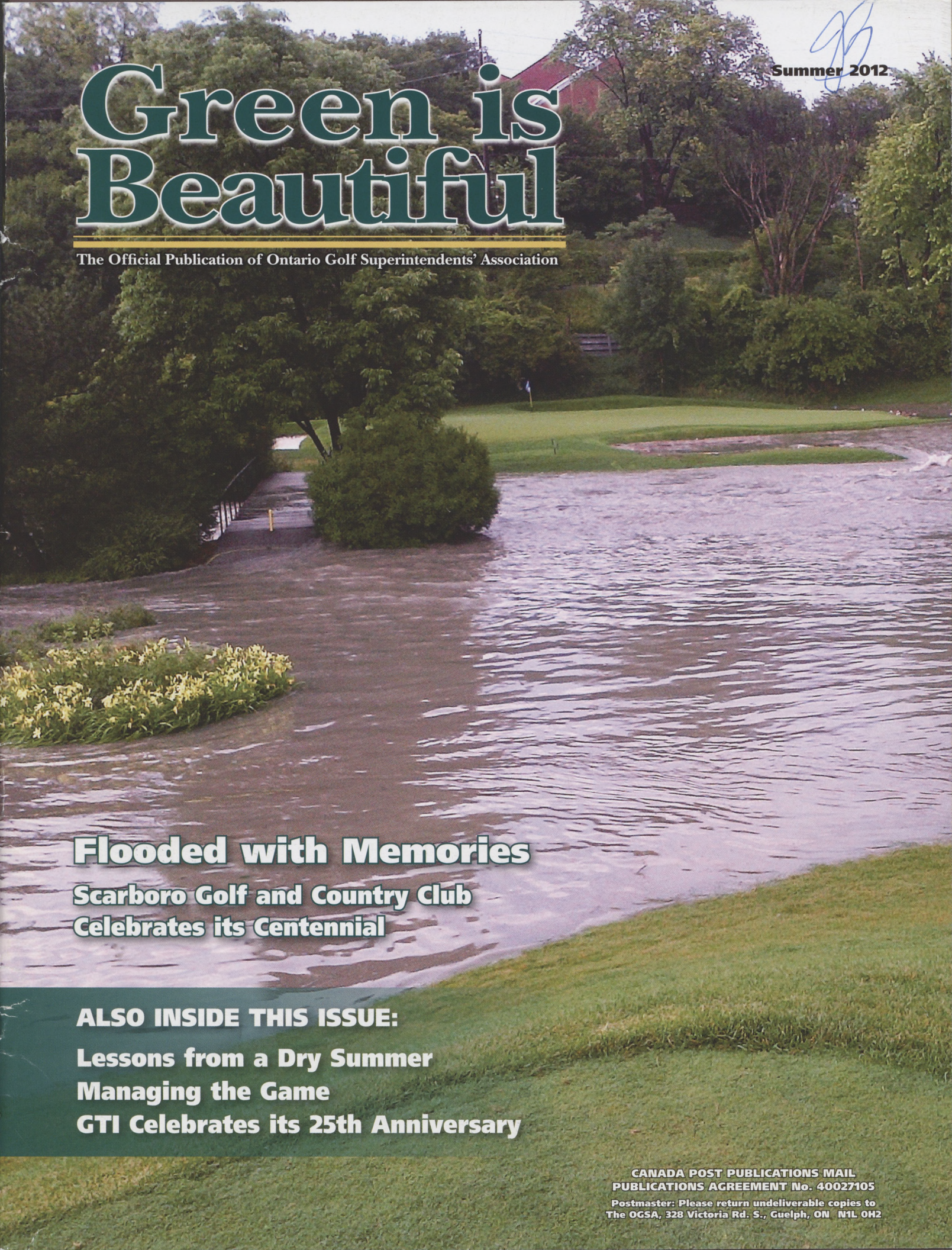




Green is Beautiful

Summer 2012

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Flooded with Memories

Scarboro Golf and Country Club
Celebrates its Centennial

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lessons from a Dry Summer

Managing the Game

GTI Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Doug Breen,
GolfNorth Properties

I can't imagine that anyone was sad to see the summer of 2012 come to an end. It was hot, dry, and windy – most days it was like standing next to a giant hair dryer. It was definitely a good year to find the weak spots in your irrigation system. In some cases, maybe you found out that the whole irrigation system was the weak spot in the system. Hopefully you took lots of pictures, because when you get to the boardroom table to ask for capital money to make improvements in November, no one but you will remember what it looked like at the end of July.

On a positive note, the OGSA hosted some terrific events through the summer. It was great to get together and hear superintendents exchanging war stories and laughing about their trials and tribulations. There's no better feeling in the world than realizing, that no matter how badly things are going, others are having the same issues and you're not alone. I remember when I first started out in the business there were older superintendents, like Hugh Kirkpatrick in my case, who would just show up at your course to offer help, dole out advice if requested, or often just to commiserate. It meant a lot to me then and I've made a mental note to try to do the same – now that I'm getting to be one of the older guys.



By now, everyone knows the details of the upcoming joint OGSA/CGSA conference. We're very excited about this year's lineup and it's always nice to see our friends from across the country. If you haven't already looked into it, do so right away and get registered as soon as possible. I'm sure that everyone's been to the new OGSA website. It looks great and is a whole lot more flexible from our end. I hope that you like it and find it even more useful than the old site.

Enjoy the cooler temps and timely rains that fall always brings. ■

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

ON THE COVER

Scarboro Golf and Country Club

Photo credit:

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

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL 2012

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EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

I think deep down we all like anniversaries. They make us feel good. And I've spent the better part of the last week trying to figure out why. With so many Ontario golf clubs celebrating milestones in 2012, we thought it worthwhile in this publication to make mention of them. So, I felt obliged, in what is likely the least read column in this magazine, to get to the bottom of this question. If you don't mind, I'd like to explore this a little bit with you now.

Inherently, human beings do not like change. We like things that we can count on, we like things that stay the same. Anniversaries are nothing more than an indication of something that has stayed the same for a while and I think we can all find some comfort in that. Indeed, we tend to have a soft spot for things from our childhood that still exist, and those rare things that have remained constant through generations are especially endearing. I imagine a golf club that has been around for decades would be just such a thing.

It's fair to say that anniversaries are also a symbol of hard work and dedication. Let's face it, nothing lasts for fifty or a hundred years without a great deal of passion aimed at maintaining and protecting it. In the case of our golf course anniversaries, I am willing to bet every club has experienced moments over the course of their lifespan when individuals had to step up and fight to preserve its very survival. And, of course, the longer something

exists, the more it must endure.

Anything that is a hundred years old now has lived through the Great Depression, two world wars and the advent of countless technological advances that have rendered the world unrecognizable when compared to its inception. As an example, for golf courses celebrating their centennial anniversary, maintenance was originally performed without mechanized equipment. It is truly stunning to think about how much things have changed since then.

But the one thing that must remain if a place or an organization or even a relationship is to survive, is a commitment to its survival. And I'm not sure there is a better feeling than knowing your commitment to something has allowed it to continue on long enough for others to find comfort in it. ■

Correction Notice

Green is Beautiful wishes to clarify the following:

In our Spring issue, the feature story entitled "Control Your Water - Control Your Results" was written by Colleen Tocci who was an employee of Aquatrols at the time it was written. All information and data included in the story was generously contributed by Aquatrols. *Green is Beautiful* apologizes for any misunderstanding.

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WHAT'S NEW

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION

Once again, OGSA acknowledges host superintendents from the Ontario amateur circuit.

OGSA Treasurer Phil Scully presented a plaque to host superintendent Phil Brown of Summit Golf and Country Club for hosting the Investors Group Ontario Men's Amateur Championship.

Superintendent Jeff Haynes from Grey Silo Golf Course was recognized for hosting the Manulife Financial LPGA Classic. The local media was in attendance for the presentation which resulted in a newspaper article focusing on the skills and knowledge of the superintendent and the dedication of their staff. The outstanding recognition received Haynes and the grounds crew at Grey Silo, while undoubtedly earned for hosting such a high profile event, also epitomized the intent of the Superintendent Recognition Program.

The OGSA also prepared a full page insertion into the *Score Golf* "Top 100" issue this past June, which congratulated Rhod Trainor and his staff for once again hosting the RBC Canadian Open at Hamilton Golf and Country Club.



Phil Scully, right, presents a plaque to host superintendent Phil Brown of Summit Golf and Country Club.

WEBSITE

We encourage everyone to go to our new website and update their profiles, if necessary. Please note that membership renewals and updates will also be done through the website, so make sure all of your information is current. We are here to help, so please contact us if you have any questions or experience difficulties. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR UPCOMING 2012 OGSA Tournament & Events

Summer Scramble

Springfield Golf & Country Club
Tuesday, Aug. 28th

Hugh Kirkpatrick Biennial Memorial Golf Tournament

Held by NGF Golf
at Otter Creek Golf Club
Tuesday, Sept. 18th

Assistants Tournament

Piper's Heath Golf Club
Monday, Sept. 24th

McClumpha Memorial Tournament

Scarboro Golf & Country Club
Monday, Oct. 1st

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2012 Presidents' Day Tournament

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

A great time was had by the attendees of the OGSA Presidents' Day held on July 16th at Granite Golf Club. The winning team was Islington Golf Club, followed by Granite Golf Club, and, in third place, Weston Golf and Country Club. ■



Left: OGSA President Doug Breen presents the William Sansom Trophy to the winning team from Islington Golf Club. Right: Doug Breen presents to host Superintendent Phil Scully from Granite Golf Club.

DiamondBack Wins Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament

The annual Plant Products slo-pitch tournament was held on July 28th at Turner Park in Hamilton and thirty-two teams started the day with a chance at the title. After the round robin, and several playoff rounds, the final four matchups pitted Deer Creek versus Rattlesnake, and DiamondBack versus Glen Abbey. Deer Creek edged out Rattlesnake, and DiamondBack got by Glen Abbey to set up a rubber match in the finals; these same teams met in the 2010 finals with DiamondBack winning, and again in 2011 with Deer Creek taking the championship.

It was a hard fought game, led by some excellent pitching from both teams. In the end, the DiamondBack offense was able to put up more runs on the board, and won the championship game 17-7.



DiamondBack Golf Club won the final game 17-7.

Special thanks go to G.C. Duke for providing us with golf carts for the day, and to Hornby Glen for transporting them. This day would not be possible without the support of our sponsors: BASF, MANA, Aquatrols, Lebanon and Par Aide.

Thank you again to all of the teams that participated, and we look forward to another successful tournament next year! ■

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Grey Silo Golf Course grounds crew. Photo credit: Ron Samson

LPGA Tour Comes to Grey Silo Golf Course

During the third week of June, the LPGA tour made a stop north of the border. Grey Silo Golf Course, located in Kitchener, Ontario hosted the inaugural Manulife Financial LPGA Classic. This marks the first time the tour has visited an Ontario golf course since August of 2008. By all accounts, the event was an overwhelming success. Attendance well surpassed expectations with more than 66,000 patrons taking in the action. The turnout of LPGA players was excellent as well with 23 of the top 25 ranked women making the trip.

Course conditioning was terrific thanks to the hard work of golf course Superintendent Jeff Haynes and his staff. With the help of his assistants Ken Jackson and Steve Percy and his equipment technician Danny Trakalo, along with the rest of the grounds crew, players were treated to a great golf course. At times it wasn't easy with the extreme heat leading up to and during the event, but it certainly didn't slow them down. The excitement of the tournament carried right through the weekend to the final hole where Brittany Lang won in a four person playoff.

"When we started this year everybody was told that June would be spent at the golf course. Little did we know how true that would be. My hat is off to the most incredible crew I have ever worked with. They worked day and night, with little to no sleep, to pull off something many thought not possible. The constant upbeat and 'can do' attitude made the whole tournament a fantastic experience that I will not soon forget. I would have to say that all parties involved were a real pleasure to work with, LPGA, Bruno Events,

Manulife and, of course, everybody at GolfNorth. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we work as a team." Jeff Haynes, Superintendent, Grey Silo Golf Course. ■



OGSA President Doug Breen, left, presents to Jeff Haynes, Superintendent, Grey Silo Golf Course, right.

Canadian Open Returns to Hamilton Golf and Country Club

During the week of July 23rd, the Canadian Open made its return to Hamilton Golf and Country Club for the first time since 2006. With 35 staff and approximately 20 volunteers, the maintenance team led by Superintendent Rhod Trainor and Assistants Tracy Fowler and David Gabric, had the course in excellent condition for the field of PGA Tour Professionals.

Heavy rains early in the week made course preparations all the more difficult. On the Sunday evening before the event, the region of Ancaster, Ontario received one and a half inches of rain. But the crew worked tirelessly to repair any damage caused by the downpour and the course was ready to go by the start of tournament play. Unfortunately, this was not the only time rain would interrupt the maintenance schedule. In total, the course received two and a half inches throughout the duration of the week, which is ironic considering there had been no rainfall whatsoever for weeks leading up to the end of July.

The crew persevered however, and the conditions were terrific. The rough was challenging, the greens were firm and the scores got higher as the week progressed. In the end, the turnout was great and the tournament was decided on the final hole. The Hamilton maintenance team wishes to extend a big thank you to all the staff and volunteers for their dedication to making the week a huge success. ■



Mowing the 17th fairway at Hamilton G&CC.

Photo credit: Tracy Fowler, Assistant Superintendent

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IPM Public Meetings: Feedback from OGSA Survey

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

To date, 12 clubs have reported their public meeting results through the online survey being conducted by OGSA.

For the majority of golf clubs, the General Manager and or the Clubhouse Manager were in attendance, along with the assistant and/or the turfgrass technician. In some cases, friends, the cook, or even a supplier attended. Add to the mix, the odd Audubon Society representative and co-op students, and you can start to see that there has not been a strong public presence as of yet. In fact, at one club, only one member attended even though they have 1000 members on the roster.

At another club, 318 neighbours were informed, but the club's request for special terms of notification was rejected. After that process, not a single neighbour showed up to the meeting.

OGSA would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to fill out the survey so far. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. ■

Here are some quick IPM Meeting statistics from the survey:

Total attendees of the 12 meetings:
59 (24 of which were in attendance at
the first meeting at Sawmill Creek)

**Total neighbours attending all
12 meetings:** 29

Total questions asked by the neighbours: 2

Average time of meeting:
Between 10 and 20 minutes

Total cost of the 12 meetings: \$8000.00



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Lessons from a Dry Summer

Wouldn't you love to be in a profession where a long, sunny, dry summer meant beautiful weekends at the cottage, enjoying a swim and your favourite beverage? I know that I look at the forecast very differently than most of my friends and family. I worry and fret when the temperatures are over 30°C and there is no rain in sight for weeks. What is even worse is when the humidity mounts and it is warm and humid at night (high risk of Pythium blight). Worrying about the health of turf is one thing, then there is the stress of working in the constant heat and sun. So, all this being said, I am a bit of a wreck this summer. And I still get paid if turf dies. I can't imagine how most of you are coping. Is there a silver lining to this cloud? Let's see if we can find one.

Hot and dry is better than hot and wet

Although we have had weeks and weeks of very hot weather, it has been dry (with the exception of the odd thundershower). The benefit of this is that careful irrigation management will help keep diseases at bay. The worst combination of factors is hot and wet. Those conditions result in summer patch, pythium blight and brown patch to name a few. If you have purchased a Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) probe, you will now have a very good understanding of how wet your soils need to be to maintain healthy turf. At the same time, you are saving money and conserving water, so this is a win-win situation.

Irrigation shortcomings are apparent

There are two colours on golf courses right now, green and brown. Well, maybe there is some yellow too. A summer like this will certainly help you zero in on the limitations of your irrigation system. Let's look at this as an opportunity to demonstrate to your greens committee or your owners what the shortcomings of your current irrigation system are. I know that golf course budgets have not been that healthy in general over the past year or two, but most people will



A patchwork of green and brown showing irrigated and non-irrigated turf.

only believe there is a problem if they see a problem. Brown areas on golf course putting surfaces certainly signal that there is a problem. I also expect that this fall and next summer will be a good time to be in the irrigation supply business.

Dry conditions affect grub egg survival

All the information in turf insect text books states that grub eggs need some moisture to develop into first instar grubs. For the duration of the adult European chafer flights and the duration, so far, of the Japanese beetle flights (they will continue to lay their eggs for another two weeks or so), conditions have been very dry. What does this mean for grub eggs in your non-irrigated roughs or on non-irrigated home lawns? I hope it means that there will be higher egg mortality and less grub damage this fall and next spring.

A great summer for drought research

We have a bit of a joke around GTI. How can you guarantee that it will be a wet summer? Plan to do some drought research. Well, this summer there are

many studies underway at GTI that are evaluating turf species for drought tolerance, the impact of drought on weed invasion of turf and the interaction of fertility and irrigation on lawn mixtures. Why not come to GTI and see for yourself what we are learning from this dry summer? Come out and join us at the GTI Summer Research Field Day and 25th Anniversary celebration taking place on Thursday, August 23, 2012 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. Registration is \$25 and you can register online at www.guelphgti.org. ■



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Consistency is a word often used to describe the playability and the quality of a golf course. As technology and knowledge about diseases, insects, ecology and biology of turfgrasses has continued to improve, the ability to provide

more consistent playing conditions has become more achievable. This consistency however, comes at a economic, agronomic and environmental price. While some level of consistency can be achieved and is desirable, it is important to remember that

the game of golf is played in an outdoor environment. Part of the challenge of the game of golf and what often separates the great golfers from the good, is the ability to adjust to ever-changing playing conditions. The golf course will change with prevailing environmental conditions and it is not the superintendent's job to mask those conditions that differ from day to day through technology. Rather, the goal is to create a memorable and positive playing experience for the golfers.

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Consistency of golf greens

The discussion regarding consistency on golf greens has changed greatly over the years. Originally, it centered around the amount of turfgrass cover compared to bare ground on the greens. It changed to describe how the ball rolled across the surface of the green. It then focused on whether or not the ball rolled. Later, it evolved to mean that the golf greens should roll the same speed from day to day regardless of time of year or environmental conditions. While the definition of consistency is inconsistent among turfgrass managers and golfers alike, it is something that is out of control with regard to expectations and cost.

Measuring consistency

Many instruments have been developed to measure the consistency of golf greens. The most significant and probably the best known is the Stimpmeter. It is amazing that a simple metal bar with a notch in it has so much credibility. There are serious limitations with this device, including a lack of consistency between people lifting the bar and the fact that many golf courses lack areas large enough to get an accurate measurement.

The emphasis on firmness has brought about the use of instruments that measure surface soil moisture and instruments that measure firmness, such as the Clegg hammer and the TruFirm. While some of these tools have an agronomic value, the way they are being used today is as a measure of consistency and playability. Soil moisture meters can be an invaluable tool that aid in decisions regarding irrigation practices when water is measured at a depth similar to where roots reside. Although meters

will never be as good as an experienced turfgrass manager with a soil probe. Many of the current probes only measure soil moisture in the top 3 cm and those measurements focus on playability. The dropping weight measuring devices such as the Clegg hammer and the TruFirm allow for a more direct measurement of firmness. These tools can also indicate excessive thatch or organic matter, although a soil probe is much better for that evaluation. These tools give the turfgrass manager more information about the greens and allow them to track patterns.

Where the modern measuring devices fall short is when they are used as a standard to achieve and to develop consistency from day to day or even throughout a day. Golf courses can rely heavily on the use of Stimpmeters and firmness measurements to track the consistency of the course. The measurements should not be used for day to day play, rather they should be used leading up to a big event to track progress. This allows the superintendent to see just how much impact each cultural practice they employ has on ball roll and it helps them to gauge what needs to be done to achieve the green speeds they want for the event. After a rain, greens are typically slower.



Measuring ball roll distance with a Stimpmeter days before the St. Andrews Links Trophy.

Using these tools help the golf course superintendent understand how, and for how long, these events impact ball roll and firmness and it allows them to adjust their management practices coming into a high profile event. When the conditions are expected to be the same from day to day, this goal is not achievable and often leads to greater economic and environmental costs as proper irrigation cannot be performed.

Some golf courses will notice with repeated measurements that some greens tend to be slower or faster than others. Often this discrepancy is due to different types of greens construction, and when this is the case, management should be

done to overcome this difference. In some cases, the differences are due to various microclimates, than one without wind. Working towards evening out greens that are different for microclimates is not what the game of golf is truly about. In this case, the greens may be the same in the morning, but, by midafternoon the differences will be significant. The most common reason for differences has to do with the order the measurements are taken. Often the greens are assessed in the same order each time they are measured. Marked differences in surface moisture can occur over the course of an hour, especially in the morning. The first green measured will often be interpreted as being slower than the last. The biggest lesson here is that despite our best efforts, golf greens will be different from day to day for various reasons and that is part of the game of golf. ■



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Golf Course Superintendent:
Paul Brown

Assistant Superintendent:
Andrew Chartrand

Equipment Manager:
Oswald Angelone

Pond at Hole #3

Photo credit: Lorrie Williams

COURSE PROFILE

About the Course

The beginning of golf in Sarnia dates back to 1900 when a number of young people knocked a ball around an open field near Christina and Exmouth Street. In 1907, a few enthusiasts laid out a nine-hole course with sand greens. The club is celebrating its centennial anniversary this season.

Established: 1912

Original Architect: George Cumming (first 9 – 1912)
Stanley Thompson (second 9 – 1926)
Robbie Robinson (redesign – 1960)

Type of Club: Private

Size of Membership: 1200; including junior and senior golfers, curlers and social members

Number of Holes: 18

Number of Rounds Annually: 40,000

Practice Facility: Full range, but limited flight balls (225 yards)

Biggest Maintenance Challenge

Although Sarnia G&CC is flat, the golf course terrain is not. It was built with horse and buggies (i.e. no bulldozers) so the fairways are covered with small undulations. A player can hit a perfect drive and the ball could be six inches above or below your feet.

A CLOSER LOOK

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type: 50/50 Poa-bentgrass Mix

Predominant Soil Type: Sandy Soil

Type of Greens: 17 Soil Push-up, 1 Modified USGA

Recent or upcoming construction:

Rebuilt the eighth hole in 2005. Added a pond to make a dogleg to stop balls from leaving the property.

Course Length: 6,558 yards from the tips

Size of Property: 137 acres

Size of Greens: 2.5 acres

Size of Tees: 2 acres

Size of Fairways: 22 acres

Flooded with Memories

Scarboro Golf and Country Club celebrates its centennial

Written by Brent Long

Photos courtesy Scarboro Golf and Country Club archives

In the past century, eight head professionals, eight superintendents and 17 secretaries/club managers have called Scarboro Golf and Country Club home. It's just one of many trivial details I can now pull out of my hat after spending 18 months researching and writing the club's history book - Scarboro Golf and Country Club "One Hundred Years in the Making - 1912-2012."

By the time any club reaches its Centennial, there are a lot of great stories to be told about the many personalities who have come and gone over the years, but Scarboro's seems particularly rich and entertaining. Not only has it hosted five Canadian Open championships, along with numerous other professional and amateur events, but four Toronto Maple Leaf Captains have also called it home (Teeder Kennedy, Syl Apps, Jimmy Thomson and Dave Keon), as well as three Canadian Golf Hall of Fame members (Donald Day Carrick, Phil Farley and Gail Harvey Moore) to drop but a few names. You might be interested to know that at least eight golf course architects to some degree or another, along with the superintendents, left their mark at Scarboro over the decades including; George Cumming, Willie Park Jr., A.W. Tillinghast, Bill Diddel, Stanley Thompson, Rene Muylaert, Graham Cooke and, most recently, the duo of Gil Hanse and Ian Andrew.

One of my favourite quotes in the entire book comes from Centennial Chairperson

Ross Duggan who recounts a story of Tillinghast's time at Scarboro redesigning the original layout in the early 1920s. "Tillinghast would come up to Scarboro to supervise course construction and under his coat on one side he would have a flask to wet his whistle while out in the field. On the other side he had a pistol just in case he came across something that didn't agree with him in the wilds of Scarboro." Those must have been the days!

It's hard to imagine what it was like in 1911 when Cumming, the professional at The Toronto Golf Club with Scottish blood in him, first looked at the property. The automobile was just starting to make tracks in 1912, so most people making

their way to Scarboro from the city centre would have taken horse-drawn carriages for a 20-kilometre (12-mile) trip along bumpy and dusty Kingston Road. The Grand Trunk Railway's main line ran through the southern end of the property. A friendly conductor would allow the golfers a free drop near the entrance to the Club, a tradition that continued for many years.

Golf was introduced to the area by the Toronto Hunt Club, which purchased its current location on Kingston Road in 1895. Scarboro followed in 1912 and then Cedar Brook G&CC opened across the street as a member-owned facility in 1922 on the west side of Markham Road. The





Above: Greens Crew Circa 1926.

Opposite page, left: Early golf course construction.

Opposite page, right: Greens crew in late 1920s with superintendent Sandy McCallum on the left.

club changed hands in the 1930s and was renamed Cedar Brae G&CC in 1939.

Across Toronto, golf clubs were also evolving when Scarboro came into play. The Toronto GC (1876), Rosedale GC (1893), Toronto Hunt (1895), High Park GC (1896), Spadina GC (1900) were well established, but looking for new homes further from the city's core. Spadina disbanded in 1902 and moved to the present site of Lambton G&CC in western Toronto. The University of Toronto GC (1898) had 11 holes, but closed in 1930. Highlands GC, a victim of encroaching development, shifted west from the intersection of Jane and Dundas streets to the banks of the Credit River in 1906 and was renamed Mississauga G&CC. Oshawa G&CC opened in the east end in 1906. A couple of years later, High Park GC also went westward to Dixie Road and was renamed Lakeview GC. Rosedale was also located much further south before it moved in 1909 to its present home near Mount Pleasant Road and Lawrence Avenue.

The year 1912 proved especially significant for golf in Toronto. On Feb. 6, Toronto GC members gave approval

to move to the club's current location on the banks of the Etobicoke River. The Summit G&CC, meanwhile, filed letters of patent on May 14. Scarboro G&CC came into being when the Ontario Provincial Secretary issued letters of patent dated Feb. 2, 1912, to John Stanley Livingstone, Henry Jasper Martin, Charles Edward Langley (clubhouse architect), Richard Southam and Gordon Fraser Morrison.

...continued on page 18



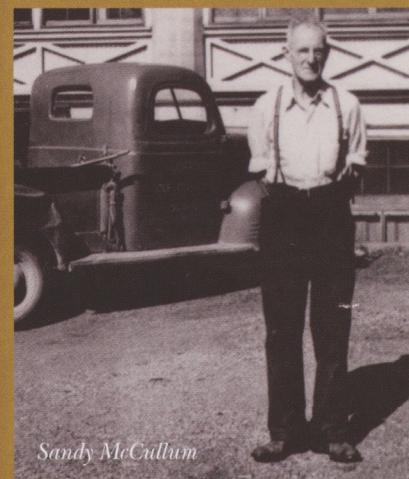
George Cumming



A.W. Tillinghast



Gil Hanse and Ian Andrew



Sandy McCallum

Golf Course Superintendents

- Bill Gilkes – 2008 to present
- Keith Rasmus – 1993 to 2007
- Dennis Pellrene – 1982 to 1992
- David Moote – 1978 to 1981
- Elwood (Mac) McArthur – 1956 to 1977
- Bob Anderson – 1945 to 1955
- Sandy McCallum – 1920 to 1945
- William Chinnery – 1918 to 1922

THE ARCHITECTS

- George Cumming
- Willie Park Jr.
- A.W. Tillinghast
- Bill Diddel
- Stanley Thompson
- Rene Muylaert
- Graham Cooke
- Gil Hanse and Ian Andrew



1976



1986

Scarboro has endured an endless battle with the elements. As we were putting this story to bed for the current issue of *Green is Beautiful*, a storm and resulting flood of Highland Creek on Sunday July 15, 2012 forced a two-day closure of the course.

At a meeting of the Scarboro Directors on July 24, the architect firm of Langley and Howland were authorized to prepare plans for a grandiose 5,000-square-foot Victorian-style clubhouse to include 48 guest rooms, a spacious verandah and deluxe dining facilities. Cumming, who designed the initial layout out of a cow pasture, hills, gullies and forest, and Joseph Mann were authorized to commence golf course construction. Cumming received \$500 for his work and Mann, as foreman, \$3 a day. Nine holes opened for play in 1913. Approval for the second nine received the green light on June 10, 1912, while the board approved a contract for a horse and man to cut grass on the course at a rate of 35 cents an hour. The entire 5,300-yard layout was unveiled in 1914.

The club held a formal opening in the spring of 1914, but the outbreak of the First World War that year gave rise to serious financial difficulties. The roar of the cannons in Europe almost brought Scarboro to its knees. By November of 1914, Club Directors authorized the sale of furnishings for \$5,000 "to pay wages and other obligations."

The leadership of Alfred E. Ames (1912-14) and Thomas G. McConkey



Doug Ford winner of 1963 Canadian Open

(1915-1918, 1921) was crucial to the survival of the club. They took their turns at the presidency, wielding the power with a group of loyal directors to barely keep the club out of the hands of creditors. The club planned to issue bonds to cover the mortgage on the new clubhouse, but the war's advent made it impossible to sell them to the public. The directors had to either hand the property over to the creditors or put their hands into their own pockets to keep the Club afloat until other arrangements could be made.

Future generations of club leaders successfully endured the difficult times of

the Great Depression, the Second World War, gasoline rationing, mass resignations, a financial "scandal" that almost closed the Club in the 1940s, a property damage lawsuit against the City of Scarborough that was finally resolved in the 1990s and numerous attacks on the course by Mother Nature.

Scarboro has endured an endless battle with the elements. As we were putting this story to bed for the current issue of *Green is Beautiful*, a storm and resulting flood of Highland Creek on Sunday July 15, 2012 forced a two-day closure of the course.

In 1954, a killer hurricane named Hazel ravaged North America's east coast including Toronto. Early on Oct. 15, local meteorologists issued extreme storm warnings with forecasted winds up to 113 kilometres an hour and torrential rains.

"Hazel hit us with the heaviest concentrated rainfall the area had ever seen as nine and a quarter inches fell over a 24-hour period," Cec Howard, Chairman of the Greens, reported to the membership.

By nightfall, Highland Creek was on a rampage. "A wall of water roared down on us and in no time our fairways at the fourth through eighth, 12th, 15th and 17th were transformed into a vast lake with the creek



2005



2012

bed impossible to locate," Howard wrote. "We lost every bridge as the water had carried them down river like battering rams and our lower course was left in a morass of debris and uprooted trees." It took weeks of additional work and \$6,000 to get the course back into tip-top playing condition. The storm caused 81 deaths in the Toronto area.

On Aug. 3, 1965, a flash flood took out 11 bridges with additional erosion on the fourth and eighth fairways – most of the materials for the bridges were recovered. Flooding continued to be a major concern for the Club. There were significant back-to-back storms in 1976 and 1977 that caused severe damage and again in August and September of 1986 that only reinforced the desire to stick with the lawsuit against the City of Scarborough.

More recently, the course was flooded on Aug. 19, 2005, as seven inches of rain fell in a two-hour period, drenching the layout. The course opened five days later and it took another four weeks to repair bunker damage in the valley with further improvements to the waterway in 2006.

One of the most interesting, yet complicated stories in the book to write, is a twisting tale that started back in the late 1950s. Superintendent Mac McArthur first expressed concern to the Board of Directors about the continual erosion and widening of Highland Creek, which ran through the property. This eventually led to a drawn-out legal affair in which the Club sued the City of Scarborough, its taxpayers and others over the erosion

damage, which didn't end until the creek beds were finally rebuilt by the end of 1993 as a result of the club's lawsuit victory.

The epic battle took years to resolve. It's very likely that if the courts had not found in favour of Scarboro G&CC, the club would not be here today. The average width of the creek had expanded to 52 feet from 18 feet during a 30-year period as the widening banks ate into the golf course due to spring flooding and other nasty storms. Long-time members still tell stories of jumping across Highland Creek with their clubs in tow in their younger days, where few would dream of doing that today.

Outside the courtroom, lawyers and officials eventually negotiated a final settlement in the fall of 1990. Following Scarboro's lawyer Bob Pezzack's advice, the club agreed to give ownership of the

incised channel of Highland Creek to the City of Scarborough. In return, and this has been one of the major keys to Scarboro's survival, the City agreed to be responsible for all future repairs to the creek bed and golf course as a result of flooding and erosion. This clause has saved the club millions of dollars over the years. After this case, the city instituted a zero run-off policy on future development sites.

In the end, the club spent about \$1.5 million on the lawsuit and received \$3 million in damages plus costs. That went a long way to paying off its debt and previous repairs to the golf course. The settlement didn't cover interest on money borrowed over the 12-year battle, which left Scarboro in the red and led to its evolution into an equity club, but that's a story for another day. ■

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To commemorate their centennial, Summit Golf and Country Club invited a few familiar faces out to play a round at the historic club in Richmond Hill, Ontario. On Monday, June 25, 2012, PGA tour star Dustin Johnson, LPGA favourite Lori Kane, retired PGA player Ian Leggatt and Canadian tour player Brian McCann tipped it up for members and invited guests.

Before the round, they hit balls out onto the 18th fairway

off a temporary tee that was setup on the back patio as part of a practice exhibition for those who attended the event. Bob Weeks, editor of Score Golf magazine, emceed the celebration as the players answered questions for the audience.

The club was originally laid out by George S. Lyon and George Cumming in 1912. Seven years later, it was redesigned by Stanley Thompson. ■



L-R: Brian McCann, Ian Leggatt, Lori Kane, Dustin Johnson.

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G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre

GTI Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

*by Justin Parsons, Engage Agro Corp.
Photos courtesy GTI archives.*

The Canadian turfgrass industry took a major step forward in 1987 when the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) was formed. Now, as the institute celebrates its 25th anniversary, it continues to push forward and enhance our industry through an emphasis on research and education.

The institute was originally created by University of Guelph faculty with

the support and encouragement of key industry leaders for the purpose of research and extension work to help strengthen and grow the turfgrass industry in Canada. Dr. Robert Sheard brought the concept of a turfgrass institute forward to the University of Guelph senate. He was supported in his efforts by former Ontario Agricultural College Dean Clayton Switzer who was then the Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs. They were encouraged in their efforts by a number of golf industry



1929 Ontario Greenkeepers Meeting at Guelph.

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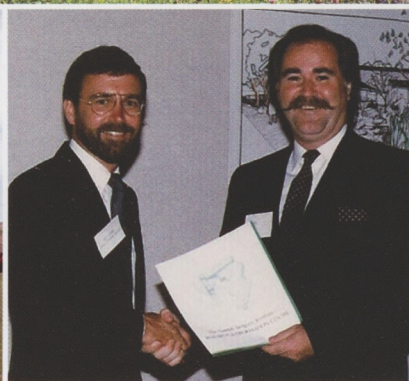
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Clockwise, L-R: Clayton Switzer, Ron Craig and Mac Frost; Research field day; Greenhouse research; First GTI Director Lee Burpee and Des Rice; Early field day.

leaders including Paul Dermott, Alan Beeny, and Keith Nisbett.

Six years after its inauguration, in the summer of 1993, the institute took on the shape that we recognize today when the G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre was opened. Mac and Beth Frost, who were highly involved in developing, owning and managing golf courses, recognized the importance of turfgrass research and made a donation of \$500,000 to launch the fund raising effort to create a physical presence for the GTI. The founding donation from the Frost family was the catalyst for a very successful fund raising effort led by a number of individuals including OTRF president Des Rice, Turf Care Products president Ron Craig and Bill Campbell from the sod industry.

The 150 acres of land west of the University of Guelph that the 7,600 square foot facility currently sits on was provided by the Ontario government who continue to support and maintain the Frost Centre building and surrounding research plots. Additional funding to construct and equip this facility has been provided by

the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs as well as the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) and many turfgrass industry companies and individuals many of whom are recognized on the Frost Centre donor wall.

The G.M. Frost Research and Information Centre houses the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association, the Sports Turf Association and the OTRF, as well as OMAFRA's turfgrass specialist Pam Charbonneau. It also includes a turf diagnostics lab, office space for University faculty, graduate students and technical staff involved in turfgrass research and conference rooms for meetings, lectures and educational programs.

Turfgrass research, which is carried out on 50 acres of maintained turf, focuses on environmental aspects of pesticide use, biological and cultural control of diseases and weeds, evaluation of grass species, fertility and management programs and sports field construction among many other things. In addition to the extension work, the GTI is also the host venue for numerous lectures, field days and the annual Turf Managers Short Course offered through the University of Guelph. The GTI also provides consulting services to the industry.

The turf research area is comprised of a research putting green equivalent to a nine-hole golf course, sixteen 25 by 100 meter research ranges and annual trial gardens. To help protect the integrity of all of this, there is a maintenance facility, irrigation pond, pump house and system.

Like the turfgrass industry itself, the

GTI has changed over the years, both in its appearance and the personnel involved. But the mandate has always been to promote the values and benefits of turfgrass in Canada. No matter how our industry evolves moving forward, the GTI will no doubt be leading the way. ■



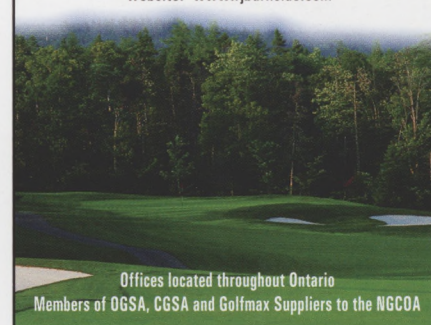
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Lock Out, Block Out

One thing that occurs in workplaces on a frequent basis is that machinery and installations are used and when machinery and equipment are involved in workplaces, workers are often required to do maintenance or repair or organize the relocation of these items.

It is important when employees work with equipment or installations that the workers understand the necessity of locking them out or blocking the potential uncontrolled release of energy.

Lately, there have been a number of incidents where the uncontrolled release of energy has caused devastating and costly results.

Devastating in the fact that workers were killed or injured and costly in that the employers and supervisors paid out large sums of money as a result of the incidents.

Just recently, it was announced that one owner, the company and a supervisor were heavily fined in the death of three workers and the devastating life altering injury to another worker (www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/news/courtbulletins.php).

It is important to understand the meaning of locking out or blocking out the unintentional release of energy. Energy may be as simple as the pull of gravity or as complicated as the stored energy in a piece of machinery such as pressurized hydraulic hoses. Locking out also involves eliminating the potential for electrical energy being available to inadvertently start a piece of electrical equipment.

All of your facilities have the potential for situations where stored energy of gravity or electrical energy might be present. Simply put, using a hydraulic lift during the maintenance of a piece of equipment is an example of stored energy. Jacking up a piece of equipment or lifting a piece of equipment with a set of pulleys is an example of the potential for stored energy since gravity would be involved if the item happened to fall.

Working on a piece of electrical equipment such as a table saw or electrical hand tool that is energized is an example of electrical energy. These are not the only types of energy, but these are generally common in your workplaces.

To avoid the inadvertent release of energy, it is important to ensure that each type of energy is locked out or blocked out in a manner that will not allow for an uncontrolled release.

With electrical energy, it is imperative that the electricity be removed prior to doing maintenance or repair. This

means ensuring that the equipment is unplugged and/or that the breaker switch is locked out with an approved lock out mechanism.

If gravity is involved, it is imperative that the equipment is blocked out with an approved blocking device. It is not possible in this

space to define all of the different types of blocking devices, so if you are not sure then please stop and ask. Never work under a piece of equipment that has the potential to fall.

When working on equipment, make sure you think before you do the work and if you're not sure...ASK!

Hydraulics are another issue. It is so important to ensure that all hydraulic lines are at zero pressure state before attempting to commence any work on them. Hydraulic lines under pressure can kill or maim you in an instant. Always be very cautious when working around hydraulic systems.

Have a safe finish to the season. ■

Energy may be as simple
as the pull of gravity or
as complicated as the stored
energy in a piece of machinery
such as pressurized
hydraulic hoses.



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The 3 R's of Wate'R'ing

I took my dog for a walk this afternoon and the crusty brown strands resembling what may have been grass at one time made for a particularly prickly jaunt. It was also a jolting reminder of how badly we need rain. As a gardener and as greenskeepers, productivity is inversely related to how much time I have to spend watering. So, it is in years like this that the importance of water conservation comes to the forefront of my mind. What follows are a few ideas and suggestions for protecting our precious water resources in every season – not just the dry ones.

1. Reduce

Just like with our trash, decreasing our water consumption needs is one of the most important and effective ways to conserve.

Potting Mix – Theresa Hachey from Sunningdale Golf and Country Club has spent several years working to reduce the amount of water her planters need by experimenting with soil mixes. She has been able to decrease her watering demands from four hours per day to just two hours every three days. That amounts to an additional 20 hours per week to do other things! Included in her soil mixes are Pro-Mix, vermiculite, perlite, compost and organic matter, and fertilizer. She also increased the size of some of her planters to increase the root zone and lined her wooden planters with a plastic barrier to prevent water from draining out too quickly. This year she and I tried a product called Zeba, a cornstarch based granule (as opposed to similar petroleum based products that are on the market) that absorbs water, claiming to keep water near the root zone and increase time between watering intervals. To test this claim, I set up a trial with two pots of



After several days without water, the pot of marigolds that contained the Zeba granules (on the right) fared far better.



One of several difficult sites where I've recently planted Brunnera 'Jack Frost', which performs well in both dry and shady conditions.

marigolds, and it does appear that Zeba will delay wilting significantly. With the insane heat we've had, I haven't tried to skip a watering day yet, but would like to once things cool off a bit.

Cultural Practices – Putting down a two inch layer of mulch to help gardens retain their moisture and keep plant roots cooler is a great start. For gardens that are already dry, a thorough, deep watering before and after mulching will be beneficial. Deep watering should be practiced as much as possible and is critical at the time of planting. With few exceptions, I dunk plant root balls under water until they are soaked and water them again in the planting hole before backfilling. Most nursery grown plants come in a peat moss based soil mix which is very difficult to re-hydrate once it dries out, so this technique keeps plants moist much longer than just surface watering. There have been times I haven't dunked plants because I thought they were wet enough and I was amazed at how quickly they dried out, even when the soil around them was moist.

Strategic Plant Selection – This has been one of my most valuable weapons. My first summer at Donalda I planted sun impatiens in what turned out to be my smallest containers in one of the hottest locations on the property. I never made that mistake again. In these same boxes I now plant things like Echeveria, purple heart, ornamental grasses and wandering

Jew. I don't have to water them twice a day and never worry about them wilting in the heat of the afternoon. With a good understanding of your site conditions and how they respond to the weather, plants can be carefully selected so you don't have to scramble to get things watered before they wilt. In addition to the plants mentioned above, I also rely heavily on various types of begonias, spider plants, asparagus ferns, geraniums and Swedish ivy. In contrast, the three plants I've had to water the most this year are Scaevola, sun impatiens and Fuchsia. Perennials are also an excellent option as they require far less watering once they are established than annuals. There is a huge selection of drought tolerant perennials and a few examples are Brunnera, Sedum, Artemisia, Asclepias, Epimedium, daylily and perennial ornamental grasses.

2. Reuse

Rain Barrels – Although my 500 L rain barrels are really only a drop in the bucket compared to my total watering needs, I believe that every little bit counts and there's nothing wrong with tapping into all of our options. I've installed four of them in lower profile areas where aesthetics aren't as crucial and found a style and colour that blends into the buildings where they are located. The pump on my water tank will empty the water into my tank and with regular rainfall they actually

supply me with decent amount of water.

Cisterns – One day early this spring I was filling my water tank from one of my rain barrels, bemoaning to our mechanic Warren the fact that no one seems to use or build cisterns anymore. I was pleasantly shocked when he said he knew where there was a cistern on the property and it was full of water! So we went to investigate and figure out if there was a way to tap into it. Warren and his assistant rigged up a pump so I could draw water into my tank and I was able to fill it many times this spring. Now we are just awaiting a good rainfall to see if it will refill after who knows how many years of sitting unused. That would make me a very happy gardener.



Filling my water tank from the cistern we resurrected.

Aquascape RainXchange – A few years ago at a conference I sat in on a seminar by Aquascape, a company specializing in ponds. They introduced a concept that takes the cistern idea and incorporates it with a beautiful water feature and irrigation system that can be used for all outdoor watering needs. Beauty, function and conservation all combined into one. I don't think you can get any better than that. Now I just need to figure out where I can install one of them!

3. i'R'rigation

Irrigation has lived up to its nickname 'irritation' more often than not, but I have learned to embrace it at times and realize that it can make my life easier when it's actually working properly and we're not getting rain. It definitely takes a properly designed, installed and maintained system (easier said than done) to water your gardens effectively and efficiently. Here are a couple of suggestions from my experience:

Driplines – As new gardens have been

created on the property, I opted to use driplines in many areas. The advantages are that I can run them any time of day without interfering with member activity and water is not lost to heat and wind. Foliage doesn't get wet, thereby reducing disease, water goes directly into the soil, and larger plants don't impede the even distribution of water. Some of my driplines were installed on steep slopes where it is impossible to water by hand without sending a mudslide onto the concrete. They require much longer run times, but this means that deep watering can be achieved. Disadvantages include the fact that the tiny openings can clog more easily, shrub roots can interfere with the lines and reducing the pressure enough can be tricky, especially if you are drawing from high pressure golf irrigation systems.

Rotator Nozzles – One of the many water conserving options irrigation companies are introducing is rotator nozzles. Instead of a constant high volume spray, they have a gentler stream which is similar to an oscillating sprinkler. Although they require longer run times, like the driplines, the slower streams of water are gentler on the plants and reduce run off. I usually run mine for about three hours but once I accidentally forgot to turn one off and it ran all night. I came into work expecting to find a river on the roadway but was pleased to find essentially no runoff. This means all that water went into the ground where it belongs. Due to the long run times, ensure that your computer system will allow these times or the heads are located in an area where they can be run during the day. Otherwise deep watering will be more difficult and it will never receive enough water.

As I complete this article a few days after I began, we just received an inch and a half of rain and, of course, the river flooded. With the unpredictability of rainfall I hope I've given you some new tools for your water conserving tool box. I hope to find another six feet of water in my cistern tomorrow! ■



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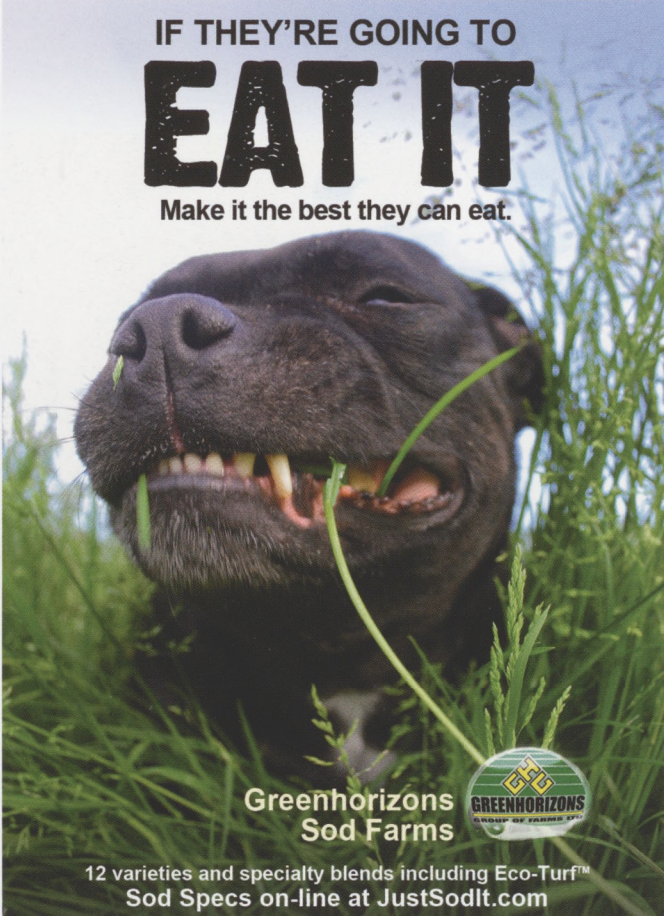
If you live or work in the GTA and spend any time at all listening to the radio, then you will have undoubtedly heard Saul Korman and his weekly commercials for his men's wear store Korry's Clothiers. Now, for those of you who haven't heard Saul on the radio, he has an off-the-cuff style that is rather unique, yet charming, that many have copied with various levels of success. So what does Mr. Korman have to do with turf equipment? Well, nothing that I know of, rather, it is a piece of fashion advice that I heard him give several years ago. He said, "buy the best quality that you can afford." I find that to be good advice, not only for fashion, but I have tried to apply that philosophy to my own life, both personally and professionally. But to be quite honest, a bunch of grumbling recently (and by recently I mean years) about the weight of a couple of rotary push mowers that I bought for the club a few seasons back has forced me to reconsider my default position for purchasing criteria, now that it is time to replace these mowers.

Normally when I look at a piece of equipment that I am considering purchasing, I will consider several things in addition to price, including what type of engine is on it and who makes it, how well is it constructed and if it will withstand the rigors of life on a golf course. I have found that machinery that is built to last will undoubtedly be heavier, by virtue of its very composition and

construction, but this admittedly has always been a sacrifice that I was willing to make and still stand by for most purchases. It turns out though that these mowers really were pigs to push...I mean they were heavy!

This has prompted a rethink in my push mower purchasing philosophy. The mowers I used to purchase would cost roughly \$1000 each. I would usually buy them in pairs and would get three to four years of good hard use out of them before a piece of parking lot re-bar or a tumble from a trailer would make repair a non-economical option and it becomes a parts donor machine for its mate. I have retired the offending weighty mowers from active golf course duty and have decided that their replacements will be lighter, leaner, and cheaper than ever before! Instead of buying commercial grade machines, I am going to try replacing them with consumer grade models at one half of the weight and one third of the price. I can buy three of these mowers for the price of one that I used to buy and if I can get two seasons out of them then I will be ahead of the game even if I have to scrap them at that point. They are made by a manufacturer with a reputation for building quality products and I already have a few items that use the same model engine so I am comfortable with that, but the real deal maker was their weight. The moment I grabbed hold of the handle and gave it a tug I was sold. With almost no effort at all it went gliding across the cement showroom floor and I knew I had found the answer to all that bellyaching...I mean, "operator feedback".

When it comes right down to it, quality isn't always everything, not when somebody has to push it. I am hoping the three for one deal works out like I've planned because if it doesn't, Plan B is to switch to "self-propelled" and I don't even want to think about how much weight that particular feature would add to a push mower! ■



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Twenty Years Ago Today

The Board of Directors in 1992 were: Rhod Trainor (pres), Hamilton Golf & C.C., Dave Gourlay (vice), Eagle Creek Golf Club, Mark Hagen (past), West Haven Golf & C.C., Simon George (editor), Oakville Golf Club, Bill Fach, Rosedale Golf Club, Dennis Pellrene, Scarboro Golf Club, Rick Serrao, Glendale Golf & C.C., John Taylor, Twenty Valley Golf Club, Alex La Belle, Carlton Golf and Yacht Club, Bruce Burger, Lakeview Golf Club, Doug Sutter, Credit Valley Golf & C.C. and Mark Schneider, Beach Grove Golf & C.C. Cindi Charters was office secretary.

MILESTONES: The membership of the OGSA doubled over the past seven years to 386 members.

EVENTS: The first Annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held in early January at the University of Guelph. The OGSA joined with the GTI and Allied Turf Groups in forming a three-day education and trade show. The committee met at the University of Guelph and consisted of Annette Anderson, Mira Stone, Paul Dermott, Thom Charters, Roger Garbutt, Bob Sheard, Glen Dowling and Mark Hagen.

The CGSA Canadian Conference was held in early December in Halifax.

TOURNAMENTS: The OTRF Tournament was held at Mad River Golf Club on August 10th.

ACHIEVEMENTS: Mark Malott of Woodslee, Ontario was the recipient of the 1992 Ontario Golf Superintendents Association Award presented by David Ward of the University of Guelph.

Thom Charters, from Weston Golf and Country Club, was chosen by the CGSA as "Superintendent of the Year".

Construction of the Guelph Turfgrass Research and Education Centre was started in the winter and was completed in the fall. OMAFRA donated \$250,000 for the development of the research plots on the site. A site development workshop was scheduled for mid-November with Jim Snow, USGA Green Section and Paul Rieke of Michigan State University meeting with GTI researchers to discuss how to meet turfgrass research needs. The OGSA was busy making plans for our office to move into the GTI in 1993.

The Golf Equipment Technicians Association of Ontario was formed on February 8th. A meeting was hosted by Fraser Barrett, President, mechanic at the National Golf Club. A curling meeting was held at North Halton on April 11th hosted by Allan Beeeney who also had the winning team consisting of Paul Scenna, Simon George and Keith Rasmus.

IN MEMORIAM: In memoriam, Vincent Piccolo, long time member, passed away on November 21st. ■



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She Blinded Me with Science

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
GolfNorth Properties

Humans have always had a strained relationship with science. Ever since the day that our first ancestors figured out that you could make fire by striking some very specific types of rocks together, there have been people trying to make money from it, others who resented people making money from it, some that immediately suspected that it was the work of the Devil, and others who refused to believe that rocks could ever actually make fire in the first place. Some have used science as “magic” to fool or control the masses, while others have freely shared their ideas with others for the betterment of the greater society. What’s remarkable to me, is that 10,000 years later, we still have the same prejudices toward science that we did then – and since we all work in the world of botany, agronomy, hydrogeology, meteorology, and chemistry, we need to understand our customers’ attitudes toward it.

The first thing to realize is that “common knowledge” is almost never right, and even though the average person’s understanding of science is very poor, they will cling to their previously held misconceptions with the tenacity of a drowning man to a piece of driftwood. Everybody knew that the world was flat. Everybody knew that the earth was the centre of the solar system. Everybody knows that golf courses are brutally hard on the environment. No amount of reasoning, or actual facts, will be able to jar most people from their beliefs. They put Copernicus in jail – they make us fill out endless IPM forms. Why? Because it’s what the poorly informed public wants.

If we go back to our cavemen with his flints and stones, there were several ways that his new discovery could have been treated

by the Tribal Chief – and those treatments are consistent with what we did with Copernicus, and are doing today. The “Fire Starter” could have been rewarded financially for his discovery, and be encouraged to spend his time looking for other similar useful things – like barley, electricity and iPods. Conversely, his idea could have been taken from him without reward, and given to the entire tribe, so that they could all make fire whenever they needed it. Both of these have been tried throughout history with varying degrees of success – although the second likely led to more forest fires. It’s essentially capitalism verses socialism – and both actually distribute useful knowledge very effectively.

The problem is, we have usually bypassed both of these systems and gone right to stupid. Too often, the “Fire Starter” would decide to promote himself as a god, with mystical powers over unseen things, and force the masses to pay tribute to him in order to gain personal power and wealth – like Bill Gates and his endless software upgrades. The juxtaposition of this treatment, would be to vilify the “Fire Starter” as some type of uber-evil, who is channeling the dark arts, or is only trying to undermine the status quo for his own nefarious purposes. Or in modern

times, making money at the expense of the environment – which has become the god of urban atheists. The obvious shortcoming of both of these extreme positions is that neither of them actually look at the value and/or accuracy of the science in question. But the most dangerous part of these two positions is that they are the ones most likely to be adopted by the masses. And, the “powers that be” will always support the position that allows them to continue to be the “powers that be”. So you get Tribal Chiefs claiming to be gods, ruling alongside their “Fire Starter” high priests. Or the government and the church lock up our friend Copernicus. Or we end up with a cosmetic pesticide ban.

What troubles me most about all of this, is how little our attitude toward science has actually changed since the last ice age. Here we are, in one of the richest countries on earth, with a state funded education system that is the envy of the world and yet we still have the same prejudices, superstitions, and fears that we had when we lived in caves. It’s not shocking that my kids have spent far more time learning about bullying than they have about physics or chemistry. But in a world where we pop progesterone daily, and swallow Viagra without a second thought – we write legislation based on the public’s fear of pesticides. Which already come with a pretty onerous set of safeguards – if you look at the science. Which we won’t. ■





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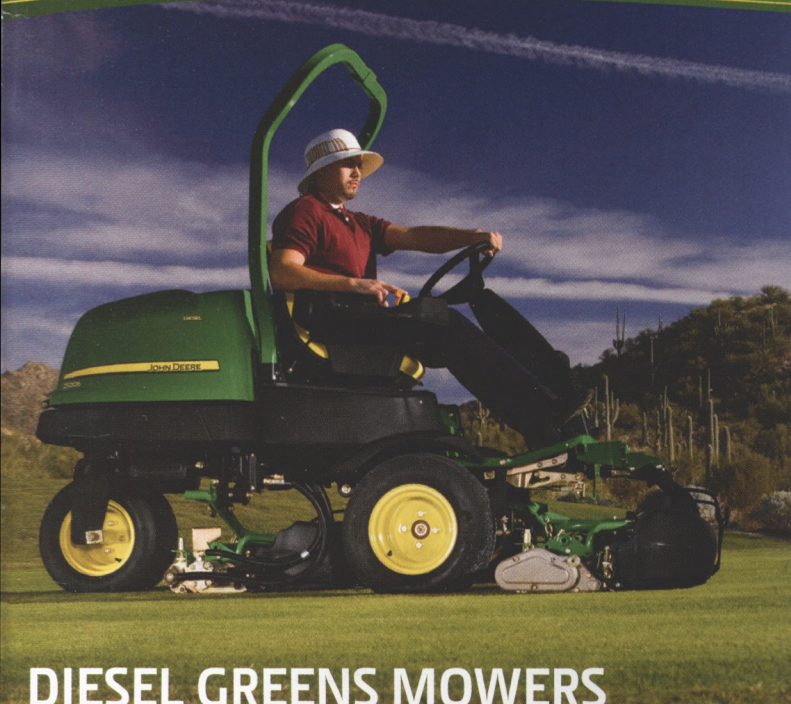
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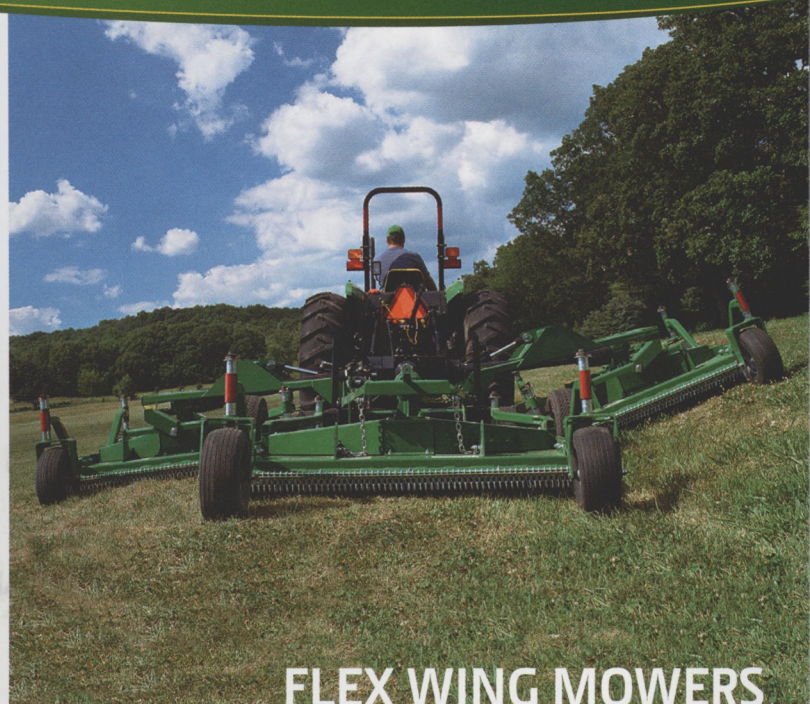


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