in relation to the depth of water in the soil.

New technologies are always entering the market and they usually can help the turfgrass manager conserve water and better manage turf. The key is the manager must continue to make the most out of the technology and never "Set it and forget it".

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Technically speaking

by: Jim Flett, B.Sc. (Agronomy), AGSR
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Software and Tools to Support IPM Accrediation

All Ontario golf courses using Class 9 pesticides were required to comply with the IPM Accreditation Program (IPMAP) for the first time in 2010. Preparation of the program was hasty and therefore, implementation at the golf course level was full of challenges. The manufacturers of pest control products have developed a variety of tools to support the golf courses through the ever-changing process.

Record Keeping Systems

A number of companies started to design electronic record keeping systems. However, development was limited by the continuous changes to IPMAP, disrupting commercialization of record keeping systems. Engage Agro was first to launch with IPM Assist in June 2010, but IPMAP changes proved too costly for the program to be viable. As a result, the record keeping system was cancelled while other companies are still in development or in pilot phases.

IPM Notebook® www.keystonecr.com/ipm is currently available to the golf industry in Ontario. It's a stand-alone program which doesn't require high-speed which can monitor pest scouting, pesticide and fertilizer use and sprayer calibration and reports are generated that are compatible with the IPMAP annual desktop audit. It also contains a basic mapping module for entering hot spot information and facilitates the turfgrass management recommendations contained in the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food publications 384 and 816.

IPM Notebook® also can record daily mowing details, daily water taking readings, and automatically creates and uploads the annual data file to Ministry of the Environment Water Taking Record System (WTRS). The program sells for \$499 with a yearly \$199 annual maintenance fee to keep up with updates in the IPMAP.

Another program is IPM golfpro™ www.ipmgolfpro.com scheduled to release in March 2011 which features an interactive web based program to allow you to quickly login to your course information at any time from any computer.

All IPMAP compatible Reports are auto-filled with your data, saving you time. You're able to plan, execute, track and document your pest management strategies. For hotspot management, IPM golfpro™ technicians will upload your course map into the program as part of the initial subscription price. If your course design changes – no problem. The company provides an ongoing layout mapping service to facilitate course growth and expansion.

As a spray management tool IPM golfpro™ contains a full list of products registered for use on turf across Canada. Calculation Tools help you calibrate your sprayer(s) & provide mixing calculations for your pesticides. The program is listed at starting a \$349 for a 9 hole facility or \$698 for 18 holes plus an annual maintenance fee.

Training Modules

In the spring of 2010, IPM Agents were confused about the required training to complete the staff training records. Syngenta stepped up by offering online training modules at www.greencast.ca. In addition, the website has a video on IPM Implementation on golf courses and a sprayer calibration video, tailored to the specific forms and calculations required for the IPM Accreditation Program (IPMAP). More modules are being developed for 2011.

IPM Updates

As Syngenta learns about changes in the IPMAP, emails are distributed to their customers to inform them of the changes. This year, the emails included information about staff training, scouting, requirements on the application form and notices about critical phases such as calibrating the sprayer and documenting the hot spots. Furthermore, manufacturers send out pest alerts or IPM information that can be used to support IPM decisions on the golf course. Behind the scenes, members of industry work to shape the requirements or question the IPMAP in order to make it better.

Active Ingredient Calculators

The manufacturers responded quickly when the requirement for active ingredient amounts was announced. Product formulations were published and distributed to retailers and Syngenta created the Active Ingredient Calculator for popular products on www.greencast.ca.

Public Meeting Preparation

The Ontario Golf Course Superintendents' Association (OGSA) has formed a committee that includes manufacturers and retailers of pest control products to plan for the public meetings that will start in 2012. The goal of the committee is to create a public meeting toolkit that can be used by golf courses to host a successful public meeting with a consistent message across the golf industry.

On the road again

by Paul Grotier

Technical Consultant

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Life is Like a Box of Chocolates

The goals and ambitions are shared by many, yet sometimes the outcomes are vastly different. As I'm sure it was for many in our business, it was the beauty of the landscape, the smell of freshly mowed grass and the immediate gratification as one could pause and gaze at the result of a hard day's work. At least, that's what drew me in. Probably for most, the goal was clear: superintendent or nothing. Looking back, my young mind was filled with delusions of grandeur and as a wise man once said: "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get".

There have been many superintendents, assistants or technicians who have transitioned into the business side of our industry, or as it has been called, the "dark side". That being said, I have been asked to contribute to the "On the Road Again" column detailing my transition from an assistant superintendent to a sales representative. While for the most part it has been smooth, there are definitely adjustments that have to be made.

Now that I have traded in my golf cart for a truck, my first adjustment has evolved into a love-hate affair with my Ford F-150. You have to understand, my previous vehicles were a Honda Civic hatchback and more recently, a Mazda 3, which are both a fifth and half the size respectively. While I do love the feeling of "owning the road" and looking down onto people while driving, I miss my civic when looking for

parking in most downtown locations. Not much thought was put into spacing when those damn yellow lines were painted on the asphalt. Underground parking, anyone? No thanks. Then there was the mild seizure when I saw the first gas bill.

Secondly, was the likelihood of rejection. Thankfully, my new position requires me to deal with a group of people who I once heard described as "the salt of the earth". While I always knew this to be true, it has once again been reaffirmed to me. I have been repeatedly welcomed into maintenance facilities and what usually ensues are conversations of summers past, the joys and frustrations of growing grass and maintaining golf courses to the best of our abilities. At this young stage in my new career, I am most appreciative of this as every conversation with a superintendent is an opportunity to learn.

Thirdly, I must say being "on the other side" of the desk is different. I think back to when I met with sales representatives and now respect how they fielded questions with a cool, calm and collected demeanour. I have never analyzed what I say more than I do now. "Was my explanation clear? Am I talking too much? Should I shut up?" The same can be said for trade shows... the shoe is now on the other foot. Speaking of shoes, comfort is of utmost importance when standing at a booth for hours. I don't think my feet have hurt this much since the first day I walked mowed greens.

Lastly, my organizational skills are being tested as I try to schedule meetings and plan weeks accordingly. Regardless, as superintendents and assistants, organization skills have always been paramount to maintaining a successful golf course. All in all, my transition has been going well. Superintendents and assistants have been receptive and my new colleagues on "the dark side" have been equally welcoming. With that I leave you with two quotes, one from a superintendent I worked for, the other from the same wise man who influenced the title of this column: "God, I love this business" and "that's all I'm gonna say about that!"



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The wild view

by: Michael von Kaitz, C.Q.C.S. / C.G.M.P.

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Finding Balance when Dealing with Wildlife

Welcome to *The Wild View*, our first wildlife management edition in *Green is Beautiful*.

As urban wildlife populations continue to grow across North America, exposure with them can become more than a nuisance. Turf managers are challenged with bird and wildlife issues which often put a strain on their time, budget, and patience to resolve wildlife issues.

But how do we address these wildlife issues while maintaining a **healthy balance** between wildlife and people in our environments. Our objective at *The Wild View* is to provide turf managers with effective solutions, case studies, and insight on how to deal with wildlife effectively, and maintain that healthy balance between them, and people. We welcome your thoughts, experience and success stories on wildlife problems to help others with similar issues.

As many of you may be reviewing your staff start up times and turf schedules for the year, wildlife are also getting ready to 'spring' into action. In most of Ontario, we have had significant snow falls this past winter, which helps reduce the winter activity, but increases spring-time activity.

Our resident and transient goose populations will be eager to mate early, and establish themselves near food sources and safe zones. That's right, this means your well manicured turf and irrigation ponds. And don't count out our terrestrial mammalian species common to our sites, they will also be emerging from semi-hibernation mode, and looking for their food sources and mates.

In the months to come, we may be looking at options for controlling wildlife 'pests'. Do we do it in-house or hire a wildlife contractor. Lots of variables will determine

which direction we choose. The first step however, is a professional evaluation or **assessment** of the situation. It is key to determining if you'll **invest** into a program, or if it will simply cost you money with very little results.



Assessment criteria should include:

- Species identification and estimated numbers on site, and on adjacent land uses.
- Identify why they are there or the ecology that supports their presence.
- Natural or introduced predation or control tactics previously used.
- Review of applicable laws and local ordinances which may affect the types control used.
- Required permits to be obtained.
- Established time line for control.
- Amount of financial investment needed to resolve the issues.
- Strategic direction based on the criteria listed above.

Unless you already have the experience or qualified staff to complete an assessment, it may be more beneficial to contract this service out. A professional wildlife assessment will provide you with the diligence and strategic direction to effectively manage the wildlife species. Additional knowledge of wildlife species, timelines for expected results and control costs should also be included in written assessments. I know many property and turf managers who have invested in a professional assessment, and used it to acquire additional funding from senior management to address the wildlife issue.

What ever the situation, don't forget that many wildlife are protected species, and diligence is key in maintaining a healthy balance between them and people.



Photos by Michael von Kaitz

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Off the fairway ...

Gardener's Gold

by Brenda Noble, Head Gardener, Donalda Club, Toronto with Chris Cumming, Head Horticulturist at Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club
bnoble@donaldaclub.ca or (416) 447-5575 x273.

I always get excited when I have the opportunity to chat with fellow horticulturists and golf course gardeners. Sharing ideas and stories with like-minded people is generally good for one's constitution and always makes my day! Over the past few years I've had the pleasure of running into Chris Cumming, Head Horticulturist at Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club, several times at various seminars and conferences. One thing he has shared with me is the progress of his on-site composting project. He started the program about 4 years ago and has done a fantastic job of turning the golf course's yard and kitchen waste into one of our most precious resources – rich, beautiful compost. Gardener's Gold. Maybe not the same kind of black gold Jed Clampett discovered, but immensely valuable to us gardeners all the same! So now I will pass it over to Chris to share his story.

How the System Works

We have an open area of unused space where all of the grass clippings collected from the fairways, tees and greens are dumped. For larger tree brush material, depending on how far from the compost area the work is being done, we either pile it in the compost area and eventually chip it into the compost pile, or, if it is more efficient, we sometimes chip the brush into a large super tilt trailer at the work site and then the chips are moved to the compost site. We set up a compostable food waste collection program in the clubhouse kitchen, halfway house, and turf care centre, so these materials are added to the compost as well. Every two weeks, or as necessary, I mix it all together with



Chris mixes his compost pile.

our front end loader. I keep multiple smaller piles to keep new materials separate from material in later stages of decomposition, which also helps with the mixing. When the material looks like it is ready to be used I take it to our material yard where all our aggregates and soils are stored.

What Goes In, What Stays Out

Basically, any organic waste matter from all aspects of the golf course operation is collected and included in the compost mix. This includes grass clippings, leaves, cores from aerating, soil from construction projects, brush, and garden materials (minus the weeds). We also collect food waste from the clubhouse kitchen, including paper towels and coffee grinds. The only things that we avoid putting on the pile are weeds and pine needles.

In terms of keeping the carbon:nitrogen balance in check, I know that for best results you should be around 25-30:1, but it is very hard to track exactly what the ratio is. We have a lot of nitrogen product during the summer and carbon during the fall and spring. So it's definitely a challenge to mix to an exact ratio. But, when the pile starts to smell really strong and when the grass clippings stop breaking down it's telling you that it needs carbon! The more carbon product you have the hotter the pile will get and the faster it will breakdown. So, always keep some carbon from the spring on hand during the summer months when the grass clippings are really pouring in.

Challenges and Rewards

One challenge has been trying to find the most efficient way of transporting the materials. Probably

the biggest challenge, though, has been communicating to staff and getting them to buy into a new idea of utilizing otherwise waste material and seeing the benefits of it. It will create change in the way people do things in their departments, and change can be a challenge. What I had to do was get the General Manager on board, and once he took it seriously and gave me support I then developed a policy on the compost operational procedures. Making this system a part of club policy, which is to be adhered to by all employees, eventually made the system become a way of how things are done and is explained to new employees as part of their orientation.

There are many positives to this system, the obvious one being turning tonnes of waste into tonnes of quality multi-mix. Not having to truck the waste away or have product brought in reduces both environmental and financial costs. Good compost is great for the health of most gardens, and producing it on-site allows for more control of the quality of the product.

Is it worth it?

Absolutely! This fall I had 30 cubic yards and in the spring I had around 12 cubic yards of usable material. I used to purchase 30 yards of a high quality triple mix for \$1770.00 per load including taxes and shipping at the beginning of every season. I haven't had to purchase any soil for the gardens in 3 years.

As far as the cost in time, I really don't spend that much time mixing it and moving things - approximately 30 hours per year. As far as transporting the material to the compost site, it all requires collection and transportation somewhere regardless of whether we have a compost area or not, so those man hours are happening anyway.

Starting your own composting system - key points to remember.

If you have any spare space use it and start composting any waste organic material. It really doesn't require that much extra time and the material will breakdown to a usable product

eventually, but the more time you spend with it the faster the turnover of product. Keeping multiple smaller piles makes it much easier to handle and will break down faster if you turn it more. Also, do some research and learn about the process and the benefits of using compost in your gardens.

In conclusion, as spring quickly comes upon us, thoughts of amending gardens with rich compost are not far behind. I hope Chris' story has inspired you to start making your own gold. If you have questions for Chris you can contact him directly through e-mail, ccumming@mlgcc.com. Here are a couple of websites you may be interested in for further information on compost, producing, and testing it:

Composting Council of Canada:

www.compost.org/pdf/sheet_1.PDF

Washington State Uni. (C:N ratios):

http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/compost/fundamentals/needs_carbon_nitrogen.htm

Ohio State University (testing):

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/anr/fact/0015.html>



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On the REEL side of things

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It Makes Sense to Support Apprenticeship

421 Turf Equipment Technician Apprenticeship

Did you know... the turf industry in Ontario is extremely fortunate to have an apprenticeship program, created specifically to teach the necessary skills to become an effective, professional Turf Equipment Technician (TET)?

The program provides employers with an opportunity to hire a great employee and to help train that employee to meet their organization's specific needs. Approximately 90% of the apprenticeship training is provided in the workplace by you, the employer. There is no better way for apprentices to learn than right in your own shop. And what better way to answer the demands of golf superintendents from across the province, country and around the world?

Did you know... the 421C TET apprenticeship program was initiated, researched and developed by a collaborative effort between Turf Equipment Technicians and industry stakeholders in conjunction with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU)?

Did you know... it pays to hire an apprentice?

According to research by the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, employers receive a return when they invest in apprentices. For every \$1 spent on apprenticeship training, an employer receives a benefit, on average, of \$1.47 or a net return of \$0.47 in the first year. As well, the net benefit of apprenticeship training *increases every year* over the course of the apprenticeship period.

Did you know... there are financial incentives for hiring an apprentice?

- **\$2000 Employer Signing Bonus** which is to encourage employers or sponsors to register new apprentices in sectors where there is a high demand for skilled workers. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/employers/emp_bonus.html
- **Employer Bonus** provides a **\$1000** to employers or sponsors whose apprentices complete an apprenticeship in any trade or occupation.
- **Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit** which is a refundable tax credit available to employers or sponsors who hire and train apprentices in certain skilled trades to a maximum of **\$10,000** per qualifying apprentice per calendar year. www.rev.gov.on.ca/en/credit/attc/index.html

Industry support needed

We have government support, but where is the employer/industry support?

Since gaining official trade recognition in 2004 and curriculum completion in 2006, thanks mainly to considerable lobbying efforts and hours of work by Turf Equipment Technicians in Ontario and the change in political will to recognize the need for the development and support of skilled trades, disappointing registration numbers has the entire program at a standstill.

Extensive consultation with several of the industry's leading Equipment Technicians has resulted in the compilation of a comprehensive set of standards from which a thorough curriculum was developed. Preliminary indications from golf course superintendents and other concerned industry representatives indicated enough support to sustain a class of twenty apprentices annually. **To date, only 12 apprentices from 10 employers have registered.**

Registering an apprentice is a relatively simple but thorough process that once initiated, will yield benefits for both employee and employer. To find a suitable candidate, most need look no further than their own grounds staff or those of their peer group but that's not the only place to find one.

Check for interested candidates with industry or trade organizations, training committees, local secondary schools or colleges. Or you can also check out:

www.apprenticesearch.com

Once you've found your candidate, simply call the apprenticeship office nearest you to arrange a meeting with an Employment and Training Consultant (ETC) who will lead you through the process. To find your local office, call the Employment Ontario Hotline, call toll free: 1-800-387-5656, in Toronto: 416-326-5656 or go to:

www.findhelp.ca/mtcu/appoff.html

More information on the new College of Trades, a self regulating body dedicated to professional tradespersons and basically created to oversee apprenticeships in general can be found at:

www.collegeoftrades.ca

Did you know... there is financial assistance for apprentices? This includes:

- **Apprenticeship Scholarship** provides a \$1000 scholarship to young people who participate in apprenticeship programs if they meet simple criteria. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/apprentices/app_school.html
- **Support for Non-Eligible Apprentices** provides grants of up to \$1500 per term to apprentices who are not eligible for employment insurance to help cover their costs while they go to school.
- **Loans for Tools Program** offers apprentices an interest-free loan to help them purchase the tools and equipment they will require to perform the tasks that their respective trades will require of them. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/apprentices/tools.html
- **Apprenticeship Completion Bonus in Non-Red Seal Trades** is a one time \$2000 taxable benefit given to apprentices who complete apprenticeship training and receive certification in a Non-Red Seal trade. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/apprentices/bonus.html

It makes sense to hire an apprentice!

Through apprenticeship your organization receives an excellent return on investment; an employee specifically trained to meet your organization's needs and a plan to reduce the risk of skill shortages in the future. All in all, supporting apprenticeship will help to build a strong foundation for the turf industry. It's an investment in sustainability.

Why then isn't the turf industry in Ontario committing to training the Turf Equipment Technicians of tomorrow?

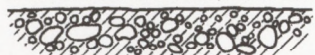
Ontario's turf industry needs to step up and get involved in this worthwhile program. Support your own career while investing in the future of your organization by registering a new **421C Turf Equipment Technician Apprentice** today!

References:

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Looking back

Ten Years Ago Today

by Barry Endicott

In 2001 the Board of Directors were **John Gravett** (pres), **Keith Bartlett** (past pres), **Jim Flett** (vice), **Mark Piccolo**, **Rob Ackermann**, **Dean Baker**, **Jeff Burgess**, **Bob Burrows**, **Mike Courneya**, **Dave Cours**, **Sean DeSilva** and **Paul Scenna**. **Jeff Stauffer** was the editor of *Green is Beautiful*. **Pat Thomas** was welcomed as a new staff member of the OGSA.

On the move: **Sean DeSilva** from Diamond 'In The Ruff' moved to Taboo. **Dean Baker** moved from Glen Abbey Golf Club to North Halton Golf Club after the retirement of **Allan Beene**.

In Memoriam:

Hugh Kirkpatrick 1941–2001 - Hugh started out building golf courses but later remained on as superintendent at Conestoga GC after construction. Hugh spent the last 23 years as superintendent at the Westmount Golf and Country Club. Hugh was the president of the OGSA in 1985 and received the Score Golf Award for Superintendent of the Year in 1996.

John Stoughton 1910–2001 passed away at the age of 91 in Orillia. John spent the last 25 years of his career at the old and new Barrie Golf and Country Club.

Jim Boyce passed away on August 29th. Jim developed correspondence courses for the University of Guelph, was the Executive Director of the CGSA from 1970 to 1973 and was the editor of *The GreenMaster* magazine.

Keith Nisbet received the CGSA's John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award at the CGSA Conference and Show which was held in Vancouver.

"A Century of Greenskeeping", written by **Gord Witteveen** was published and distributed by the OGSA. Gord wrote his last article titled "The Back Page" for the

CGSA *The GreenMaster* publication.

The Supreme Court made a decision to uphold a bylaw in the town of Hudson, Quebec, where municipalities had the power to ban the use of pesticides. It was feared that such powers could move into the province of Ontario.

The GCSAA celebrated its 75th Anniversary with the conference being held in Dallas. *Green is Beautiful* won the Most Improved Publication for the second year in a row.

The "Spring Field Day" was held at the Guelph Lakes Golf Club hosted by **John Bladon**. **Dave Swab** (76), Victoria Park West and **Chris Dew** (76) The National were low gross winners and **Ken Wright** (65) Devils' Pulpit and **Dave DeCorso** (70) Victoria Park East were low net winners. The Border City Challenge was held at the Sarnia Golf and Country Club, hosted by **Paul Brown** and the Pro Super Tournament was held at Angus Glen hosted by **Ernie Amsler** and **Doug Taylor**. The team consisting of **Kelly Barnett**, Fox Glen GC and pro **Kevin Corriveau** were crowned the winners.

The Presidents Day Tournament was held at Beacon Hall Golf Club hosted by **Bob Heron** on July 16th. The winners were as follows: 1st The Briars Golf Club, **Paul White**, 2nd Ballantrae Golf Club, **Kurt Rasmus**, 3rd St. George's Golf Club, **John Gall**, 4th Beacon Hall, **Bob Heron** and 5th Lowville Golf Club, **John Dimitriw**.

The Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was held at The Briars Golf Club hosted by **Paul White**. The low gross winner was **Ted Ellis** from Blue Springs GC and the George Darou Trophy was won by **Bruce Burger**, Lakeview GC.

The Plant Products Annual Slow Pitch Tournament was held with a total of 39 teams on July 14th at Turner Park in Hamilton. The winning team from Toronto Golf Club defeated the team from Oakdale Golf Club.

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Turf or consequences

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
Golf North Properties

I'm Just a Bill

Schoolhouse Rock was a series of animated videos, set to 70's psychedelic rock, commissioned by the good people at ABC, and designed to educate the young masses on topics that they might not otherwise be interested in – sort of the musical equivalent of stuffing medicine inside a sundae. It led to such classics as “Three is a Magic Number” – a musical tribute to the nifty mathematical things that one can do with the number three. That little ditty had the members of the Math Club, and the Society of Future Actuarial Scientists of America, dancing in the isles and throwing their slide rules onto the stage in a state of frenzy. There were several more that gave me a reasonably distorted version of American History, and a couple about proper grammar (Conjunction Junction, What's Your Function?). But without question, the best-known *Schoolhouse Rock* song of all time, was “I'm Just a Bill” – which explained how things are done in the American political system. Most kids of my generation can sing that song from beginning to end, but to this day have no idea how things work in Ontario. So without the benefit of folksy harmonies or soaring guitar solos, this is how a new law is born in Ontario – unfortunately.

Let me give you a hypothetical example. One ordinary day, someone walking into a clubhouse trips on a welcome mat, falls, and breaks their wrist. The injured party's insurance company will immediately sue the owner of the course, the manager of the clubhouse, the company that made the welcome mat, the workers in the Indonesian sweat shop that manufactured it, and the last three cleaners who vacuumed it. The insurance companies of all of those folks will settle, because insurance lawyers are the most spineless people on earth and live in constant fear that, one day, they might actually have to argue a case in court. Instead, the lawyers all go out for lunch, exchange cheques, and every one on the planet has their premiums go up to cover the settlement (and the lunch).

In most cases, that's the end of it. But if the injured party decides to hold a press conference – there is panic. The scale of this panic is directly proportional to how well connected the family of the ‘victim survivor’ is to the political party in power. The most important thing for the politicians to do at this point is to show they care, and the best way to show caring is to get invited to the aforementioned press conference. Most MPP's have a well-rehearsed face for such events – it's a delicate balance of concern, sadness, and moral outrage. Global TV news will produce a three-part series entitled “Welcome Mats: Friendly Greeting or Death Trap?”

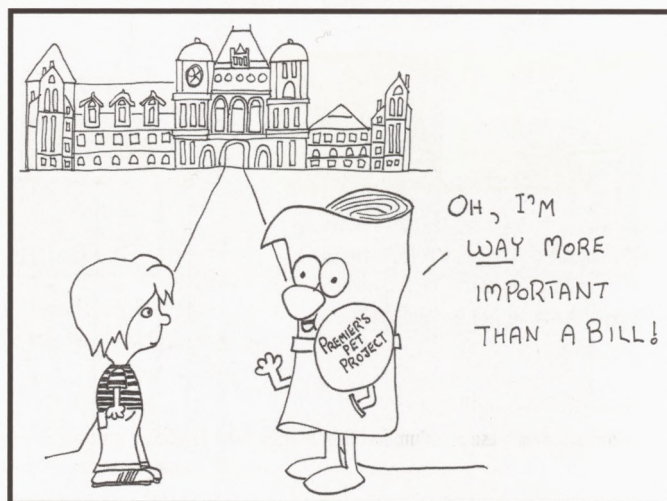
The most important thing to do after the press conference is to ignore all pre-existing legislation that might apply (in this case, things like fire codes, building codes, or anything



else that might relate to welcome mats). Stating there is already legislation to deal with this ‘rapidly escalating health crisis’ would be seen by the public as impotence of the highest order. Rather, a Royal Commission on Floor Mats (the scope was widened to include all types of mats) will be organized at the next sitting of the House (which is bound to be within the following ten months). After an extensive tour of the province, where stakeholder groups will convene at various geographic locations to tell their stories of injuries (and naturally all close calls) with floor mats, the Commission will publish a white paper: “State of Non-Fixed Floor Covering Devices in Ontario”. There will be much discussion about whether a table is a “non-fixed floor covering device” or not.

Some random Ministry (oh, let's say the Ministry of Transportation) will write a protocol for the manufacture, sale, installation, and maintenance of mats – followed by another round of public consultation, which will lead to the addition of several green initiatives into the final draft of the legislation. Then the province will download the administration of the Floor Coverings Act to the local Boards of Health, who will interpret and apply it in wildly different ways across jurisdictions. Each business using “non-fixed floor covering devices”, which may now include tables, chairs, and slow moving seniors depending on your inspector, will need to buy a \$300 annual licence and submit to a semi-annual unannounced inspection. Mats will all have engineer's stamps, contain a minimum 25% recycled materials, and cost \$5,000 each. The Ministry of Education, who now oversees the whole program for some reason, will hire 100 trainers to work with the local inspectors.

Two weeks later, someone will trip on a mat anyway, and the whole process will begin again. I can't set this to music – it's just too depressing.





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