

Fall 2013

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

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**The Story
B. Hynd the Man**
The fortunate life of Bill Hynd

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Short Game Academy at Granite Golf Club
The Argument for Precision Turf Fertilization
Potassium Needs Simplified

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2014 ONTARIO GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

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CONDITIONS ON FUNGICIDE PERFORMANCE"

Larry Spain

Centre of Advanced Turf Technology

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

Steven Keating, CSE, CME

Selling Skills Manager, Toro Company

"LEADERSHIP 360"

**Dr. Luke Baker, Dr. Larry Stowell
& David C. Smith P.Ag**

"PRODUCT INPUTS: HOW MUCH IS NEEDED,
HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH AND HOW CAN
WE MEASURE IT?"

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Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS

GCSAA President, Director of Golf,
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Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Rob Gatto
OGSA President

As I write this message for the fall issue of our magazine, I'm looking out at the leaves starting to change as the season draws to a close and I realize that this will be my final *President's Message*.

The spring and early summer was a challenge for many of us. Freak flooding and high winds took their toll on many courses, but thankfully the summer was not as hot and dry as in recent years, which helped us all recover from the jolt experienced at the start of the season.

My term as OGSA President will be complete this coming January, and I would like to thank the board for their support and hard work, and the office staff for their continued cooperation and expertise. It has been a pleasure serving as president for the past year and the friendships I have made throughout my involvement with the OGSA have made the experience truly rewarding.

Public meetings will be first and foremost on the priority lists this fall. Our second time around should be easier. Again, a reminder to fill out the OGSA survey once your meeting has taken place.

We are deep into planning for the OGCM Conference and Trade Show 2014 and our 90th Anniversary. It will be a great event and I encourage all to attend. Our suppliers have bought into the concept of "join our party" and have pledged their support financially. So, between association funds and our sponsors, we can assure that all our members can attend the anniversary dinner and show, free of charge, as part of their registration.



A frosty morning on the 8th green and valley at St. Catherine's Golf & Country Club.
Photo Credit: Steve Gruhl, Assistant

Our education program is set with speakers and subject matter that you asked for. For the most part, it will be a mix of technical and turf related presentations with some leadership thrown in for good measure. I do hope to see as many of you as possible January 22 - 24, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. ■

Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Editor

Justin Parsons
justinparsons@engageagro.com

Publisher & Advertising Manager

Terry Davey
terry@blenheim.ca
Tel: 877-618-8696 ext. 102

Administration Manager

Diane Davey
diane@blenheim.ca
Tel: 877-618-8696 ext. 103

Production & Design

Jeanette Thompson
jeanettethompson@mac.com
Tel: 877-618-8696 ext. 101

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Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Sally Ross, Executive Manager
Guelph Turfgrass Institute
328 Victoria Road South
Guelph, ON N1L 0H2

Tel: 519-767-3341
Toll Free: 877-824-6472
Fax: 519-766-1704
Email: manager@ogsa.ca
www.ogsa.ca



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Administration Office:
4305 Fairview Street, Suite 232
Burlington, ON L7L 6E8

Production Office:

1727 King Street East,
Cambridge, ON N3H 3R6
Toll Free: 1-877-618-8696
Fax: 519-340-0293
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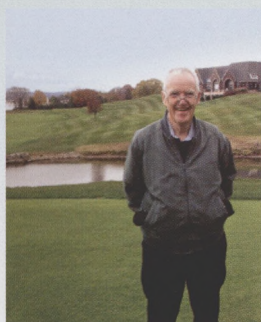
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The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

ON THE COVER

Bill Hynd
Photo credit:
Cam Shaw

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Justin Parsons Christian Kuhn
Alan Dolick Reg Langen
Paul Grotier Cam Shaw
Jason Hanna Rod Speake
Kevin Kobzan

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

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL 2013

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EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

90 years is a long time no matter how you slice it. Especially considering how fast the world seems to be changing these days. Since everything is instant now, there is less of a need for things to last, which means there is all the more reason for us to celebrate the things that do endure. Our next issue, *Winter 2014*, will highlight the annual OGSA conference and trade

show, as well as recap the 90th anniversary celebration for our association. In the spirit of this milestone, we decided to take a closer look at the OGSA's past by featuring one of our more prominent and distinctive members over the last nine decades in our cover story.

Bill Hynd is a man who has clearly experienced it all during his time in the golf course industry. His rise to the top of our business seems to have been built on good old fashioned values, like loyalty, a strong work ethic, and a respectful nature. The little things that once opened just about any door, now seem to get lost in the hustle and bustle at times, once again, reminding us how quickly things

You need to be able to adapt to the current shifting winds in order to stay relevant, all the while respecting the traditions and history within which your past is rooted.

have changed. For a young Scot looking to forge a career in the golf course maintenance business, one of our country's preeminent positions was not out of reach. In fact, his tenure lasted about 25 years, a rare feat in today's world of turnover and transition.

I'm not sure why it is so uncommon for things to last in today's world. Whether we are talking about a person, an organization or an idea, we know more now than we ever did, which would lead you to believe that building something that can persevere would be more attainable. I suppose knowledge can complicate things though, and therein lies the challenge of withstanding the test of time. You need to be able to adapt to the current shifting winds in order to stay relevant, all the while respecting the traditions and history within which your past is rooted. Often times, these two things are diametrically opposed to each other, which makes

striking a balance all the more delicate a task. In today's ever-changing climate, I would suggest that this has never rung more true.

So congratulations to the OGSA on 90 years of elevating the profile of the golf course superintendent and thank you to the many people, like Bill Hynd, who have helped pave the way. ■

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WHAT'S NEW

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The OGSA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 am, Friday, January 24th, 2014 at the Westin Harbour Castle (Queen's Quay), Toronto, Ontario.

Because of our busy conference schedule, the OGSA Board has decided that the annual reports will be provided to each delegate in their package and will not be read at the Annual Meeting.

In order to allow discussion related to any of the activities of the association this past year, or any other questions, suggestions, concerns that membership may want to discuss, the OGSA will be holding a membership meeting in conjunction with the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show on Wednesday, January 22nd, at approximately 4:30 pm, immediately following the last education session, also in Queen's Quay at the Westin Harbour Castle. All members are invited and are encouraged to attend.

Both official meeting notices will be posted on our website at www.ogsa.ca.

GCSAA – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

David Kuypers represented the OGSA at the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, Kansas in early October. As part of the meeting, the candidates for the GCSAA Board of Directors made presentations and were available for questions and discussion. Any member wishing to make comments regarding the candidates that the OGSA will support in the GCSAA election should contact the OGSA prior to December 31, 2013. The election will be held during the Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Education Conference in Orlando, Florida this coming February.

OGSA MEMBERSHIP DUES

The OGSA membership received invoices in late September with a due date of October 1st, 2013. If you have not yet paid your dues, please be aware that your access to our website may be suspended which could affect your ability to register for the upcoming conference at the reduced member rates. Please go online and pay your dues as soon as possible. We thank you for your cooperation.

OGSA'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY & SHOW

Invitations to our Retired Past Presidents, Honorary Members and 50 Year Members have been sent out.

Our Class AA retirees who do not fit into the above categories can come to the trade show following lunch on Thursday afternoon (January 23, 2014) at no charge, (please go to the registration desk after 1:30 PM) and can also purchase tickets to the dinner and show at reduced rates by calling the office or going to the "a la carte" registration forms on our website.

A special reception will also take place for "active" Past Presidents who are registered for the conference, just look for your invitation in your registration package. ■



OGSA Director Rod Speake and Executive Manager Sally Ross along with "Wrigley" attended the Paws in the Park fundraiser for the Toronto Humane Society held September 22, 2013 at Woodbine Park in Toronto.

PAWS IN THE PARK

Maple, the silken windhound owned by Tim Muys, Superintendent at Pipers Heath Golf Club was the 2013 winner of Lebanon Turf's Dog of the Year contest. By virtue of Maple's win, the OGSA was able to attend the fundraiser and speak to the attendees about the OGSA and the role of golf superintendents. The chapter award received from Lebanon Turf was donated to the Toronto Humane Society. ■

Welcome to Our New Members

Michael Bell..... Class Supt
Maitland CC

Steve Brown..... Class F
Banty's Roost G & CC

James Eigo..... Class C
Bloomington Downs GC

Nate Farah..... Class C
Markland Wood GC

Mike Gavanski Class F
Markland Wood GC

Paul Jordan..... Class D
Peninsula Golf Course

Kendra Kiss..... Class F
Magna Golf Club

Barry Taylor Class Supt
Frog's Breath GC

Kory Wilson Class A
Monte Vista GC

BASF-The Chemical Co Class E
Bruce Irons
Scott MacDonald

Quantum BioTek..... Class E
Garry Fenton

SCS Consulting Group Class E
Chris Baynham
Blair Seeley

68th Annual Alex McClumpha Tournament

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

Monday, October 7th, started out with steady rains, which challenged the grounds crew at Trafalgar G&CC who worked very hard prior to and on the day of the event to assure the participants would have a playable course. Their hard work was well worth it as the sun broke through prior to the 12:45 pm shotgun. Blustery winds picked up throughout the morning and continued into the afternoon, posing a challenge for the golfers who were all smiles despite Mother Nature.

The big winner of the day was Bill Gilkes from Scarboro G&CC who had the first place low gross for flight A with a 77. Bill was also rewarded with the George Darou Trophy. Second and third low gross scores were achieved by Mitko Marinov (Lionhead) with a 79 and Chris Andrejicka (Essex) with an 80.

Low net winners for flight A were Vesselin Gueorguiev (Royal Ontario) with a 65, followed by Jim Dimitriw (Lowville) with 67 and Jim Moore (Punslinch Lake) with 68.

Another big winner, for Flight B, for low gross was Vito



Left: Master of Ceremonies Phil Scully (Granite Golf Club) presents the host superintendent plaque to Mark Prieur from Trafalgar G&CC.



Right: Paul Cooper (Turf Care) presents the George Darou Trophy to Bill Gilkes (Superintendent from Scarboro G&CC).

Cirone (Burnside), who shot a 77 and also had a longest drive, while Trevor Hunter (OSC) also had a 77 and Sean Lavin (Turf Care) shot 80.

Low Net winners for flight B were Mike Kehoe (Nutrite) with 67, followed by Rob Stevens (Turtle Creek GC) with a 69, and Scott Brook (Osprey Valley) with a 70.

The other longest drive was won by Vesselin Gueorguiev, and closest to the pin prizes went to Robbie Robinson (Hidden Lake), Paul Scenna (Beacon Hall) and Kevin Doyle (GCSAA).

Congratulations to the winners, many thanks to all those who contributed prizes. Special thanks to our sponsors: Bayer, who sponsored lunch, and Plant Science, who sponsored the dinner wine. Special thanks to Turf Care for supplying the snowblower to the winner of the George Darou Trophy. ■

Assistant's Tournament

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

Fantastic weather prevailed for the OGSA's 2013 Assistant's Tournament held at Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club. A great turnout of over 100 golfers enjoyed a day filled with camaraderie and friendship.

The winning team with a score of 58 was Dave Jacobsen and Matt Legg from Weston G&CC, Alan Dolick from Wildfire GC and Christopher Thompson from The National GC of Canada. Tied for first but subject to loss through retrogression was the team of Jason Crawford from Eagles Nest GC, Dave Paterson from Magna GC, Andre Aymar from Islington G&CC and Jason d'Andrea from GC Duke Equipment. In third, with a score of 60, was the team of Steve Gruhl from St. Catharines G&CC, and Cam Shaw, Jeff Lockhart and Sean Knapman from Burlington G&CC. The big winner however was Jesse Booker from Devil's Pulpit GA, who won a trip to Colorado, courtesy of



Tournament winners (L to R): Alan Dolick (Wildfire GC), Matt Legg and Dave Jacobsen (Weston G&CC), and Christopher Thompson (The National GC of Canada).

Direct Solutions. Chris LeCour was on hand to present to Jesse.

Host Superintendent Jamie Cutting and host Assistant Superintendent Andrew Krek were also acknowledged with thanks from all the attendees who had an outstanding day on a beautiful course.

At dinner, General Manager of Dundas Valley G&CC, Jeremy MacCrae, spoke about the many contributions made by

assistant superintendents everywhere. He indicated that while their hard work and dedication likely was not always acknowledged as much as it should be, it never went unnoticed and all assistants were due a great deal of thanks from management, their respective members and the golfing public.

The organizers of the tournament, Greg Brown (Essex G&CC) and Andrew Chartrand (Sarnia G&CC) acted as emcees for the event, and thanked all the sponsors, including platinum sponsor Direct Solutions, gold sponsor Turf Care, silver sponsors GC Duke Equip. Ltd and Bayer and silver co-sponsors Nutrite and Ontario Seed Co., Allturf and Enviro-Sol.

Specialty prize sponsors were Complete Turf Equipment, Syngenta, Plant Products and Turf Care with prize table contributions from GC Duke, Bayer, Nutrite, CGSA, and Master's Turf Supply. Special thanks to Skyway Lawn Equipment for the extra golf carts. ■

Not Short on Benefits

Short Game Academy Sets Standard at Granite Golf Club

by Kevin Kobzan, Foreman, Granite Golf Club

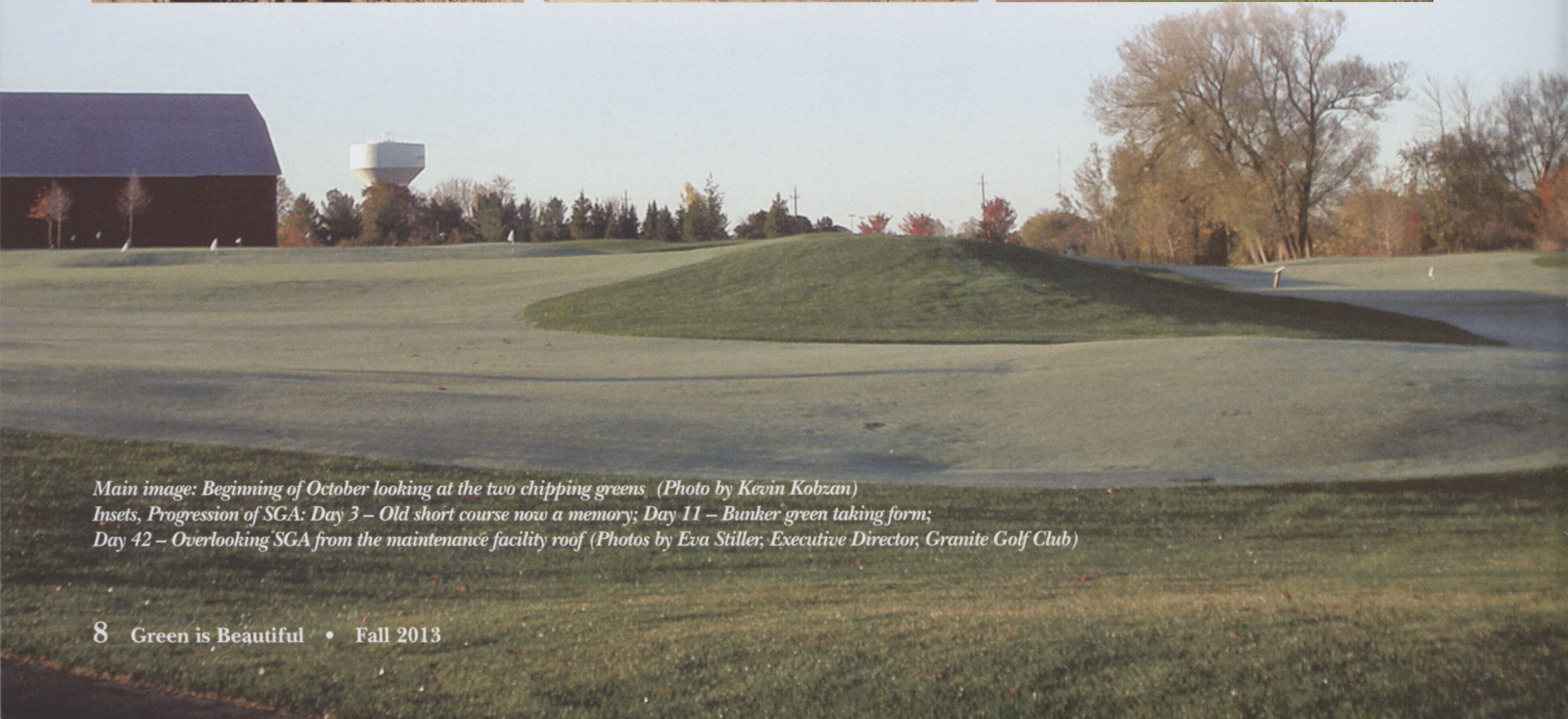
Practice makes perfect is a phrase we have all probably heard and used, but often times in golf, it is rarely followed. At least to the extent it should be. Considering golf is a seasonal game which can be time consuming, the majority of players take less time fine-tuning their skills and chalk practice up to hitting a few balls on the range before attempting to put it all together on the course. However, effective practicing is important to making quality improvements to your overall golf game. This means all the fundamentals that comprise this challenging game need to be worked on regularly.

This was the impetus behind Granite Golf Club creating a state-of-the-art Short Game Academy (SGA), which began construction in July of 2012. The four acre facility opened July 6, 2013. "I think the SGA separates Granite Golf Club from other private facilities. It's the clubs

progressive nature that makes us industry leaders," states superintendent Phil Scully.

The SGA provides a plethora of shot selection with various lies to assist golfers in improving their short game. The elaborate facility boasts two 6,000 square foot chipping greens where members can practice anything from 80 yard pitch shots to two yard chip shots. Also, a 6,000 square foot dedicated bunker green and an 8,500 square foot putting green were constructed along with a new greens nursery. With future renovations in mind, the putting green on the SGA was built to USGA specifications, with the other 25 greens on the property built to California specifications. "The theory from a maintenance point of view was for it to be used as a testing ground to see the USGA greens performance, so down the road we have hands on knowledge on how the USGA green functions," says Scully.

Additionally, the club offers a double-sided bentgrass



Main image: Beginning of October looking at the two chipping greens. (Photo by Kevin Kobzan)

Insets, Progression of SGA: Day 3 – Old short course now a memory; Day 11 – Bunker green taking form;

Day 42 – Overlooking SGA from the maintenance facility roof (Photos by Eva Stiller, Executive Director, Granite Golf Club)

driving range with six target greens, coupled with an artificial turf station and dry dock for use during periods of inclement weather, a three-holed short course and an additional putting green for a truly exceptional practice facility.

Discussions began in 2011 on enhancing the properties practice facility and producing an area dedicated solely to improving members short game. The removal of two of the previous five-hole short course holes in favour of renovating for a better use of land was approved. Designed by architect Tom McBroom. "The five hole short course was intended to be a five hole mini golf course, but what happened was the parcel of land the SGA sits on became a multi-purpose practice area," says Scully. "We looked at how we could improve that piece of land and use it to its full potential. We are never satisfied with status quo."

The SGA was designed for the membership in such a way that numerous shot scenarios from the 18-hole course were duplicated allowing golfers to become better prepared for certain situations when playing a round. The putting green was structured with minimal slope and undulation with the intention of golfers focusing on their putting stroke. Safety was also a priority in the design, but freedom with regards to the layout and the shots you can practice accommodates the facility well. "We wanted it to look good, play good, but also play properly, so it was designed in a way that a large amount of people can use it," states Scully. "The SGA offers an infinite variety of shots with no limitations to how you want to work on your game." Granite Golf Club places the highest priority on providing and maintaining the same quality conditions as the golf course. "All bentgrass was seeded to L-93 to keep the theme and duplicate the conditions of the golf course. Everything is cut and maintained to the same specs as the golf course."

Continued on page 10...



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Continued from page 9...

Dan Campbell, Director of Golf at Granite Golf Club, shares the same enthusiasm as Scully towards the SGA and how it compliments the clubs practice facility. "It takes us to another level, not many places have a short course facility like this giving us an opportunity to teach at one more level," says Campbell. "It allows those who want to be better players to spend more time and practice shots they normally would not be able to practice."

However, many golfers fall victim to a rushed warm-up with little to no practice time, making it difficult to execute and put forth a decent score on the golf course. Practice and repetition are important to building a memory and confidence which can reduce mistakes and technical breakdowns. Golf is a unique game where all shots can be different, requiring a different approach. This is one reason why focusing attention on developing skills in different parts of the game is important. Getting to the course early and setting the days tempo through warm-up and practice is an integral process in becoming a more technical golfer.



Dedicated bunker green nearing season's end

Photo by Kevin Kobzan

"In order to become a better player you need to practice fundamentals," says Campbell. "Hockey players don't only practice shooting and skating, they go through a series of different powerplay and penalty killing exercises." For example, Phil Mickelson uses a drill requiring him to sink 100 putts in a row. He sets up 10 balls in a 3 foot radius and proceeds to sink 100 straight, with one miss resulting in a redo whether it is putt one or 99.

Therefore, in order to hit more pure shots with positive results it's beneficial to spend time on all aspects of the game, preparing yourself and your mind for the task ahead. "I encourage people to have a practice to play ratio, the better players will practice 3-4 times more than they play," says Campbell.

So, after one season in operation, both Scully and Campbell are pleased with the progression of the SGA and the feedback has been positive. "There were mixed feelings leading up to it; members didn't know what to expect but the end product is spectacular and those who use it will benefit," says Campbell. ■

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MEMBER PROFILE

Wray "The Spray" Mason

Owner/Operator of Precision Turf Technologies

by Christian Kuhn, Assistant
Superintendent, Osprey Valley Resorts

In today's modern turf maintenance regimes, sprayers are arguably the superintendents most valuable piece of equipment. They are responsible for applying thousands of dollars worth of plant nutrition and protectants, and, as such, 100 per cent accuracy at all times is required in order to uphold today's conditioning expectations. So who do you call when your rig starts acting up and you need to get your application out ASAP? Look no further than Wray "The Spray" Mason.

Mason has been servicing sprayers in the golf and farming community for over 20 years. With his primary territory being courses in southern Ontario, superintendents from across Canada and even some in the United States call upon Wray to entrust him with troubleshooting and repairing their sprayers, or for calibration and training purposes.

After working in the farming industry from 1981 to 1994, Mason, along with a local golf course mechanic, dabbled in sprayer design and construction up until they parted ways in 1996. It was at this point Mason was hired by Ron Craig at Turf Care to manage their Agronomic Division, while giving technical assistance on sprayers to the equipment division. In 2001, due to company restructuring, Mason was laid off from Turf Care and had to plan his next move. With a lot of encouragement from local superintendents, suppliers, family and friends, Mason started up his own company with full sprayer service to golf courses in Southern Ontario. Company services included troubleshooting and repair, parts, training, and calibrations.

An engineering graduate from Humber College, Mason got his first taste of the golf course industry in the early 1990's while working as the technical rep for a component supplier to the farm spraying industry,



Wray Mason, Precision Turf Technologies

including Raven controllers. Raven had just introduced its first controller to the golf course market, and, as with any new technology, it can be a difficult concept to grasp. The first call to Raven was from Paul White at Mississauga Golf and Country Club, one of the first recipients of this technology. He was upset that the equipment supplier didn't know how to use it, so Raven sent over their local tech guy to see if he could help. This was Mason's first ever call to a golf course. Once he dialed in White's sprayer and controller, the phone didn't really stop ringing after that. The next day he received phone calls

from Bob Brewster at Toronto Golf Club and John Gall at St. Georges Golf and Country Club who had found out from Paul White, that this Wray guy solved all of his sprayer issues. A sign of things to come as these relationships and his new reputation would pave the way for his future successes.

Since Wray started his own company in 2002, and incorporated as Precision Turf Technologies in 2004, he has a full time customer base of over 200 clients and annually services and calibrates over 300 sprayers.

...continued on page 12



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STABILIZED NITROGEN FERTILIZER

MEMBER PROFILE

Continued from page 11...

On top of servicing golf courses, he also customizes sprayers for GC Duke and speaks at a variety of conferences and seminars across the country.

Being in this specialized industry for as long as he has, Mason has noticed quite a bit of change, or as he puts it, 'evolution'. Over the past 20 years, he has seen sprayers used from three times a year to as much as several times a week. He attributes this to superintendents spraying more soluble and foliar fertilizers, wetting agents, plant growth regulators, and other specialty products that just weren't available several years ago. With the increase in sprayer usage over the years, it's only natural that sprayer technology has also improved as a need to maintain precise applications has intensified. The use of modern electronics has delivered almost pinpoint accuracy if properly set up or calibrated. He believes, for the time being anyway, sprayers outfitted with GPS units are more practical for farming applications, but if the prices

ever come down, a practical golf course application could be rationalized.

The home base for Precision Turf Technologies (PTT) is at Mill Run Golf Club in Burlington. He, along with Mike Slack, owner and operator of Slack Reel Service, share a shop with the golf course facility. Mason employs an Assistant, Amy Parps, who was a former Assistant Superintendent at Wyldewood Golf Club. Along with administrative duties, Parps also works in the field calibrating sprayers. Not only can they be used for calibrations and servicing, PTT also offers a wide range of sprayer related products such as mixing stations, jug rinsers, heavy-duty booms, sprayer parts, and nozzles.

Although sprayer parts sales and calibrations are the bread and butter of the operation, Mason's favorite part about his job is diagnosing and repairing a sprayer that won't work. It's what keeps him on his toes, and if you know Wray, he never shies away from helping out a colleague in need of assistance. ■

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q – Favourite major

A – British Open

Q – Favourite piece of
turf equipment

A – Smithco 3180 hydrostat sprayer

Q – Favourite golf course
you have played?

A – Grandview GC, Huntsville, ON

Q – Favourite golf course designer?

A – Tom McBroom

Q – Ultimate foursome

A – Tiger, Vijay, Weir

Q – Lowest round and where

A – 92 at North Granite,
Muskoka, ON

Q – Favourite movie

A – *Waterworld*

Q – Favourite meal

A – Spaghetti

Q – What's playing on your iPod?

A – Blackberry!!! The Razor's Edge
AC/DC

Q – What would you envision
yourself doing if you weren't
working in the turf business

A – Farmer

Kawartha Golf and Country Club



777 Clonsilla Avenue
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 6Z6
Tel: 705-743-3737
jpendrith@kawarthagolf.ca
www.kawarthagolf.ca

Golf Course Superintendent:
Jennifer Pendrith

Assistant Superintendent:
Darryl McIntyre

Equipment Manager:
Kyle Pernokes

Horticulturalist:
Jon Laflamme

Hole #8

Photo courtesy: Kawartha G&CC

COURSE PROFILE

About the Course

A club with a lot of history. It's remembered most for its challenging Par 3's, majestic trees and unforgettable picturesque entrance in the heart of the city.

Established: 1932

Original Architect: Stanley Thompson

Type of Club: Semi-Private

Number of Holes: 18

Number of Rounds Annually: 34,000

Practice Facility: Driving range, putting green, one bunker

Biggest Maintenance Challenge

Amount of labour required to maintain our bunkers to meet member expectations.

A CLOSER LOOK

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type:
Bent/poa greens, tees and fairways

Predominant Soil Type:
Clay loam

Type of Greens: 17 Push up greens and
one modified USGA green

Course Length: 5,301-6,464 yards

Size of Property: 180 acres

Size of Greens: 2.7 acres

Size of Tees: 2.5 acres

Size of Fairways: 27 acres



The Story B. Hynd the Man

by Cam Shaw, Second Assistant Superintendent,
Burlington Golf and Country Club

Photos courtesy Bill Hynd

Since its humble beginnings, the profession of greenskeeping has been graced with a generous portion of interesting characters, each with their own unique experiences and wondrously tall tales to share. But when describing a man like William Hynd, the word "interesting" just doesn't cut it - he simply has too much depth of character. My first encounter with Hynd was in early spring of this year. We met near his home in Hamilton and sauntered over to a local pub to chat and share stories of our worldly travels and thoughts on the game of golf. It did not take me long to realize I was sitting in the presence of a great man. His jovial yet humble nature, genuine interest in people, and sincere passion for the game of golf were among the first impressions he made on me. Hynd's tenure as a superintendent long precedes my beginnings back in the early 2000's. As I currently look up to a number of prominent superintendents in our industry, Mr. Hynd was one of the aces that my hero's looked up to while they were forging their own careers. So for those of you who are just now getting to know Mr. Hynd, I suppose a brief history

"You've got to want to see what is over
the next hill... a sense of adventure
will always take you to interesting places."

— Bill Hynd

of his life would do you some good, and by the way, you might want to sit down for this.

Born in 1929, William Hynd grew up in humble dwellings as the son of a coal miner in the small Scottish town of Dunfermline. As a teenager, Hynd suffered from a severe case of chronic pleurisy which left him bedridden for an entire year, and earned him the unfortunate designation as a disabled

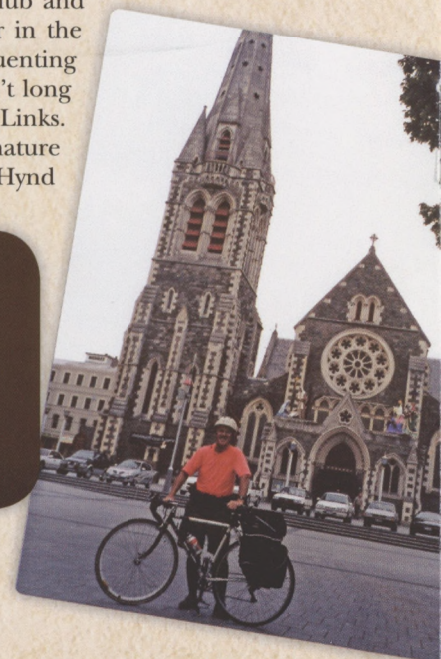
person. He wasn't fit enough for his first job until the age of twenty-one, when he took a position as a wood golf club maker. As time drifted on, Hynd's hunger for adventure began to grow. The memories of his sickness still fresh, the young Scot decided to put on his travelling hat, pack his bags and head out into the world for the first time. During his ramblings, Hynd

touched down in New Zealand, Switzerland and even a little place called Canada where he eventually met his wife Alice. After returning to Scotland in 1961, he landed a job as Head Club Master at the Cupar Golf Club and worked part time as a club maker in the nearby town of St. Andrews. Frequenting the home of golf regularly, it wasn't long before his gaze drifted towards the Links. Inspired by the physical, outdoor nature of the greenskeeper position, Hynd

"Bill was a great mentor in my development, his passion and meticulous work habit in maintaining a top notch golf course was second to none. The way he went about his daily routine, the handling of the large crew, the members and co-operating with the other management staff at the club was a sight to see."

— Bill Fach, Superintendent, Black Bear Ridge GC, Belleville, Ontario

Right: A pit stop at Cathedral Square, New Zealand during one of Bill's cycling trips.





Bearer—Titulaire		★Wife—Femme	
Occupation	GOLF CLUB MAKER		
Place and date of birth	DUNFERMLINE		
Exact date of birth	13. 4. 1929		
Place of birth	DUNFERMLINE		
Height	5 ft. 5 in.		
Color of eyes	GREY		
Color of hair	LIGHT BROWN		

Bearer
(Titulaire)



Passport Photo - A diff.

Left: Bill and his family on the doorsteps of their house at St. George's

"Bill was a good friend and superintendent. He loved golf and he came to play at Galt many times. He had a great sense of humour and he always kept his golf courses in perfect shape." – Pelino Scenna, Retired Superintendent

found himself drawn to the profession. Going with his gut, Hynd took a position at the Links of St. Andrews working on the New Course (which, for the record, is almost 120 years old) under Links Supervisor, and lifelong friend, John Campbell. Once adjusted to the position, Hynd quickly separated himself from the pack. His keen desire to learn and strong aspirations to grow in the industry earned him a place alongside Campbell attending various field days and meetings as a member of the Scottish Greenskeeper's Association.

In 1963, Hynd returned to his wife and first born, Mary-Ellen, in Canada. His first Canadian job inquiry went out to a club North of Bolton called Glen Eagles (a familiar name from back home!) with Bill Calhoun, the existing Superintendent. "Sure", Calhoun replied, "and I can offer you a dollar fifty per hour... however, they are looking for a Superintendent at St. George's Golf Club in Toronto and that position might pay a bit more". Completely unqualified, and still relatively inexperienced, the courageous Bill Hynd applied anyway. And so it was, the golf director of St George's Golf and Country Club was impressed with Hynd's reference and accolades from John Campbell and, admittedly, more so by the flashy name of St. Andrews Links upon his resume. Eventually the offer came through and Bill Hynd, at age 33, with little experience and less than adequate qualifications, assumed the role of superintendent at the prestigious St George's. And what timing! The club was scheduled to host the 1968 Canadian Open and great opportunities were on the horizon. Robbie Robinson had been commissioned to renovate four greens to the newly released USGA specifications, as well as renovate tees, bunkers and lengthen the overall routing. 1964 would prove to be a big year for Hynd. Not only did he celebrate the birth of his first son Robert, but he also managed the installation of a brand new, state of the art irrigation system. With twin lines on the fairways, and heads located at the green and tee sites, it was a major game changer considering that previously there was nothing!

The golf course was evolving quickly, and so too was the relationship between Hynd and Robinson. They both engaged in long, profound discussions regarding the renovation and all of its various options and challenges. Robinson had a way of nurturing Hynd's inner architect and during discussions over

the third green, Hynd suggested an idea from a short par 3 at The Eden Course of The St. Andrews Links. After many wild hand gestures, lengthy explanations and much head-scratching, Robinson told Hynd to go and get 25 pounds of plasticine, make a model and show him what he meant. As fate would have it, the idea was accepted and incorporated into the final draft with only one minor addition of a sand trap. To this day it still remains.

The course renovations were completed nearly a year before The Open and the timing couldn't have been better. In 1967, the Hynd family grew once again as Bill welcomed his second daughter and third child, Marlene. The course was in the best shape it had ever been in, and the stage was set for the world class competitors. The following year, the tournament came and it was a major success! Bob Charles of New Zealand took the match from Jack Nicklaus in a dramatic finish. This was the first of many major accomplishments and milestones Hynd had in his long career.

Continued on page 16...



Bill Hynd, David Gourlay, Alan "Whitey" Jones, and Bob Moote playing in a foursome during an OGSA event.



Above: Bill playing with Lee Trevino at Glen Abbey, 1986 Pro Am. Left: Bill cutting wood to earn his keep at Le Bon Bay Backpackers in New Zealand.

"I first met Bill Hynd through my association with Robbie Robinson who was the consulting architect to St. George's following Stanley Thompson's death in 1952. Bill was extremely passionate about golf, the traditions of the game and was especially passionate about the great links courses in Scotland. Bill has been a great friend to both Robbie and I throughout his long and distinguished career."

– Doug Carrick, Golf Course Architect, Carrick Design Inc.

Continued from page 15...

In 1989, after a long and successful term of leadership and agronomy, Hynd moved on from St George's in search of new experiences and worldly delights. He teamed up with Michael Hurdzan and a young aspiring Dana Fry on a highly anticipated endeavor in Caledon, Ontario known as The Devil's Pulpit. Hynd also joined in several other pursuits with the Hurdzan team in Ohio and New York State. He also met up with two business men in London and helped them with a venture south of London, a little club known as Redtail. In 1990, while looking to stick his roots back in the ground with a more permanent position, Hynd joined up with the Kaneff group helping to grow-in Carlisle Golf Club. In 1994, after Carlisle had been established and was in good hands, Hynd took a year off from his work. He decided to spend the first six months cycling all over Britain visiting all his favorite golf courses and visiting old friends. The latter half of his professional hiatus was spent touring through Thailand and Malaysia. Upon his return to Canada, Hynd maintained a part-time position with Carlisle as a quasi-agronomic consultant while continuing to move about and stay involved with various other projects (Royal Niagara and part-time superintendent at Lowville Golf Club) before his eventual retirement in 2007.

As if his career wasn't remarkable enough, Hynd seems equally impressive in his retirement. Travelling the far reaches of the globe to seek new adventures, Hynd tells me of his time WWOOFing (Willing Workers On Organic Farms) – a new concept to me. This is an arrangement whereby the traveller works on an organic farm in return for free room and board. A clever arrangement for a tourist who enjoys a little extra adventure, loves meeting new people, and doesn't mind getting a little dirty (this is basically Bill Hynd in a nutshell). Due to poor eyesight from a condition known as macular degeneration, Hynd is a little less capable of long distance travel, so his focus remains local, on family and friends. No stranger to a bike, Hynd still gets out for a pedal as often as he can. Astonishingly, at age 84, Hynd manages to cycle roughly 30 kilometers per day and claims to average nearly 500 kilometers a month! When I mentioned how impressed I was, Hynd simply replied, "Oh that's nothing. You young people don't know what it's about because you all have cars and you just drive everywhere."

This year, Hynd celebrated his 84th birthday as well as the milestone of his 51st anniversary as a member of the OGSA.

Hynd suggested that joining the association helped him to network with many other local people who provided him with countless and invaluable help over his lengthy career. Specifically, Hynd mentioned fellow Scots Bill Forester, former Superintendent at Weston Golf Club, and Alec Chisolm, Agronomist for The Niagara Chemical Company (both played crucial roles in aiding Hynd during his first few years at St. George's). Hynd also mentioned that the association's greatest growth occurred with the dramatic influx of college scholars. "They were a keen bunch who helped to push the industry forward by their strong aspirations to succeed and develop the identity of the profession". When I asked him what he remembers most about his long career, he simply states the fond memories he had golfing with other superintendents at the various invitationals throughout the season. "Taking a day off to get away from your job is very important", Hynd proclaims. "Getting the heck out of there is good for you, and it's also good for the young guys below you. It keeps them on their toes and gives them a chance to practice managing the ship. You just need to be sure things are in order before you leave." His words resonate deeply within our industry. Hynd was a leader, a mentor and an inspiration to us all. His passion for the game, sense of adventure, courage to try new things and careful balance between life and career are what make him a truly remarkable individual. To use a toast (slightly altered) from Hynd's good friend John Souter: "Here's to you. Wha's like you, damn few and they're a deid". ■

PLEURISY:

Inflammation of the lining surrounding the lung often caused by viral infection.

Causes sharp pain, difficulty breathing and can lead to pneumonia, tuberculosis and even death in extremely susceptible cases. Ken Griffey Jr, King George V, LeBron James, William Wordsworth, Charlemagne, Benjamin Franklin, and Mahatma Ghandi are all individuals who have suffered and/or died from pleurisy.

Potassium Needs Simplified

There are several theories and opinions regarding the value of soil testing to provide recommendations for fertilizing turfgrass. These tests have significant value and can provide information that can be very helpful when determining factors affecting the health of your turfgrass. However, many of the recommendations and testing methods are flawed, either because of a lack of available data or variability in collecting or testing samples, and, in some cases both. The objectives of this article are to describe the limitations of soil testing for potassium and to make recommendations about how to best utilize soil tests for your potassium fertilizer program.

In order to understand how soil tests can be valuable, it is important to understand the agronomic origins of soil testing. The recommendations for potassium and phosphorus applications resulting from soil tests are based on yield response curves. In fact, Ontario certified laboratories have changed the way they represent levels of nutrients in the soil. The older abbreviations next to the value for the amount of nutrient in the soil of H (High), M (Medium) and L (Low) have been replaced with a method that refers to how the crop will respond to an addition of a nutrient. This change in recommendation terminology is important and makes the resulting soil test more specific for a particular situation based on the yield response data for different crops and soil conditions such as pH. Next to the value of the nutrient, a response prediction is placed next to the value. The abbreviation HR implies that adding a nutrient will result in a larger benefit to yield most of the time, in other words, a high response, whereas NR implies that adding the nutrient will have no response on the yield. This presents an interesting question that needs to be addressed when interpreting soil tests for turfgrasses as there is no yield data for turfgrass because turfgrasses do not yield grain. This does not mean that soil testing is not valuable for turfgrass because it does provide information about the health of plants. Healthy plants generally have greater yields so following the recommendations can be somewhat useful.

One of the most powerful ways to utilize soil testing is to compare soil nutrient levels over time. If a specific nutrient is beginning to accumulate over time then it is being applied at a greater rate than it is being taken up. If it is being depleted in the soil, then additional applications of the nutrient may be necessary. This method of tracking soil levels over time was used in a study recently published by Ebdon et al (2013) which showed that with perennial ryegrass, one of the most important factors affecting potassium needs was nitrogen rate. The greater the nitrogen rate, the more potassium was needed, and if it was not added, potassium levels began to be depleted in the soil. In fact, nitrogen rate is probably more important than a soil test for determining the amount of potassium that should be added throughout the season. This is perfectly logical because as the rate of growth increases with greater nitrogen, so does the need for potassium.

Recently, there has been a debate regarding how much potassium is needed for healthy golf greens and fairways. One method being used to make recommendations is analyzing the base cation saturation ratios (BCSR). This method comes from

One of the most powerful ways to utilize soil testing is to compare soil nutrient levels over time.

the belief that there is an ideal amount of potassium (5%), magnesium (10%) and calcium (65%) in the soil for optimal plant growth. Recent reviews of the literature by Koittke and Manziez (2007), highlighted by Christoph Kessel in *Hort Matters* (2011), have shown that this idea of ideal nutrient ratios in the soil are somewhat unfounded. One of the issues with using BCSR is that the measurement can be quite misleading, particularly in alkaline, calcareous soils, as described quite well in an OMAFRA technical note (Reid, 2004). In alkaline soils, the percent calcium

is overestimated, therefore depressing the percent potassium in the test. Attempting to raise the level to a certain per cent is not fruitful and will create a situation of excessive potassium being applied.

Excessive potassium application has been linked to increased snow mold incidence in work done at Cornell University (Rossi and Thurn, 2008). The key to potassium fertilization is that it must be completed with growth rate in mind, and therefore areas that

have more growth throughout the year will need more potassium. In addition, soil testing will allow you to know whether or not the plant is taking up more potassium than is being applied by monitoring levels over time. This requires record keeping and not relying on the soil test as a snapshot recommendation.

The two classic methods for determining how much potassium needs to be added to turfgrass from a soil test involve correlating turfgrass needs to a yield response curve for nutrients and trying to create an ideal ratio of nutrients in the soil referring to the BCSR. Recent research and reviews have shown that BCSR is not a good indicator of plant growth and health. In addition, new research suggests that nitrogen rate and the increased growth rate that results is what is most important in determining potassium needs. Finally, the most valuable way to use a soil test is monitor levels over the long term and determine how potassium levels are changing in the soil over a number of years. ■



*Eric M. Lyons Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science,
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
elyons@uoguelph.ca*

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The Argument for Precision Turf Fertilization

Of all the nutrients, nitrogen is required in the greatest amount by turfgrass. Not surprisingly then, there is also more research done on nitrogen than any other turf nutrient. As we all know, nitrogen is necessary to maintain the following in turf:

- Density
- Colour
- Root, rhizome, stolon and shoot growth and
- Stress tolerance

There are environmental concerns with nitrogen because of the high leaching potential of the nitrate form. If nitrates make their way into drinking water, they pose a health risk to pregnant women, nursing mothers and babies if the level is above 10mg/L or 10 ppm.

There is an excellent review chapter in *Turfgrass: Biology, Use and Management* by Frank and Guertal, 2013 on nitrogen research in turfgrass. Much of the turfgrass nitrogen research focus has been on different nitrogen sources and yearly nitrogen rates for optimal performance of each turfgrass species. Lately, however, the focus has shifted to looking at the aforementioned, as well as the environmental fate of nitrogen.

Current recommendations for nitrogen applications to golf course turf are often based on the area of a golf course (greens, tees or fairways) and the turfgrass species, as well as for a fixed rate per application and a fixed schedule of application. For example, 0.25 kg N/100m² per growing month from May-October is a typical recommendation.

This fall, the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation (STERF) published an online handbook on precision fertilization for golf courses that can be found at: sterf.golf.se/extra/pod/?action=pod_show&id=192&module_instance=1

This handbook is the culmination of the results of three research projects on fertilizer requirements for golf courses funded by STERF that were conducted from 2003-2011 in Scandinavia. There are two underlying assumptions in the recommendations that came from this work.

1. Turf on golf courses is in a constant vegetative stage (with the possible exception of *Poa annua* and we don't want it on our golf courses), so turf requires the same proportion of nutrients throughout the season.
2. The nitrogen requirement of turfgrass is based on the genetics of the grass (grass species) and the climatic conditions at the golf course site.

They concluded that fertilization should be based on small frequent doses which match the actual seasonal nutrient requirement based on seasonal growth rates. With ever increasing scrutiny on golf courses and their impact on the environment, it is best to match nitrogen fertilization with nitrogen uptake by the turfgrass plant to minimize the potential nitrate contamination of water.

The Theory: How Do You Match Fertilizer with Turf Growth?

The climatic factors that affect turfgrass growth are light, heat and water. In the spring, low temperature restricts growth, in the fall, it is the lack of light (soils are still quite warm in the fall). Growth and fertilizer requirements are greatest during the long, warm days of summer, except for periods of high temperature (30°C and higher) which can restrict turf growth. Figure 1 from "*Precision fertilisation – from theory to practice*" shows light and heat and nutrient requirements of turfgrass over the growing season in Scandinavia. Figure 2 shows the bi-modal cool-season turfgrass shoot growth from University of Massachusetts. In reality, the cool season turfgrass shoot growth curve for most parts of Ontario is probably somewhere between Figure 1 and 2. Figure 3 shows an example of a precision fertilization curve for a golf green in Ontario.

How Much Nitrogen is Enough?

In precision fertilization the goal is to have a constant amount of nitrogen in the grass plant at the appropriate concentration to provide consistent growth and putting conditions over the



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about our
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Figure 1:

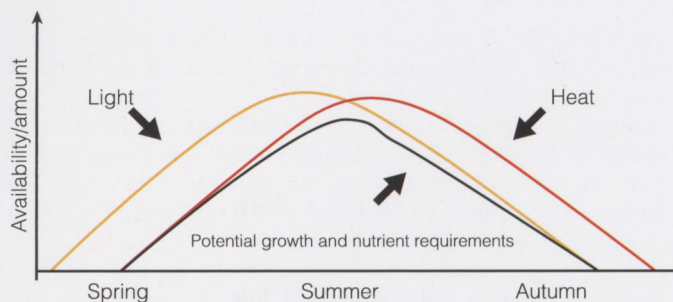
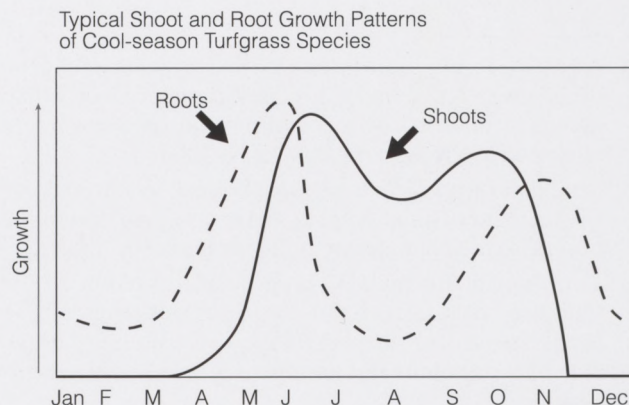


Figure 1: Seasonal dynamics – light, heat and growth potential/nutrient requirements of turfgrass in Scandinavia. (T. Ericsson, Swedish University of Agriculture)

Figure 2: Typical shoot and root growth patterns of cool-season turfgrass species. (Owen and Lanier, 2013)

Figure 2:



entire season. Their research showed that 3.1-3.5% nitrogen in dried turfgrass leaves is sufficient for good colour and playing quality for annual bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, velvet bentgrass, common bentgrass and red fescue (turf species used routinely on golf course greens in Scandinavia) throughout the growing season. If turf has been damaged or stressed, it needs extra energy to repair itself. In this case, it needs roughly 6% nitrogen in dried turfgrass leaves.

What is the Ideal Fertilizer Ratio?

According to their research, the nutrient ratio in a turf fertilizer should be (100-14-65) or (7-1-4.5). Traditionally, we have advised that turf needs and/or uses nutrients in the ration of 4-1-2. Our recommendations then, have been a bit high on the phosphorus needs of mature turf. According to their research there is also no evidence to support different fertilizer ratios at different times of the season.

How do I adjust for variation in growing conditions?

When conditions exist that will reduce the growth rate of the turf (shade, high temperature or drought) the amount of fertilizer applied must also be reduced or there will be excessive shoot growth at the expense of root growth.

How Do I Adjust for Rootzone Composition?

Turf grown on a soil base versus a sand rootzone will require a different amount of fertilizer to reach that magic number of 3% nitrogen in the turfgrass tissue. A soil based rootzone with a mature stand of turfgrass that is high in organic matter will release nitrogen through mineralization when soil temperatures are above 15°C. This can be factored in by conducting tissue tests of dried grass clippings from unfertilized turf grown on soil rootzones to determine how much nitrogen is being made available to the grass plant through mineralization.

STERF has used the research results to give a 15 step checklist on how to produce your own precision fertilizer curve. These are listed below:

1. Choose a liquid fertilizer with an N-P-K ratio of 7-1-4.5.
2. Aim to fertilize golf greens once per week – this gives maximum flexibility to change the amount of nitrogen based on weather patterns.
3. Make sure your sprayer is properly calibrated and can deliver small doses of fertilizer.

Figure 3:

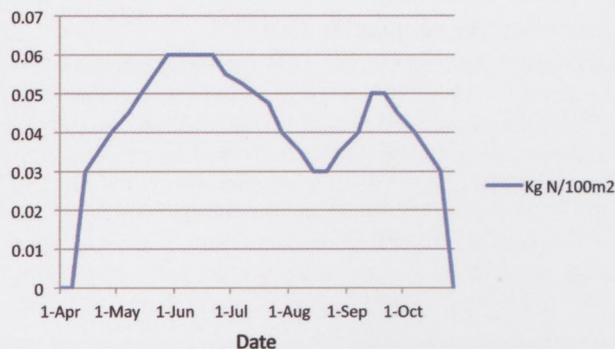


Figure 3. An example of a precision fertilization curve for a golf green in Ontario.

4. Start fertilization in the spring when the mean daily temperature in the upper 5 cm of soil is greater than 7°C and the grass has started to grow.
5. For creeping bentgrass, the starting dose in the spring should be 0.03 kg N/100m² and 0.033 kg N/100m² for annual bluegrass.
6. Increase the fertilizer dose (kg N/100m²) gradually during the spring up to the maximum dose of 0.06 kg N/100m² for creeping bentgrass and 0.07 kg N/100m² for annual bluegrass to match with the increased growth of the grass.
7. Fertilize with the maximum dose until the growth rate decreases due to high temperatures in mid-summer.
8. When the growth rate drops in mid-summer, adjust to the spring starting doses of 0.03 kg N/100m² for the period of when temperatures are above the optimal 30°C.
9. Increase the fertilizer dose to the maximum dose of 0.05-0.06 kg N/100m² when the growth rate increases in fall.
10. Decrease the fertilizer dose to 0.03 kg N/100m² once there has been frost.
11. Continue at this level through fall.
12. Stop fertilization two weeks after growth has ceased.

Continued on page 20...

FROM ROOTS TO SHOOTS

Continued from page 19...

13. Adjust the fertilization dose according to the microclimate of the greens (i.e. shaded greens will require less N than greens in full sun). Greens with a soil rootzone might also need less N than the 0.03 kg N/100m².
14. Samples of grass clippings should be analysed throughout the first year of an attempt at this program to determine how close the N levels are to the ideal level of 3% N.
15. Throughout this process, keep detailed records of the following: colour, root development, soil temperature, air temperature, mowing heights, fertilization doses, date of fertilization and any diseases or other issues that develop.

This process can be continued for several growing seasons to really hone in on the precise levels of fertilization that are required on your course.

Does this Agree with the Current Approach to Fall Fertilization?

I think so. The latest research on fall fertilization (Lloyd et al., 2011) has shown that when turf is fertilized on September 15 in locations similar to Ontario (Wisconsin), 73% of the N is taken up by the plant. When it is fertilized on October 15, 57% of the N is taken up and on Nov. 15, only 38% of the N is taken up. The results of this study indicate that N uptake capacity is greatly reduced as average daily temperatures approach 0°C

in the fall. Their recommendation is that nitrogen application rates should be adjusted downward to maximize uptake efficiency in cold temperatures.

I highly encourage you to download the STERF Handbook, *Precision fertilization – from theory to practice* because it contains more background information on the research that they conducted and how they used their research results to develop this fertilization practice. ■



*Pamela Charbonneau
OMAFRA Turfgrass Specialist,
The Guelph Turfgrass Institute
Guelph, Ontario
Email: pamela.charbonneau@ontario.ca*

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A WSIB Update

There are a number of changes that have recently occurred at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), so I thought it might be a good idea to cover some of them in an effort to assist all of our members.

The Government of Ontario passed a new piece of legislation called Bill 119 that changes a number of rules in the area of construction projects. Bill 119 affects contractors and anyone hiring contractors in their workplaces.

This bill, effective as of January 1, 2013, made WSIB coverage mandatory for most people in the construction industry. This means that any commercial or industrial or construction organization hiring contractors to perform construction functions on the property must ensure that the contractor has WSIB coverage. To accomplish this, the hiring party must ensure that a WSIB clearance certificate is in place. As stated on the WSIB website, "the party being hired must have WSIB coverage and report and pay their premiums on time so they are eligible for a clearance". A clearance is valid for up to 90 days from the date of issue. As the hiring party, you must make sure that there is a valid clearance in place for the full duration of the contracted work being performed.

A clearance proves that the business you have hired is properly covered by the WSIB. This means that the hiring party is not liable for any unpaid premiums that the contractor/subcontractor should have paid to the WSIB.

This bill provides that doing non-exempt construction work without a valid clearance is an offence under the

Workplace Safety and Insurance Act 1997 (WSIA). These offences may be prosecuted as of January 1, 2014. The maximum fine for a conviction of an offence under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act is \$100,000. Your club could also be liable to pay any unpaid premiums or other fees owed to the WSIB that your contractor should have paid on the work your club hired them to do.

To request a clearance, visit the WSIB website at <http://needwsibcoverage.ca/who-needs-clearance> and follow the links.

Anyone who purchases construction services from a contractor or subcontractor is considered the hiring party. This means principals and general contractors, including those who are not in the construction industry. For example:

- A general contractor hiring a sub-contractor to help on a construction job is a hiring party
- A restaurant owner hiring a construction company to do renovations on the restaurant is a hiring party
- A landlord hiring a contractor to build a new garage on a rental property is a hiring party
- A municipality, university or other institution hiring a contractor/subcontractor to do construction work is a hiring party.

There are a couple of exemptions. The main exemption is that homeowners and home renovators working on their own do not require WSIB coverage. Another exemption is that one officer,

but only one officer, of a construction corporation may choose to be exempt.

Bill 119 changes the process for contractors who have acted as sole proprietors. These sole proprietors were generally not covered by WSIB in the past and many of our member clubs hired these folks to complete small construction projects on their properties. This is no longer permitted unless the sole proprietor is able to prove that they have WSIB coverage and are in a position to obtain clearance from the WSIB.

Construction work has a broad definition. What you may deem as maintenance by an outside contractor may well fall into the definition of construction. So my advice is to be careful. Verify that the contractors doing work on your site are meeting all the requirements of the WSIB.

If a contractor suggests that they have an independent operator status letter (these letters only applied until December 31, 2012), they are no longer valid.

As representatives of your individual organizations, I believe it is imperative that you ensure that your workplace is following these new rules. ■



*Doug Johnson,
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Safety and First
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The Japanese beetle trap beside the 10th fairway was the most successful, filling the trap approximately eight times over eight weeks.

The Great Beetle Battle

My first introduction to the joys of battling the Japanese beetle was when I was interning in a rose garden in Philadelphia. Along with our twice a week deadheading routine, one of my colleagues would faithfully carry around his coffee can of soapy water that he joyfully drowned the beetles in. When he was feeling particularly vengeful, he gained additional pleasure dismembering them first with his pruners. Whether it's the adults buzzing around annoying golfers or decimating the plants in our gardens or the grubs destroying lawns, I think I can safely say that this non-native creature is an enemy to horticulturists and turf managers alike.

So what can we do about it? During beetle season, generally starting mid-late June and ending mid-September, I always keep a Gatorade bottle with soapy water in my golf cart, prepared to hand pick whenever I drive by an infested area. Although it has seemed to be my only option, I've never felt it really accomplished a lot in the whole scheme of things. I

could spend all day every day hand picking the offensive creatures, not exactly the most practical solution. So in doing some research to find a more effective resolution, I thought I hit the jackpot when I learned about Milky Spore disease, a naturally occurring bacterial spore, *Bacillus popilliae*, that is applied to the soil. The grubs feed on it, the spores reproduce within the grub, thus killing the grub. So I tried to find a supplier, only to discover that this product

is not registered in Canada. Unfortunately, the cost to register a product such as this, and the amount of research and time that would be required to make this a reality, has put this option out of reach for the time being. Adequate temperature is also necessary for its effectiveness, so it is apparently less successful in Canada and takes longer to achieve adequate control.

So... back to the drawing board and my trusty Gatorade bottle. In the past I've always shunned the use of pheromone traps because everyone says they attract more beetles, thereby increasing overall



Up close with beetles in a trap. Empty them early in the morning, when they are less likely to escape, into a bucket of water to drown them.

plant damage close to the trap. I was convinced to change my thinking last winter at our Gardener's Seminar when one of our speakers and a few of our attendees vouched for their use. I also found an interesting piece (Google 'Garden Rant Japanese Beetles') that points out some key things to remember when using traps. He also concluded his rant with a simple but convincing argument: 'Less breeding, less beetles, more roses.'

Thus begins my Japanese beetle trapping experiment, which is far more observational than scientific, but hopefully it will provide some insight and encourage some trapping of your own if you haven't already tried it.

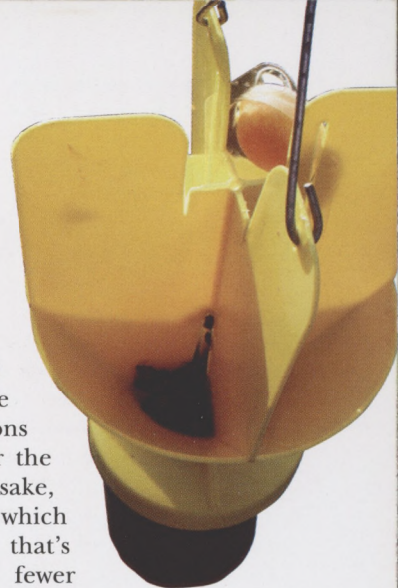
To start with, I ordered five Tanglefoot traps with floral and sex lures to attract both the female and male beetles. I opted for the hard plastic reusable base as opposed to the bags to make emptying the traps easier. I selected four sunny, open garden locations to hang the traps, and put the final trap out on the golf course in a particularly nasty breeding ground. The ideal height to place the traps is a point for further experimentation, as some recommend 90-150 cm above the ground and others say 13 cm will put the traps in prime Japanese beetle flight path.

This season my first beetle sighting was on July 3. Ideally I should have set the traps out right away, but unfortunately I did not get them out until July 17. Over the 8 weeks that followed I emptied the traps ranging from every day at the beginning to once a week near the end when populations were tapering off. I also continued to manually pick off beetles as often as possible. One trap I moved half way through to a more heavily infested area. My most successful and satisfying catch was the trap out on the 10th fairway which I checked just under 24 hours after I first put it out. It was overflowing with beetles, so I can only imagine how many more I would have caught if I had emptied it multiple times over the same period.

A couple of observations I made: Warmer, sunnier days did indeed seem to bring in a greater harvest of beetles than cloudy, wet days, which agrees with the literature that says beetles are more active on warm, sunny days. One trap was in a little more shade than I would have liked due to placement limitations, and it didn't attract quite as many beetles as I thought it would, given the size of the population in the area. I also noticed that traps in closer proximity to the golf course generally caught more beetles, possibly implying that populations were denser on the golf course and the idea that traps attract more beetles to the site may hold some validity. If you have a small backyard garden and you're merely concerned with your own rose bushes this may be an important point to consider. However, on a 250 acre property, I'm quite pleased to catch any beetles that find their way into the trap! It is recommended that placing several traps over a large area is most effective in combating the 'traps attract more beetles' argument. In a residential situation this means convincing all your neighbours to have traps. Our property has approximately 150 acres of maintained land, so at the recommended density of 4 traps per ½ acre, that would be 1200 traps on our property alone!! Unless a budget exists to pay a couple people to spend 3 months dedicated to emptying traps and killing beetles, this is obviously not a viable solution.

One of the first traps to be emptied was overflowing after less than 24 hours!

My five humble traps were filled a total of approximately 21 times over the course of 8 weeks. One guesstimate is that a full trap holds about 4,000 beetles. That's 84,000 beetles, which may not seem like a lot compared to the millions that are out there, but consider the implications. For arguments sake, if half of those were female, which each lay 40-60 eggs a season, that's approximately 1.5-2.5 million fewer eggs that may become grubs feasting on turf roots or adults feasting on any of the 300 plant species they are partial to. The more I think about it, the more I like the Garden Rant philosophy; less breeding, less beetles, more roses. ■



*Brenda Forder, Head Gardener
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Fans of Golf

It was recently stated that the use of fans in putting green management represents the best new fungicide released on the market. Traditionally a tool exclusively utilized by golf course superintendents located in the transition zone to help putting surfaces survive periods of oppressive heat, slowly, their usage has started to expand into the Northeast. More specifically, I have noticed the increasing use of fans in my travels throughout the Greater Toronto Area.

For Adam Zubek, Golf Course and Property Manager at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club, the implementation of fans in the summer of 2012 around selected greens sites helped improve plant health on greens with a history of microclimate issues. "We were initially able to sell the concept to the membership with a portable gas powered fan," says Zubek. "We would alternate the fan between two green sites throughout the day and quickly saw improvement in overall plant health." The immediate results sold us on installing permanent fans on two greens which freed up the portable fan to be used elsewhere." It must be noted that despite the up-front cost savings of a portable fan, over time, the savings can be lost when labour, equipment and fuel considerations are factored in.

Similarly for Steve Holmes, Superintendent at Rosedale Golf Club, the installation of a fan by one of his greens has been an additional tool to help manage an otherwise problematic



Fan installed adjacent to 17th green at Magna Golf Club.

site. "As superintendents, we are always walking a fine line in regards to putting green management. The addition of a fan has helped eliminate some of the problems we would traditionally see in the heat of the summer," says Steve. A permanent fan, which is electric and thus quieter, was chosen over the portable gas powered fan largely due to noise considerations for both members and neighbours. "Any detractor for an aesthetic level has not been a concern to the membership," says Steve. "They can live with a fan permanently located by the green, but they would not be as accepting of hearing a gas powered engine run all day long."

At Weston Golf Club, the installation of two fans came to be solely through serendipity. "The ongoing Union Pearson (Express) Metrolinks project gave us access to power to run fans," says Superintendent Rob Ackermann. When asked what factors seem to be involved with the increasing use of fans in the local golf community, Ackermann credits the confidence gained through USGA findings, a successful track record south of the border and a capable local supplier/installer as being potential reasons. "It's important to note," says Ackermann, "that fans work best in conjunction with solving other microclimate issues such lack of sunlight. Take care of your tree issues and use fans, then your problem greens can go from worst to first."

In terms of fan placement, the tendency can be to place the fan as far away from the green as possible in hopes to shield the fan from eyesight. To this point, USGA agronomist Adam Moeller cautions, "I have seen a lot of good looking Kentucky Bluegrass around fans that have been placed too far away." Also, it is no longer uncommon to see more than one fan beside a green, depending on the size, shape and other surrounding factors with your green. Ideally, the bottom of the fan should be blowing approximately four feet above the green surface. So, if you have finally given up on Mother Nature and are considering a fan, whether portable or not, do not forget to put some thought into the placement and the number of fans required per green. ■

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Twenty Years Ago Today

The 1993 Board of Directors of the OGSA were: **David Gourlay** (pres.), Eagle Creek, **Bruce Burger** (vice.), Lakeview, **Rhod Trainer** (past), Hamilton, **Alex Labelle** (sec.), Carlton, **John Taylor** (tres.), Twenty Valley, **Doug Suter** (newsletter editor), Credit Valley, **Simon George**, Oakville, **Rick Serrao**, Glendale, **Ken Nelson**, Sutton Creek, **Ian Bowen**, Oshawa, **David Schemelefske**, Merry Hill and **Mark Schneider**, Owen Sound.

ON THE MOVE: **Dennis Pellrene** moved from Scarboro Golf Club to Capilano Golf Club in Vancouver. Dennis' assistant **Keith Rasmus** replaced him at Scarboro. **Scott Dodson** moved to Park Country Club of Buffalo and his assistant **John Cockerill** took over at Summit. **Warren Vout** moved from Cedar Brae to Brampton Golf Club and **Bob Burrows** from Cornwall to Highland Golf Club in Montreal.

NEW MEMBERS: **Ron Izynski**, Huron Oaks (B), **Joseph Spotts**, Mobile Communication (E), **Daniel Yake**, Pike Lake (F), **Randy Hooper**, Beachgrove (B), **Robert Calder**, Loyalist (F), **Gregory McFarlane**, Bayview (S), **Brad Harman**, Greystone (F), **Jeff Stauffer**, Oshawa (F), **Ron Robinson**, Cutten Club (F), **Ted Bishop**, Rolling Meadows (A), **Scott Gardner**, Echo Valley (F), **Keven Bennett**, Westminster (B), **John Whitcombe**, Rosedale (F), **Michael O'Farrel**, Rosedale (F), **Tom Patterson**, Eagle Ridge Tree Movers (E), **Jay Grant**, Streetsville Glen (B), **Paul Lemieux**, Kingsville (A), **Garry Sutherland**, National (F), **John Cherry**, National (A), **Tim Waghorn**, Peel Village (B), **Rob Gatto**, Kings Forest (B), **Barb Donahue**, Hamilton Heights (F), **Chris Beechey**, Galt (F), **Jim Flett**, Muskoka Lakes (B), **Colin White**, Donalda Club (F).

IN MEMORANDUM: **Scott Richmond**, of Hutcheson Sand and Mixes, passed away on January 30th as a result of a snowmobile accident. Also, **John Mandarick**, superintendent at Carlisle G C, passed away from cancer at 31.

EVENTS: The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was held at the University of Guelph in January with over 1,500 people attending. **Dr. James Beard** was the keynote speaker and **Dr. Chris Hall** gave us an update on the progress of the GTI building. The OGSA had their annual meeting at the show and **Bob Heron** and **Dan Uzelac** were honoured as 25-year members. **Paul Dermott** and

his Executive Committee were congratulated on putting together an excellent show and for raising over \$50,000 for the GTI. Approved at the meeting was the creation of a new classification for students (S).

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute Building was officially opened on August 26th. **Dr. Clayton Switzer** was the master of ceremonies and the building was named the G. M. Frost Research and Information Centre, after **Mac and Beth Frost**, in recognition of their donation to the building fund. **Thom Charters** was the president of the Ontario Turf Research Foundation. The OGSA office was moved to the Guelph Institute Building at the University of Guelph.

The RCGA, the USGA and the New York Audubon Society formed a co-operative programme called the Co-operative Sanctuary Programme for golf courses.

TOURNAMENTS: The President/Green Chairman/Superintendent/Director event was held at the Burlington Golf and Country Club on July 13th, hosted by **Pelino Scenna**. The winning team was also Pelino's team from Burlington. The Pro Superintendent Tournament was held on September 7th at Blue Springs Golf Club, hosted by **Ted Ellis**. Forty teams competed and the winning team was from Weston, **Thom Charters** and **Herb Holzcheiter** (pro). Second was **Warren Vout's** Cedar Brae team and third was **Robbie Robinson's** Hidden Lake team.

NEW PRODUCTS: Hutcheson Sand and Mixes introduced a product called netlon that contains plastic mesh to reduce compaction and bare spots on heavy traffic areas. The Toro hydroject, introduced by Turf Care a few years earlier, was approved for use with wetting agents. ■



*Barry Endicott
Retired Golf Course Superintendent
Brampton, Ontario
Tel: 905-846-1440
Email: barry.endicott@gmail.com*

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I Wish I Had Known There Would Be So Much Typing

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
GolfNorth Properties

In 1982, I was in grade ten. I took grade nine typing with my buddy Gary to meet new girls. We were the only guys in the class, sat at the very back, were a constant disruption, and not surprisingly, never actually learned how to type. At the time, we envisioned a Jetson-like future filled with video phones, answering machines, talking computers, service robots, and zero paper. To us, learning to type was like learning Latin or how to use a slide rule. If you'd told me that by the time my kids were in grade ten, that their primary means of communication would be through text, even though each of them would carry around a Star Trek style computer with them at all times – I'd have shaken my awesome feathered mullet at you, and slapped the knee of my acid washed jeans at what a ridiculous thought that was. I wish someone had told me that there would be so much typing.

Truth is, there are many things that really didn't turn out the way I thought that they would thirty years ago. I'm still pretty annoyed about the jet pack and the four-day work week that I was promised – neither of those have appeared. Nobody warned me that by the time I was forty-seven, that I really wouldn't do anything. Rather, that my entire life would be spent in communication and people management, most of that through e-mail (more typing). Growing grass is actually the easy part. The challenge is that staff are people, customers are people, owners are people, management are people, heck even my wife and kids are people. More superintendents lose their jobs over poor people skills than will ever lose their jobs over technical gaps in their knowledge, because good social skills will allow one to negotiate the technical skills lacking.

And where there are human beings, there will be politics. There's the obvious politicization of water, pesticides, labour inspectors, and tree saving by-laws; but there's also the human



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politics of who used who's mug without asking, or why nobody but me ever cleans the microwave in the lunch room. I once saw two grown men get into a fist fight over a stool. Ever see two wait staff get into an argument about splitting tips? Lots of young people who can't make change to save their lives, can do advanced calculus if there is a tip involved. Politics are eternally bound to people, and treading lightly through that minefield is the most important people skill of all.

Speaking of calculus, I wish that someone had told me that there would be so much math. I literally use algebra all the time. To all those kids who asked their math teacher, "when will I ever use this in real life?" – it's me! I'm the one using it. We live in a world of spreadsheets and budgets and payroll reports, and purchase order forms – all math, all on computers, all involving more typing.

Another thing that nobody warned me about, was that we're really all in sales. Every person on the course who comes into contact with a customer affects sales, either positively or negatively. It doesn't matter if it's the pro shop attendant, the kid on the weed eater, the dining room staff, or the superintendent. The overall experience of the golfer, and ultimately whether or not they're likely to be a return customer, is the sum total of all of their interactions. But we're also constantly selling within the company. We sell "up" to management (projects, budgets, capital purchases, and contracts). We sell "down" to staff (motivation, vision, standards, expectations). It's all sales, all human interaction, all typed reports.

If I'd known then, what I know now, Gary and I would have paid a lot closer attention to what we were supposed to be learning on the keyboard. I can still type with my right hand, while I hunt and peck with my left, which results in a particularly painful halting style of typing that would have made my teacher scream in horror. On the positive side though, Gary and I have both done very well in life, mostly due to the social skills that we honed in that class while we were supposed to be keystroking (a word which still makes me giggle a little bit). But I still wish that someone had told me that there would be so much typing – I could have been so much better prepared. ■



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