

Green is Beautiful

Fall 2015

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Lebovic Golf Club Takes Root A New Build 25 Years in the Making

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Creating a Classic Through Team Camaraderie

U of G Update: Research Could Lead to More Options

Money, Money, Money - Solutions to Rising Labour Costs

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by John McLinden
OGSA President

As the year draws to a close, so does my tenure as OGSA President. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as a Director, and particularly this past year as President. The experience has been made even more rewarding by all those Board members I have worked with, both past and present, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved.

I am quite confident that the direction of the association is in good hands with the exceptional individuals I have come to know over the years. As always, I'd like to extend an extra special thank you to Sally Ross and the office staff at the OGSA for their tireless and dedicated efforts.

Sally and I attended the CGSA's meeting in Jasper Alberta this past September, where results of their national consultations were reported. The CGSA went through this process in order to identifying services that are of prime importance to their membership and assure that their redesign process is aligned with their members needs.

The OGSA will be holding a strategic plan review that will be facilitated by GCSAA representatives this month. This is a complimentary service offered by the GCSAA, which is a benefit of our affiliation with them. It will help us evaluate our progress since we created the plan in 2011, make modifications, and assure we align our activities with our members requirements.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming conference in Toronto. Let's hope that winter will be kind to us this year.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season, and thank you again for your support. ■

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:
503-5340 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, ON L7L 7A8

Production Office:

1727 King Street East,
Cambridge, ON N3H 3R6
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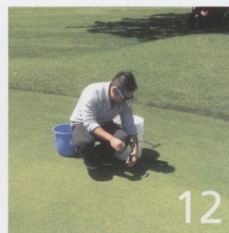
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Green is Beautiful

The Official Publication of Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

ON THE COVER

Hole #5, Lebovic Golf Club

*Photo courtesy:
Kevin Pleasance, Assistant
Superintendent
Lebovic Golf Club*

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Justin Parsons	Kevin Kobzan
Alan Dolick	Reg Langen
Cam Shaw	Cory Janzen

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

GREEN IS BEAUTIFUL 2015

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EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,
Engage Agro Corp.

There was a time, not long ago, when a new golf course opening in Ontario was no big deal. In fact, it was expected. Through much of the 1990's and into the early part of the 2000's, we came to expect multiple new builds all over the province every year. Fast forward to 2015 and the thought of a brand new 18-hole facility opening is as rare as a hole-in-one.

With this in mind, we at Green Is Beautiful wanted to capture the efforts of the team at Lebovic Golf Club in Aurora, who have been working tirelessly for over a quarter century to open the doors. This will become a reality in 2016, as the club is currently putting the finishing touches on golf course and facility construction.

Superintendent Colin Young and his team have been going hard at the grow-in for over two years now and the net result is a golf course that looks fantastic, and a design by Doug Carrick that has a lot of intrigue.

Of course there are many reasons as to why there has been a slowdown in new golf course construction and it should be point-

ed out that this is not something that is unique to our province or even our country. I'm not going to elaborate on this further here since I am by no means an expert, but one thing that has drastically changed since the heyday of golf course building a couple of decades ago is labour.

Not only is it more difficult to find reliable help from the student crop, but the cost of that help has gone up dramatically. Long gone are the days when a bunker raker made \$6.40 per hour. The province has increased minimum wage on multiple occasions since 2004 and business owners have been left scrambling to adjust. As Robert Thompson's article points out, this has a profound impact on turf maintenance facilities and their ability to deliver the playing conditions expected on budget.

Labour has always represented the biggest operating expense for superintendents so naturally, any wage increase is going to be felt. When there are five wage hikes in just over ten years and budgets are, in some cases, decreasing, things can get tricky.

This is just one of several new challenges that have developed since the most recent golf course building boom. The one thing that continues to amaze though, is the creativity and resourcefulness of superintendents. No matter what challenges emerge, they always seem to find a way to overcome it. ■

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Bill Garrett 1-800-387-1056, ext 224
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Ken Cousineau 1-800-387-1056, ext 222
kcousineau@golfsupers.com

REGISTRATION & EDUCATION INFO:

Kathryn Wood 1-800-387-1056, ext 223
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WHAT'S NEW

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

MEMBERSHIP DUES

All dues have been billed and were due on October 1st as per our by-laws. We are now at the stage where reminders are being sent out for unpaid dues. If you have not already paid your dues, please go online to pay, or call the office to arrange payment. Thank you to all those members who have paid promptly as it helps to cut down on the amount of time we spend each year doing collections.

If any of your personal or employment information has changed, we do ask that you contact the office immediately or update your online profile. Class changes must be done by the office. Questions or concerns? Please call us, we are here to help.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All OGSA members are entitled to member pricing when registering for the upcoming joint conference. Each week we will include the codes to acquire the member pricing in *Clippings*. If you need assistance or experience any problems please call us. As always, we urge that you register early.

"GOING TO THE DOGS" – VOTE FOR "HUNTER" AT THE GIS

Once again this year we have an Ontario dog in the Lebanon Turf Dog Calendar. It is the beautiful Hunter from Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, owned



OGSA President John McLinden presents a cheque for \$20,000.00 to Dr. Brenda Nailor, Research Chair of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, on behalf of the OGSA membership.

by OGSA President John McLinden. Hunter is a Nova Scotia Duck Trolling Retriever, and is under a year old. If you are heading out to the GIS, don't forget to vote for Hunter at the Lebanon Turf Booth because as in the past, any monies received by the OGSA will be directed towards local humane societies.

OGSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The OGSA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 am on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building, Constitution Hall, Room 105.

Annual reports and financial statements will be provided at the meeting. If you are unable to attend, our annual report will be provided to all members with the winter issue of *Green is Beautiful*, and will be available online.

Official notice of the meeting and any accompanying information will be posted on our website.

GCSAA CHAPTER DELEGATES MEETING

OGSA Vice-President Mark Prieur represented the OGSA at the GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting held in Lawrence, Kansas this past October and will be carrying the vote for all OGSA members who have assigned their vote

WELCOME to Our New Members

- Joel Johnston..... Class C
Redtail Golf Course
- Meagan Nunn.....Class F
Taboo Resort, Golf & Spa
- Tom Quackenbush Class A
Rainbow Ridge Golf Course
- Brooks Young Class A
Shelburne Golf & Country Club
- Turfgrass Canada,
A Division of ResidexClass E

to the Chapter at the upcoming GCSAA AGM. If anyone wishes to express their opinion or has any concerns regarding the candidates that the OGSA will support for election to the GCSAA Board, or any other agenda items that will be voted upon at the GCSAA AGM, please contact Mark or the OGSA office prior to December 31, 2015. Details will be posted on our website.

ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE AND CONFERENCE PLANNING FOR 2017

The Associates committee met this past October and reviewed plans for our 'new format' conference coming up in January 2017. They gave input into the format of the supplier luncheon event being held on the middle day of the conference. They also discussed how to format some of the available sponsorships in order to provide a good return on investment for our members. Members of the committee have agreed to talk to as many industry members throughout the coming summer about the new format, what it will mean to them and what advantages it will provide.

Our committee members are: Corrie Almack, John Alpaugh, Angelo Capanelli, Paul Cooper, Kevin Falls, Mark Scenna and Chair, Marie Thorne. ■



HUNTER

Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament Recap

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Director

Monday, October 5th dawned cool and drizzly, but the rain held off and it ended up being a great day for the 80 golfers registered.

Markland Wood GC was in spectacular shape. Special thanks go out to host superintendent Owen Russell, his assistant Ben White, head mechanic Mike Gavanski, and both Dan Macallum and Tyler Forbes. With the beautiful greens running fast, the golfers were challenged.

OGSA Secretary/Treasurer Scott White acted as emcee for the dinner, introducing OGSA Board Members who were present as well as Kevin Doyle, our field service representative from the GCSAA.

Following an outstanding meal, Scott presented the host superintendent plaque to Owen, thanked the members of Markland Wood for allowing us to host our tournament there, as well as General Manager Alfredo Colalillo, Executive Chef Nicolas Comazzi, and all the club house and catering staff. He made special mention of Head Golf Professional Frank Mirando and Associate Golf Professional Robert Brown for contributing to the great day experienced by everyone who participated.

Scott then went on to give a special thank you to those companies who supported the event with sponsorship and specialty prizes. BrettYoung Seeds, Evergro Division (Crop Production Services), Syngenta and Turf Care Products for their support of the George Darou Trophy. Companies who provided prizes were also acknowledged; Duke Equipment Ltd (GC), Turf Canada, Vanden Bussche Irrigation, Bayer Environmental Science and Enviro-Sol Professional Turf Products.

The first time winner of the George Darou Trophy was Duane Schmitz from Woodstock Meadows GC, who had a low gross score of 83. Duane was thrilled to take home the Toro snowblower, presented to him by Ron Craig from Turf Care Products.

Low Gross Superintendent winner for Flight A was Brad Bell with a 78 and Jason D'Andrea shot a 75, which gave him the Low Gross for Flight B.



Ron Craig, Turf Care Products (right) presents the George Darou Trophy to Duane Schmitz from Woodstock Meadows Golf Club.

Low Net for Flight A went to Alan Dolick with a 67, however, Alan had departed and so a random draw took place for his prize. Low Net for Flight B went to Kevin Doyle.

Other special mentions, for Flight A, Jordan Barber, Paul White, Matt Legg and Erik Vaughn, and for Flight B, Kevin Holmes, Ed Guziak, James Raynor and Dennis Kim.

Winners of the hole in one and closest to the pin prizes were Vito Cirone, Jesse Booker, Tyler Forbes, Rob Ackermann and Scott Hunte.

Scott White concluded his duties as emcee and announced that the 70th Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament, our oldest and most storied event, will take place at Whitevale Golf Club next year, on Monday, October 3rd, hosted by Superintendent, Blair Rennie. ■



OGSA Secretary/Treasurer Scott White (left) presents the host superintendent plaque to Superintendent Owen Russell from Markland Wood.



Scott White (right) presents the Low Net for Flight B award to Kevin Doyle, Field Service Representative from the GCSAA.



Scott White (right) presents the Low Gross for Flight A award to Brad Bell from Lakeview Golf Course.

OGSA Assistants Tournament Recap

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Director

The OGSA Assistants Tournament was held on August 17th at Mill Run Golf Club in Uxbridge, Ontario. It was a scorching day with temperatures reaching close to 40 C with the humidex. 84 players braved the heat and enjoyed the great conditions at Mill Run.

The winning team was Aaron Weinberg (Oakville GC), Mike Kehoe (Nutrite), Jeremy Phillips (Turf Care Products) and Jason George (Wooden Sticks Golf).

The ladies had quite a showing by capturing both of the longest drive prizes. Jasmine Halk (Briars GC) won a \$250 Best Buy gift card donated by Zander Sod Co Ltd., and Amanda Frend (Ladies GC of Toronto) won a set of Bluetooth headphones donated by Turfgrass Canada. Josh Vlasic (Bayview G&CC) won a \$250 Pro Shop gift card donated by Syngenta for a closest to the pin prize, and Cam Shaw (Piper's Heath GC) was "closest to the reel and keg" and won The Keg, LCBO and Beer Store gift cards totalling \$250, donated by Vanden Bussche Irrigation. Special thanks to our specialty hole sponsors for their support.

Traditionally, our associate members have strongly supported this event and this year was no exception. Evergro and Turf Care Products sponsored at the Gold level. Special thanks to Sean Lavin (Turf Care) for running the putting contest during the round and braving the extreme heat. The contest winner was Ryan Marangoni from Brantford G&CC.

Silver sponsors were Allturf Ltd., Engage Agro, Bayer, Plant Products, BASF, GC Duke Equipment, and Club Car, with OSC and Nutrite sharing a silver sponsorship.

Prize donations were also received from many of our cash sponsors listed above, as well as Podolinsky Turf Equipment, Hutcheson Sand and Mixes, Master's Turf and BrettYoung Seeds, Fairmount Santrol - Lakeshore Sand Co, Plant Science Inc. and Chris Nelson, and Burnside Golf Services.

Courtney White, representative from The Personal Insurance, was also on hand at registration where participants filled out a ballot to win a set of speakers. The



Left to Right: Winners of the OGSA Assistants Tournament, Jason George (Wooden Sticks Golf), Aaron Weinberg (Oakville Golf Club), Mike Kehoe (Nutrite), and Jeremy Phillips (Turf Care Products).



Assistants Tournament hosts, Superintendent Rod Speake (left) and Assistant Jeff Hewitt from Mill Run Golf Club.

winner of the random draw was John Adach from Islington GC.

Because of the support of all these companies, not only did every assistant member receive a great prize, but a random

draw was also held to award the additional prizes that were donated.

Ken Tilt (Trafalgar G&CC) took over the organization of the tournament this year and also acted as emcee, thanking everyone for their participation and support, and also thanking the club for their outstanding hospitality.

Away from the pressures of their respective clubs, the assistants were grateful for the outstanding day provided by the venue and the generous sponsors, and it was obvious that every participant enjoyed their day at Mill Run. ■

Seniors Tournament



OGSA Seniors once again had a great day out at Mono Hills on August 6, 2015.

Money, Money, Money

Rising labour costs force superintendents to be creative and do more with less

By Robert Thompson

Randy Booker remembers the days nearly a decade ago when Otter Creek Golf Club opened. The club had big aspirations, with the goal of becoming a top tier public course with conditioning and a green fee that matched. It wanted Booker, its superintendent, to pull out all the stops in offering a premium golf experience. That meant 18 staff helped Booker maintain the sprawling course located in a rural area southwest of Brantford. But the market never developed quite as expected, and now Booker employs half the number on his crew that he initially utilized.

That's only part of his issue. Even finding that many employees in an area located a half hour from the next large urban labour pool has become a hurdle.



Randy Booker,
Superintendent

"When we opened Bill [Searle, the club's owner] thought we'd have no problem drawing kids from the surrounding area," says Booker. "But the labour pool was not as big as we thought."

Hiring, as it turns out, was always a challenge for the rural course. The locals were often employed by farms and made more than the club was offering, often by a few dollars per hour more.

Now Booker has a problem facing many clubs. His staff has been slashed by as much as half from when the club opened, and even then finding the right people to fill the needed roles is a problem.

Truthfully finding appropriate labour is a key issue facing many Ontario turf operations. The rising minimum wage and the battle for employees willing to work long hours with early mornings is really challenging many clubs. And with minimum wage tied to the rate of inflation, the challenge of finding and retaining turf employees is not going away any time soon.

"I would say within the last five years it has gotten worse and worse," says Keith Bartlett, the superintendent at St. George's Golf and Country Club in Etobicoke. "For a while there we had a nice pool of guys, but some moved on and some have been hired at higher rates."

Many of the problems for some clubs stem from the rise in minimum wage, which jumped to \$11.25 in April, with the rate tied to inflation. Minimum wage for students rose to \$10.55. Ontario's minimum wage has jumped almost \$4 from \$7.45 in 2005 to the current rate.

At the same time clubs have not seen increases in operating budgets, and in fact many have shrunk. Now many clubs have to pay above minimum wage to capture strong seasonal workers to maintain their clubs and are facing competition for these employees from other businesses seeking manual labourers. And these businesses can often pay more.

"It is one of those things where you'd get kids looking for work and all of a sudden it just tried up," says Tyler Ruest, superintendent



Keith Bartlett,
Superintendent



How To Find And Retain Turf Employees

At a time when courses are struggling to find and keep their best turf employees, clubs have become creative when it comes to finding ways to locate solid staff. Here are a couple of suggestions you might consider:

BENEFITS?

St. George's Bartlett says one of the keys going forward could well be offering benefits that non-seasonal workers often receive.

"We need to start offering benefits to staff members, whether that is dental or drug plans, for seasonal staff who come back," he says. "What about offering them a TTC pass? Those are real dollars put back into their pockets.

Seventy dollars put back in their pockets comes down to spending it on food."

TAP INTO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Look to the government to help.

That's the message from GolfNorth's Breen, who says his company has significant success by utilizing student subsidy programs through Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

"It has allowed us to pay more than minimum wage and keep a lot of our seasonal staff for a few years at a time," he says.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

Often one good employee can lead to others. That's been Breen's experience when searching

out new staff. Often leads come from students who have roommates they are willing to vouch for, and among his staff working jobs after retiring, sometimes it is social connections that lead to new hires.

"My retired guys will often have a buddy they shoot pool with and they'll ask about the job at the golf club," Breen says. "Those guys are usually reliable and experienced."

Student referrals can have their challenges though.

"Sometimes we get friends of friends and they all graduate at the same time so we lose a bunch all at once," he says. ■



Tyler Ruest,
Superintendent

at Dalewood Golf and Curling Club in Port Hope. "For us the [professional golf management programs] have dried up, and it is almost like a buyer's market for the students."

Ruest says competition for summer staff means he'll often lose strong employees to other jobs that pay a dollar or two more an hour. But given the downward pressures on many golf clubs, Ruest can't afford to spend more.

"We've lost a lot of expertise, while asking everyone to increase what they do," he says. "We are down three or four employees. At the same time we're always chasing for more budget space. Every time we do payroll we're asking, 'Where are we now?'"

Bartlett says it is time to look beyond students given the challenges in locating qualified employees.

"We are really struggling and now have to look outside of the golf course colleges and start attracting people who are landscapers and want to do something different," he says. "We have to look at people from different areas and then be willing to train them."



Doug Breen,
Superintendent/
Chief Agronomist

Doug Breen, Superintendent/Chief Agronomist at GolfNorth, which runs numerous public golf courses across Ontario, says his company has often struggled to find the right staff, though he notes every market is different. The company, which started in Kitchener/Waterloo, has seen unemployment as low as 2 per cent in the region, making it very difficult to staff GolfNorth courses.

While summer students fill some jobs, Breen says increasingly the company has turned those who have recently retired and are looking for something to keep them occupied. These individuals often aren't as concerned about money, but enjoy the time spent out of doors and the perks, including free golf, that comes with the jobs.

"A vast majority of grounds guys are retired," Breen says. "They want to get up in the morning and aren't really doing it for the money. They want to have a little spending cash—sometimes that their wife doesn't know about—and they get to play some golf. And they might only want to work three days a week. But that works. We might have a fairway guy who only cuts over three days. But he greases his own equipment and always cleans up well."

In the end, some high-end private clubs may simply ante up and pay more to attract the staff they want. Bartlett plans on streamlining the demands on his staff so he can free up the salary of one employee and use that money to pay more on an average basis. He's tired of training staff and losing them to unionized city courses that often pay significantly more, and he adds that perhaps we need to reward employees who are an important part of every course.

"We're asking them to operate \$60,000 pieces of equipment and work in 35 degree weather in the rain and work like crazy when the bunkers wash out," he says. "We're asking a lot."

Clubs who are either struggling to find employees or who are trying to make due with smaller staffs are facing tough decisions. Booker decided he would simply stop most weekly bunker maintenance, communicating to regulars that they could simply rake and place the ball if they were unlucky enough to find one of

Otter Creek's numerous sandy hazards.

"I think golfers are going to have to change their perspective on what is really important to them," Booker says. "For us it came down to just saying, 'Screw it—we can't afford someone to work all the bunkers.'"

Even at clubs like St. George's, Bartlett is making decisions on changes to maintenance based on his labour challenges. And Bartlett is very aware that new capital projects then demand work from his staff, which is already under strain. He points to elaborate gardens, which are costly and time consuming to maintain and have little impact on the experience of the golfers at his club. Superintendents need to even consider smaller projects, like tee boxes, and recognize how they impact their staff.

"When you build a tee make sure you don't build one with a lot of line trimming needed," he says. "Make sure it can be cut with a mower."

For Booker, he's resigned to the fact he'll need to regularly train new staff, that many won't cut it, and that staffing issues are likely an ongoing issue.

"We can't compete with the other businesses in the area when it comes to paying," he says. "It is a problem that isn't going away." ■

Golf analyst for Global Television, and the bestselling author of five books, Robert Thompson lives in London, Ont.

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Research Could Lead to More Options

by Katerina S. Jordan, Associate Professor, University of Guelph

There has been some exciting research conducted at the University of Guelph that is relevant to golf course managers throughout Ontario and much of Canada. This summary will outline some of the current work in my lab as well as research projects in other labs at the University.

My lab group has been conducting turfgrass research at the University for 10 years now, with a focus on sustainable and low-input turfgrass maintenance. Some of our work has been in weed management, thatch management and general maintenance, but my focus has shifted to root pathology over the years. One of my students, Taylor Wallace, recently completed a two year study that looked at the population dynamics of plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN) in golf course greens and a new student, Ernest Urquico, is in the process of studying the causal organism of take-all patch (TAP) of creeping bentgrass.

NEMATODE RESEARCH:

To determine the potential impact of PPN on golf greens, master's student Taylor Wallace sampled greens throughout southwestern Ontario, as well as in British Columbia, Quebec, the eastern provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Her results indicated that almost every green (out of a total of 99 greens) had PPN present in the soils (Table 1). Approximately 25 per cent of greens sampled had nematode populations that were considered close to or above the damage threshold for certain species, indicating that nematodes may be more of a problem than originally suspected.

One of the factors that Taylor considered was age of the green. Previous research has shown that there are higher populations of PPN in older greens and it is believed this is because the nematodes have more time to

build their populations. Her results showed that there were more PPN in greens that were over 20 years of age versus those that were younger (Fig. 1). However, contrary to these findings, we have found that some samples submitted to our diagnostic laboratory from greens that are only 5-10 years of age are showing high population levels of root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne* spp.) and/or cyst nematode (*Heterodera* spp.). We had not previously considered that nematode feeding might be causing symptoms of weakened turf on newer creeping bentgrass greens but these samples might suggest otherwise.

We are hoping to continue work on PPN in golf greens because turfgrass managers have no chemical management options at this time. As nematode populations increase over time, it is important to understand more about these pests as golf courses throughout the province age. In addition, we suspect that nematodes have been present throughout the years and may be an underlying cause for a number of unexplained symptoms. As the demands of the end users force managers to push limits of the turfgrass plants even further, we are starting to see more stress-related pests becoming problematic. Future work we would like to pursue in my research program is to examine low-risk alternatives to conventional fumigants and nematicides. If a golf course finds that they have high levels of PPN, there are currently only two

main options: focus on cultural practices that aim to reduce stress on the turfgrass stand or remove the existing turf, fumigate and re-establish. The former would likely be the more desirable option, but it may be difficult to implement the practices needed to reduce symptom development from PPN feeding without compromising playability.

In conclusion, we have determined both from Taylor's research and from observations at the diagnostic clinic that although nematodes are



Ernest Urquico collecting nematode samples.

Table 1.

Percentage of Sites That Tested Positive for Each Nematode Genus Across Canada*

Genus	Ontario		Quebec	British Columbia	Atlantic Provinces
	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014
Ring	81	74	100	70	11
Spiral	68	69	100	100	96
Stunt	87	91	100	93	74
Cyst	29	31	22	26	59
Root-Knot	18	72	85	93	56

*3 greens were examined from each of 24 courses in Ontario and 3 courses in each of the other regions for a total of 33 courses and 99 sampling sites.

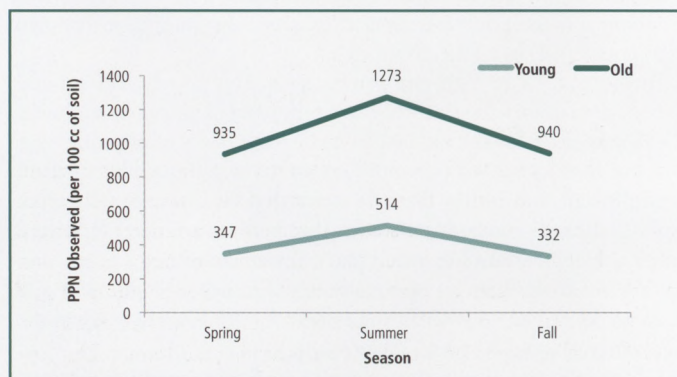


Figure 1. Plant-parasitic nematode (PPN) counts in Ontario per 100 cc of soil by season and separated by age of green. Values are averaged across all sampling sites (n=72) for each season. Young = less than 20 years of age; Old = 20 years of age or older.

not the number one pest affecting golf course greens, they likely play a detrimental role in reducing stress tolerance of the turf on a number of courses. At sites where populations are high, there are no control methods registered for use in turf. Our lab hopes that the research that we are conducting will help to develop management plans for nematodes, as well as facilitate the registration of low-risk products so that turf managers have multiple options should they find that plant-parasitic nematodes are reducing the quality of their greens.

TAKE-ALL PATCH RESEARCH:

The second large-scale turfgrass project in our lab involves the root disease take-all patch and is the focus of master's student Ernest Urquico. Over the years I have written numerous articles about this disease, as we find that it is the most commonly diagnosed disease of turf in our clinic. Most golf courses with primarily creeping bentgrass greens have dealt with TAP at one point or another, although we find that sites with high soil pH are more likely to develop the disease. Researchers have observed that TAP rarely persists for more than a few years and becomes less prevalent as greens age. This is believed to be due to a build-up of antagonists in the soil that keep the pathogen in check. However, we have found that on greens from southwestern Ontario to Alberta, golf courses are experiencing this disease on older (> 15 years) greens. Based on this information, our research is developing ways to manage the disease by various cultural management practices applicable in high soil pH environments. The first goal has been to confirm that the symptoms and signs (evidence of the pathogen) we have been observing are indeed caused by the take-all patch pathogen, *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae*. We are currently at this stage of the project and once we have confirmation of the causal agent, Ernest will be conducting greenhouse and field studies to assess the effects of various cultural practices, including soil acidification and aeration, on the management of this potentially devastating disease.

Future research will examine the soil microbial community to determine whether or not natural antagonism of the pathogen is hindered in alkaline soils. It is our hope that by accurately identifying the causal agent of TAP in Canada, we can devise and recommend cultural and chemical practices for management of this disease. Eventually, we also hope to understand much more about the soil community and various antagonists that are naturally keeping population levels of the pathogen down.

PRODUCT TESTING:

In addition to our traditional research projects, Dr. Eric Lyons and I also do company-funded service research to help businesses get fertilizers and pest management products registered. We currently have various studies on fertilizer products, as well as products for weed control and moss control. All of these help increase the arsenal that turfgrass managers have at their disposal when making fertility and pest management decisions.

OTHER RESEARCH AT THE GTI:

Although this article has focused on the research in my laboratory, there are other researchers who conduct turfgrass research at the University of Guelph.

Dr. Eric Lyons has graduate students working on a variety of projects, which include the following: determining the effects of nitrogen rate and mowing height on creeping bentgrass water use, winter hardiness of golf course putting greens, and a cost assessment of natural versus synthetic sports fields. One of his largest projects, however, is helping the Toronto Blue Jays determine whether or not converting to natural grass in the Rogers Centre is practical. In order to help with this, Dr. Lyons' research group is studying daily light requirements and water use of a variety of turfgrass species and how microclimates in enclosed stadiums will affect turfgrass health.

Dr. Tom Hsiang has been conducting turfgrass research at the University

of Guelph for well over 20 years, studying turfgrass diseases and helping with efficacy testing of various fungicides for numerous diseases including grey and pink snow moulds. His current projects include: assessing how increased carbon dioxide affects resistance to *Microdochium nivale*, causal agent of pink snow mould/Fusarium patch (aka *Microdochium* patch) and how creeping bentgrass plants respond to fungal infection.

Finally, Dr. Manish Raizada has recently begun research in turfgrass, primarily through assessing the potential for bacterial endophytes (organisms that grow within plants and often benefit the host plant) in reducing fungal diseases, including dollar spot and brown patch, as well as weed invasion.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this article was to update you on the various research projects, many of which are funded by CTRF and OTRF, that are currently being conducted at the University of Guelph. Should you have any specific questions about specific research projects, please do not hesitate to contact any of the researchers in our program. Alternatively, you can visit the OTRF website at www.otrf.ca for more detailed information about much of the work going on at the U of G. ■



Dr. Katerina S. Jordan, PhD.
Associate Professor of Turfgrass Science
Dept. of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph
kjordan@uoguelph.ca

DCS & Associates

Turfgrass and Agronomic Consultants

David C. Smith, P.Ag., C.G.C.S
dave@dcsturf.com

Rob Witherspoon, B.Sc. M.Sc.
rob@dcsturf.com

Pam Charbonneau, B.Sc. M.Sc.
pam@dcsturf.com

Office 705-687-7645
Toll Free 1-888-607-TURF
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10905 Reesor Road
Markham, Ontario, L6B 1A8
Tel: 905-640-1233
Leasha@bushwood.ca

bushwoodgolf.com

Fifth
Hole

About the Course

Bushwood Golf Club boasts an 18 hole championship course, a 9 hole executive course, a bentgrass range tee deck, practice putting green, and a lounge with banquet hall.

Established: 1959

Original Architect: Rene Muylaert; built by Rene's brother Charlie Muylaert in 1959

Type of Club: Semi-private

Number of Holes: 27

Number of Rounds Annually:
Championship Course: 25,000 – 30,000
Executive Course: 12,000 – 15,000

Fun Fact: Bubba Watson plays at Bushwood once a year and maintains the course record of 61.

Member Since 2011

Leasha Schwab

Superintendent, Bushwood Golf Club

*by Cam Shaw, Assistant Superintendent,
Piper's Heath Golf Club*

There is no cookie cutter formula, or certain path one can take which will lead to a golf course superintendent position. In fact, if you chat with most superintendents, managing turf on golf courses wasn't on their radar until they woke up in the position. There is one certainty however, one constant among all superintendents - they got to where they are because of hard work. Enter Leasha Schwab. This turf girl's story is not dissimilar to most in this industry. Her love of the outdoors and physical labour is what attracted her to seasonal employment on a golf course, but she never intended for it to become her career. Rewind back to 2003, Schwab's first maintenance position was at Cedarhurst Golf Club, when she was hired as a labourer and junior horticulturalist by Sean Evelyn, then superintendent, and Bill Tran, his assistant. Her experience growing up on a farm, and working at her mother's garden centre in Beaverton helped her excel in this

position and make an impression on her new employers. Bill Tran especially took a liking to Schwab, and over the next four seasons, her gritty attitude and willingness to learn earned her many new opportunities to acquire knowledge under his watchful eye.

In 2007, Schwab made the move to Wyndance Golf Club in Uxbridge. Although she only stayed for one season, then superintendent, Jake Riekstins made a lasting impression on the young woman. "Jake is one of the most positive and innovative people I have ever met. He was always trying new things, and he never stopped learning," states Schwab. In the spring of 2008, she graduated from Algonquin College in Ottawa with a diploma in business management. Despite her diploma, she decided to return to Cedarhurst Golf Club that summer, where she continued to develop her technical skills under Tran. In 2009, at the age of 20, Schwab received her first big break when she was offered the assistant's job at Foxbridge Golf Club in Uxbridge. Schwab admits some hesitation in the venture, as this pursuit was not in her

In the Hot Seat

Q: Favourite golf tournament?

A: The Masters

Q: Favourite piece of turf equipment?

A: Walker

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: Wooden Sticks

Q: Best golf experience?

A: The Devil's Pulpit

Q: Ultimate foursome?

A: R.A Dickey, Ryan Gosling and Andre Hamann

Q: What's on your iPod right now?

A: 90s, R&B and Country

grand life plan, and she was unsure about her chances for success in such a male dominated industry. "It was only with the support from my network of peers, previous employers, friends and family, that I felt confident enough to take the position. After I took it, I think I phoned Bill every day for help, vent my frustrations and keep me grounded. He was very patient and helpful." True to her nature, Schwab rolled up her sleeves and persevered, with remarkable success. In 2010, Foxbridge Golf Club sent Schwab to the Guelph Short Course where she received her certificate in turfgrass management. The following season they offered her the position of golf course superintendent. She held this position for four years until March of 2015, when she assumed the role of superintendent at Bushwood Golf Club in Markham.

In her first year, Schwab implemented a long range plan to redo many of the outdated bunkers which were full of contaminated sand and drained poorly. "One of the wonderful things about working at small clubs is that you get to do a lot of great projects in house,"

remarks Schwab. "Our members love seeing a woman operating a mini-excavator, especially when four men are in the bunker hand digging." But small clubs aren't without their formidable challenges either. Regular chemical protection is not a luxury her budget can afford, and so she must find new ways to keep plant health up and fight disease. At the moment she is playing with rates of ferrous sulphate as a control for dollar spot in fairways and is pleased with the results. Another challenge she faces is her responsibility to train and oversee the back shop staff. Schwab had little exposure to the back shop duties before coming to Bushwood, but has embraced the new opportunity to learn. She attributes much of her adaptability to her former mentors Riekstins and Tran who taught her to embrace challenges and commit to personal growth. Challenges aside, Schwab states that she is enjoying her new team and golf course immensely. Schwab states there are lots of opportunities for improvement which will help to reveal the true beauty of the property. "I get a lot of help from some key staff and Chris, my mechanic." Chris Mitchell has been with Leasha since her start at Foxbridge. Schwab is quick to state that if not for Chris, she would not be where she is today. Although Bushwood's turf staff size is limited, they all do their part to get the job done, and Leasha always makes sure they have some fun along the way. If you follow her on Twitter or Instagram (@leashaschwab for both) you've seen the pictures of her crew playing golf, horsing around, and even attending a Blue Jay's game or two.

When asked if she had any particular challenges proving herself in a male dominated industry, she giggles. She states there are both positives and negatives to being a woman in a man's world. "I have had challenges in the past with staff not willing to take orders from a woman, but they aren't much trouble because they don't last long." She states that there is also a struggle with people in the industry who are quick to dismiss her, but she has found that there are more people willing to help her along than those wishing to hold her back. Schwab claims that she has found a network of turfies whose help has been instrumental to her success, whether it is lending an aerator, offering advice, or simply giving her the nudge she needs to press on. Schwab claims that she can also be her worst enemy. "I can do anything a guy can do - but I can get lost in that fight. Sometimes I need to stop myself and remember that I don't need to prove myself anymore, and to stop seeing myself as a woman in a man's world, but rather as a regular superintendent in the turf world."

During the long Ontario winters, Leasha pursues her true passion in life, travelling. She has been on some epic journeys backpacking the globe and has lots of stories to tell. She maintains a travel blog called Boots and Backpacks (<http://bootsandbackpacksbandb.blogspot.ca/>) which accounts for many of her remarkable experiences and encounters. "There is no better way to find your true self than when you travel alone," Schwab admits. Currently she has been to California, Hawaii, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, New Zealand and Australia. This winter she is planning on backpacking South East Asia as well as Bali, while also returning to Australia. Indeed this turf girl has come a long way since her start 12 years ago at Cedarhurst. Leasha Schwab serves as an inspiration to other women in the industry that struggle with the dynamic of gender equality, but she also serves as inspiration for those up and comers who work hard and prove themselves everyday as they wait for their next big break. ■

What You Need to Know

Predominant Grass Type:

Tees and Fairways: Mix of bent and bluegrass

Greens: Bent/Poa Type - Push Up

Predominant Soil Type: Clay

Course Length:

Championship Course: 6,400 yards

Executive Course: 1,600 yards

Size of Greens: 4 acres

Size of Tees: 2.5 acres

Size of Fairways: 24 acres

Maintenance Challenges

Poorly drained, outdated bunkers. Also finding the resources to accomplish the bare minimum agronomic goals (aeration, turf protection etc.)



Leasha Schwab (center) with her team.



Lebovic *Golf Club* *Takes Root*

A NEW BUILD 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING



Though not officially open until next year, Lebovic Golf Club placed flag sticks in the ground this past summer, and in doing so, became the first 18-hole new build the golf community in Ontario has seen in some time. Perhaps even more remarkable is the fact that this is a project over 25 years in the making.

By Justin Parsons, *Engage Agro*
Photographs courtesy Colin Young, Superintendent, Lebovic Golf Club

When Lloyd Cherniak first began the process of developing a plot of land that saddles Leslie Street, north of Bloomington Road in Aurora, Ontario, in the late 1980's, the golf market in this province looked a lot different.

Since that time dozens of golf courses have popped up north of Toronto, others have closed their doors, and real estate prices anywhere within 100 kilometers of the city have gone into orbit. Cherniak, Vice President of Lebovic Enterprises, a prominent home builder in the Greater Toronto Area, was tenacious in working with the many branches of government and local interest groups to make it happen though. And when you start to examine further how this golf facility came to be, you realize this truly is a story of perseverance.

Doug Carrick was first contacted to design the layout for what would become Lebovic Golf Club back in 1996. At that time, the superintendent of Lebovic, Colin Young, was just a youngster in high school. Young, who left his role as Assistant Superintendent at the renowned Beacon Hall Golf Club in 2013, was excited to get his first chance as a superintendent. "I felt like I was ready for the responsibility of growing in the golf course when Lloyd gave me the opportunity because I had worked for three great superintendents who helped prepare me."

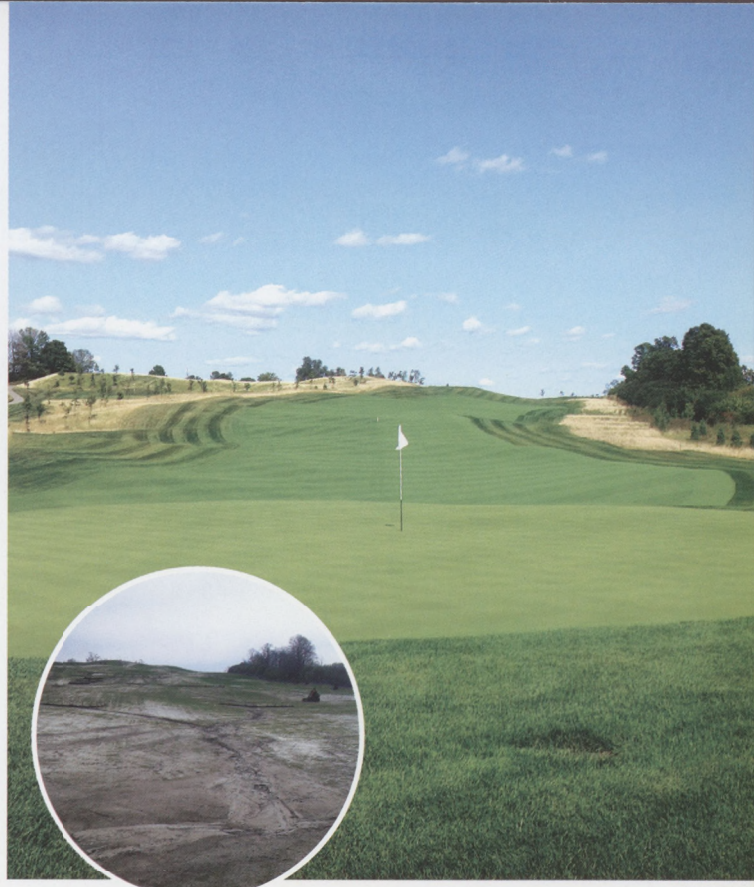
What Young quickly found out was that this grow-in was going to include a lot more than just establishing turf. Over the last two years, the maintenance team which Young oversees has been involved with regional road infrastructure, utility establishment including gas, water and power, communications, home building, pond building and over 1,000 tree plantings, just to name a few things. "The biggest challenge I found was making the project and all its pieces come together at the right time and having multiple contractors on the same page and working together," says Young.

Establishing turf with minimal resources at the start is hard enough, but having to play the role of general contractor and worry about major road improvements to Leslie Street and the building of 75 homes that line parts of the golf course adds a whole different layer to the project. It means that you can get pulled in a completely different direction at the start of the day and the establishment of grass becomes secondary. This can be tough for a Michigan State turf graduate, such as Young, whose first instinct is growing grass. "My passion is the golf course so the times when I could not give the golf course my undivided attention were tough."

Although Lebovic Enterprises has been building homes for over 60 years, this is the company's first time building a community that includes a golf course, which means that there are many unique challenges that have not been dealt with before.

The company's vision is to offer a private golf facility, with a housing community that is totally separate from the golf course. For the maintenance team though, the housing community will play a role in how the golf course is tended to on a daily basis. Irrigation water will be comprised of treated effluent water collected from the homes and golf facilities as well as storm and surface water runoff. All of which is all linked via six ponds scattered throughout the property. This was part of the negotiations that took place to get the golf course approved, because it sits on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Ministry of Environment would not permit a well for irrigation.

Continued on page 19...



Opposite page, top: Hole #14 growing in and, below, shown under construction. Above: Hole #3 prior to opening and first cut (inset); Below: Completed hole #2 and the excessive weeds during construction (inset).



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The building of Carrick's par-70 layout which plays 6,462 yards from the tips began back in the spring of 2013. Young truly believes that this course is going to have a lot to offer. "The layout is a lot of fun. It's got some teeth to it, but with four sets of tees, it's playable for everyone."

The first seven holes are located on the west side of Leslie Street and are more open to the elements, while the remaining 11 holes are on the east side, with most of those holes either lined with water or surrounded by woodlands. Another challenge of the building process was working with York Region to get a 166 foot long tunnel (20 feet wide by 12 feet tall) built under Leslie Street so both sides of the property can be accessed safely. "When it was being installed I knew this golf course and development was no joke. Watching it being installed was amazing and now I know why those crane operators get paid the big bucks. Dealing with that kind of weight and size with precision and having people's lives at risk working below you truly was impressive."

Yet another unique aspect of this project is Lebovic Golf Club's greens. The putting surfaces, which look and play fantastic, were established from Pure Distinction bentgrass seed. Young was the first in Canada to select this variety. "I wanted a superior grass that was dense and could fight off poa (annua) invasion." In doing his research, he felt this was the best choice.

Similarly, another challenge of the project was the fact that every blade of grass on the property was established from seed. Typically with grow-ins, sod is used to form edges where the grass transitions from bentgrass to bluegrass around greens, tees and fairways. This makes the establishment a lot easier as it helps guard against washouts and provides immediate definition. This was a luxury the maintenance team at Lebovic was not afforded. "The washouts were seemingly endless. It was a real struggle given the amount of thunderstorms in our area during the summer of 2014. If there was a positive that came from this it was that we tested pretty much every erosion control product on the market and learned a lot in the process," says Kevin Pleasance, Lebovic's assistant superintendent who has been instrumental in helping Young slug through the day to day challenges.

Young is very quick to praise his staff, which also includes his mechanic Darryl Thomas, who Young says is one of the best in the business, as well as former lead hand Sean Van Beurden, who was there in 2014. Corey Young who was a first year intern this summer and Greg Moore who joined the Lebovic team recently, round out the crew.

In the early days of the grow-in, there were a lot of times that tested the team's strength and determination. The 2014 season was a notably wet one, which meant that progress was often interrupted by large shifts in soil, which had not yet been anchored by the roots of the emerging grass. It also meant that there was a large infestation of weeds, which

typically establish quicker than grass under wet conditions. "There were a lot of areas where there was more weeds than grass which was tough to look at," Young admits.

It makes it all the more difficult to battle these challenges when you are short on staff and operating out of containers. Not to mention the fact that you do not have the luxury of a beautiful golf course to look at when you are in the midst of trying to establish it. There just is not a lot to hang your hat in the beginning, which places greater emphasis on a tight knit team that works together, something Young has done a great job establishing.

As the months rolled on, Young and his team started to notice more and more gains. The infrastructure and equipment continued to grow and so too did everybody's confidence. The turf really started to take hold and the vision of what the property could be started to match what they were looking at. All the while some of the early challenges that often stalled progress started to become less of an issue for Young and his team. "You can never doubt yourself or each other. We have a great core team here and that is what has helped get us to where we are."



L-R: The pond lining being constructed. Tunnel construction under Leslie Street which spanned 166 feet to connect the east and west sides of the course.

Young also acknowledges how important family is for a golf course superintendent, especially one that is in the midst of a golf course grow-in. The demands of the job are significant and it often means that you are away from home a lot more than you would like to be. Young gives a lot of credit to his wife Caroline, a school teacher, who has really taken on a great deal of added responsibility with their two children, Nathan and Stephanie, over the last couple of years.

Fortunately for Young and the Lebovic turf team they are about to turn a corner. Their new maintenance facility, which is very impressive, recently reached a point in construction where they could finally wave goodbye to the small trailer they had called home for the last two seasons. In many ways, it's a defining moment for this crew that has endured a great deal over the last two years. What Cherniak started more than a quarter century ago is poised to be a reality in 2016 and the maintenance team led by Young has been a big part of it.

They have finally reached a point where they can see the benefits of all the hard work they have put in and this is something that is not lost on Young who believes, "the beauty of our job is that you get to feel proud."

And they should be. ■



Set amongst the sand dunes, hole #2 begins to emerge during the grow-in phase.

Creating a Classic Through Team Camaraderie

By Riley Johns

It is often said that too many cooks in the kitchen spoil the broth. However, for the creation of the new Cabot Cliffs golf course on Cape Breton Island that notion couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, it is proof that a team environment can really benefit a project.

The team assembled to create Canada's most anticipated golf venue, all brought their own unique flavours and spices to the kitchen. It was a creative collaboration at its best, lead by the ever steady duo of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw that saw passionate professionals join together and create a single piece of art. It wasn't just the individuals on the team that made the experience unique—it was how the team functioned together that made it memorable. In terms of music, we weren't an orchestra all playing our individual instruments, but rather a jazz band, all playing and improvising off the other's beats.

Right from day one, all eyes were on Cabot Cliffs and the pressure was felt. Bill and Ben had conceived an unconventional routing plan that saw six par 3's, six par 4's, and six par 5's all navigate the rugged coastline beautifully. Then, as if the potential of botching an amazing piece of property wasn't enough pressure on us, Bill Coore announced

to the world that "anything short of spectacular would be a failure." Thanks Bill.

Nonetheless, the team got down to business and began shaping golf holes. We all started to find our stride and things soon began clicking on all cylinders. Then once again, as if the pressure wasn't enough, we were asked to have the entire golf course (minus the three holes from the previous year) completed by the end of season! For those familiar with golf course construction, having 15 holes of golf shaped, drained,

Bottom insets, left to right: Perched above the 14th hole, the team relaxes by the "after-work" campfire to watch the sunset and cook some food; Having a quick sandwich at work and taking in the views; Fresh lobster on the back deck while enjoying the long Cape Breton summer nights.





While shaping the 11th fairway it appears the excavator found a pot of gold.

irrigated, and seeded in one short season is a lofty goal. However, with the right group of guys working together it wasn't impossible—just improbable!

So we embraced the challenge and as one can imagine this meant some seriously long days and weeks. This is where an experienced superintendent with experienced assistants becomes critical to the project. The workload associated with managing labour, seeding, and establishing turf on a project of this complexity and scale is not a task taken lightly. A special hats off to Adam Calver, Bradley Allen, and Jason Dziabel for their relentless dedication to the project. Like any typical superintendent's routine, these guys would be the first onsite in the morning and last to leave at night. The difference is, unlike an average day's work, this meant they were on site working for an average of 14 hours a day, rain or shine.

I am a big believer in involving the superintendent(s) with the construction phases of a project at the earliest opportunity possible. Not only does he/she gain wisdom regarding the site's particular weather or soil conditions, but has intimate knowledge of hidden infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation. The payoff of such knowledge is long term and crucial to the overall success of any golf project. I like to think that the superintendent is the last line of defence in creating great golf courses, and ultimately becomes the curator of great golf architecture.

Continued on page 23...



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Top image: The 7th green complex freshly seeded. Above insets: The 7th green complex the next morning after 80 millimeters of rain was unleashed.

Continued from page 21...

Everyone has war stories about the Cabot Cliffs battle, and none more so than the onsite Coore & Crenshaw associate Keith Rhebb. Keith tells a great story about finishing the precariously perched 16th green at night with only the lights from his dozer and a headlamp to guide him. Or, at the very end of the project in October, when we finally seeded the final hole (#7), Murphy's Law decided to release 80mm of rain over night and wash away an entire month's work. Trevor Dormer and myself (the only guys left on site) worked sun-up



to sun-down repairing the damage that was subsequently caused by a beaver dam bursting upstream in the forest some 300 yards away from the green.

No matter what challenges or curve balls the project threw at us, the team always rallied back. There were always smiles and laughter as we compared the day's war stories and enjoyed dinner and pints after work at the local Public House. When a project like Cabot Cliffs becomes a labour of love and everyone involved is passionate about doing the best job possible, the fun factor never fades.

If I were to take anything away from my two years at Cabot Cliffs it would be that team spirit, camaraderie, and passion are the best ingredients for creative success. My theory is that the more fun the guys have building a golf course, the more fun the course will eventually play. Everything from the design process, to the shaping, to the maintenance should be done in the most playful and fun affections. This ensures that the fun-factor transcends the entire experience all the way through to the individual playing the course. After all, at the end of the day, it is just a game—and shouldn't that be fun? ■

*Riley Johns - Principal Designer at Integrative Golf Co.
www.integrativegolfdesigns.com*

Inset left: Hole #15 completely finished and the first golf hole on the project to be playable.



Examples of aerial photographs of Bernardo Heights Country Club. From a turf standpoint, the overhead view is very useful to investigate problems that are hard to see at ground level.

New Tool, New Toy

by Jim Alwine, Superintendent,
Bernardo Heights Country Club,
San Diego, California, USA

I recently submitted a video to a contest hosted by TurfNet and Aquatrols on the topic of Smart Water Management. Our Turf Reduction Program offered some great material and saving water has been our focus for a number of years. Doug Ayers of Corral de Tierra, one of the most innovative superintendents I've ever known, took first place leaving me with a very cool second place prize. You can see the top three videos by following this link: http://www.turfnet.com/turfnet-tv.html/_/aquatrols-smart-water-video-challenge.

We now have a tool in our arsenal that does much more than entertain, which it does quite well. The DJI Phantom 3 Advanced drone is the most exciting toy I've ever owned. It reaches speeds over 30 mph, comes with a very good camera, and can capture photos and videos I've always wanted at a golf course.

So, how is this useful to the course? First off, the obvious answer is the marketing potential because it can shoot excellent photos at no additional cost. Aerial photographs have always been attractive to a golf course, but the price tag made it hard to justify. You'll be

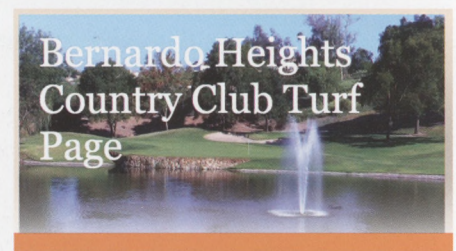
seeing many new photos on the website, blog, and newsletter as I pick out the best and share with the other departments.

From a turf standpoint, the overhead view is very useful to investigate problems that are hard to see at ground level. Drainage issues, irrigation uniformity, soil inefficiencies, fertilizer applications, and shade patterns are just some of the issues we face everyday. A quick flyover by the drone will produce many photos I can share with our staff as we work to make the course as good as it can be.

Project planning and documentation are also made easy with wide angle pictures achieved with altitude. Before I would draw out plans on the shop's dry erase board and point to old maps in the shop along with a trip to the job site. Having a photo of the area in question with sketches right on the photo takes out any guess work and allows the staff to accomplish exactly what I'm looking for without extra supervision.

Last night I was trying to get some sunset photos on the par 3 12th hole. The sunset was a little disappointing with much of the color lost in a distant marine layer.

I'm still learning to fly the drone and sometimes I get a little overconfident and fly



About the blog

The purpose of this blog is to share information on the maintenance of the golf course and grounds at Bernardo Heights Country Club.

bhcturf.blogspot.ca

Contributor: Jim Alwine, Superintendent

too close to potential hazards, for example, the ash tree next to the 12th green.

The good news is the drone is OK and was back in the sky after I dusted off the leaf debris and bunker sand.

In case you were wondering, my dog, Izzo, hates the drone. When she is around, I have to land it on top of a golf cart. I'll post a good example in the near future. ■

It Could Happen To You

The rustling leaves, cooler mornings and shorter days are a reminder that the golf season is quickly drawing to an end. Final preparations are being made for fall clean up, as members polish up their clubs for their winter hibernation.

For many of us, this means pulling the chainsaw out for one last round of grounds maintenance. A sobering statistic to take into consideration is that 30,000 people are injured each year in chainsaw mishaps, averaging 110 stitches while suffering life altering injuries.

Consider this: Greg Norman, the Hall of Fame golfer, was using a chainsaw and cutting trees in his South Florida home when tragedy struck injuring Norman when the chain came in contact with his wrist. In an interview he said that he was told it missed his artery by a fraction of an inch (CBC Sports Golf).

"Thank God the blade wasn't running full speed or it would have taken my hand off," Norman said. "I handled everything as calmly as I could." Norman went on to state, "[when] working with a chainsaw ALWAYS be respectful of the unexpected. I was one lucky man today. Damaged, but not down and out. [I] still have left hand," he posted.

Similarly, many chainsaw injuries can be avoided with the use of proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for specific job requirements. Chainsaw safety starts long before the saw does.

Here is a suggested guide to consider:

- Chainsaw pants or chaps that are designed with cut-retardant material to reduce severity of injuries. All clothing should fit well ensuring no dangling or frayed edges.
- A hard hat (with side impact) that safeguards the head from falling limbs and/or branches.
- Ear protection to prevent noise-induced hearing loss.
- Full face shield that will protect you from flying wood, twigs and branches. As well as safety glasses or goggles with side shields to protect against flying wood chips, sawdust and other flying debris.
- Safety footwear *(new CSA standard) for forestry workers and others who work with or around hand-held chainsaws and other cutting tools.



er cutting tools. White label with green fir tree symbol footwear provides protection when using chainsaws. Protective features are designed into the boots to prevent a running chainsaw from cutting all the way through the boot uppers so as to protect the shins, ankles, feet and toes.

- Chainsaw or leather gloves that provide protection and dexterity.
- Have first aid kits and a cell phone and/or radio for immediate emergency response. **Remember — every second counts.**

Hi visibility clothing including gloves, footwear, pants, hardhats and ear protection are recommended to provide additional visibility. PPE is the first, best and last protection.

Chainsaw safety begins with you. Remember to follow the manufactures operators manual, get certified training, have a preventative maintenance program in place and become familiar with your obligations under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act & Regulations. ■

These are guidelines only and are not intended as legal or instructional advice. Please refer to your obligations under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety ACT (OHSA) & Regulations.



Bob Forsyth, CSP
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Monkshead planted at the first tee at Muskoka Lakes G&CC.

Fall Colours

Extend the season with high-performance annuals

As I write this it is October 15th, and at this very moment in Muskoka the leaves have just passed their peak of beautiful colours. Soon they will be making their way to the ground to be transformed into future food for the trees from which they came.

One thing that I miss as a born and raised Niagara boy, is the length of fall in areas south of where I currently reside. Don't get me wrong, fall is beautiful in Muskoka, but it can be short lived in terms of landscape aesthetics. It doesn't take long for deciduous trees to go from bright and brilliant in the fall to bare, and landscapes going from peak summer beauty to drab. I am always envious of the extended fall season in southern parts of Ontario.

I have recently been growing masses of Begonia 'Surefire Red'. This begonia rapidly made my list of best performing annuals. This plant has extended my season of interest by weeks and at this very moment is still looking quite good considering we have seen some light frost already. When all other annuals are calling it quits, these guys will get you a couple weeks of extended colour for sure.

A group of plant species that don't get enough credit are the broadleaf evergreens.

These plants appear to be deciduous, but hold their leaves throughout the winter, much the same as evergreens, the difference being they have leaves instead of needles. In the fall when all else in the garden is dull and dying back, broadleaf evergreens stand out. Euonymous species are excellent for fall appeal as well, and they come with many options, including dark green or variegated white or yellow foliage. The options aren't limited to foliage colour with Euonymous, as they also come as climbers or small to large shrubs which can be shaped if desired. Cotoneaster is another great broadleaf evergreen. This is a lower growing spreading species with dark green foliage, and in the fall holds little red berries which attract birds and are a nice contrast to the dark foliage colour. It also makes for a nice groundcover. Broadleaf evergreen species are all great low maintenance shrubs, very suitable for foundation plantings, in parking lot areas or bordering walkways.

If you're looking for fall fragrance, then Cimicifuga (Bugbane) is the perennial for you. It has very long upright bottlebrush type flowers that are white and fade slightly pink. When planted in a group the flowers smell amazing. Blooming extremely late in the season, so these are one of the last to flower before the snow flies. They are a woodland type plant, so they tolerate shade and tree root competition. Cimicifuga comes with a dark maroon or burgundy foliage which is an added bonus and great contrast to the bright white blooms. If you tend to plant with pollinators in mind, you will find these blooms covered in bees. Expect blooms, depending on your location, starting in mid-September to early October. It will reach a height of six feet when in bloom.

It may be tough to find ranging flower colour in the late fall, as there are few options because most perennials have gone to seed, but there is a species that can give you more options for late season flower colour. Fall Anemone's can be a great addition to entrances or high traffic areas where they can be appreciated from up close. They come in pinks and whites. Queen Charlotte is an excellent variety.

There really isn't much that can go wrong when using ornamental grasses in the landscape. They are low maintenance and they have many uses like focal points, screens, masses, and have

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Above, *Miscanthus 'Huron Sunrise'* and, right, *Begonia 'Surefire Red'* were planted at the clubhouse of Muskoka Lakes G&CC.

interest from spring to fall and even throughout the winter if left standing. The *Miscanthus* family has many varieties within it, ranging in sizes, textures, flower colour and flowering time. All *Miscanthus* flower in the fall, but some are slightly later than others. They are really amazing as they go from flower to seed. The flowers shade changes almost daily as they transition into large white or silver puffy plumes. Also, as the plant stops producing chlorophyll and begins to go dormant for the winter, the leaf blades start to change colour from green to yellow and eventually to brown once fully dormant.

So many species of trees give us amazing fall colours in Ontario. Some are native some not from here but have made great additions to Ontario landscapes. One that comes to mind is the Amur Maple. Native to China and Japan, this small tree is an excellent choice for the limited urban setting. It's excellent tolerance to challenging site conditions, freedom from pests and beautiful fall colours make it particularly suited for the small space. It has more to offer than just striking red fall colour. This small tree has a great natural form and interesting bright red or pink samaras.

Last but not least, *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora* 'Pink Diamond' should be considered for fall interest. When designing, I learned quickly that trees and shrubs contribute their flowering performances to spring and early summer and that very few provide showy flowers from midsummer to fall. One exception is the Pee Gee Hydrangeas and, in particular, 'Pink Diamond.' They start

flowering in midsummer and last right through until the snow flies, changing all the while from white to pink.

I assume everyone knows already of some plant species most commonly planted for their fall interest, but I will mention a few in closing as they have a lot to offer. Burning bush is probably the most common shrub used for fall aesthetic value. Turning a striking bright red through the fall, this shrub is second to none when it comes to fall foliage colour in the shrub category. Of course the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is tough not to mention from the tree category. The name says it all. From the world of perennials, I believe the biggest bang for fall buck has to be *Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'*. It is extremely long blooming, very dense, great appearance up close and even better from afar. Monkshood is also a perennial worth mentioning as it is a great choice for extremely late season blooms.

All of the above mentioned plants are species that will extend interest in the garden. They have great attributes through the entire season as well though and are not just for fall appearances. ■



*Chris Cumming CLP,
Horticulturist
Muskoka Lakes Golf
and Country Club
Port Carling, Ontario
chriscumming@live.ca
Tel: 705-765-3165
Cell: 705-644-3994*

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LOOKING BACK



Ten Years Ago Today

The Board of Directors in 2005 were as follows: **Paul Scenna**, Donalda Club (President), **Rob Ackermann**, Weston G&CC (Past President), **Bob Burrows**, Rosedale GC (Vice President), **Sean DeSilva**, Taboo, **Jeff Stauffer**, Credit Valley G&CC, **Chris Andrejicka**, Essex G&CC, **Jarrod Barakett**, Deer Ridge GC, **Randy Booker**, Dundas Valley G&CC, **Doug Breen**, Golf North, **Trevor Clapperton**, Dalewood G&CC and **Rob Gatto**, King's Forest GC. **John Bladon**, Nu-Gro Corporation, was Editor of *Green is Beautiful*.

ON THE MOVE: **John Parker** left Trafalgar G&CC and was the new superintendent at Beaverdale GC. **Brian Brooker** went to Hornby Glen GC and **Ted Ellis** left Blue Springs GC and moved to Huron Oaks GC. **Mark Prieur** left Markland Wood GC and went to Trafalgar G&CC, **Mike Pellerin** was the new Superintendent at North Bay G&CC and **Ryan Beauchamp** left St. Thomas G&CC and went to Glen Abbey GC. **Wade Beaudoin** took over at St. Thomas G&CC and **Corey Phillips** went to Bushwood GC. **Peter Kinch** moved from Glen Abbey GC to Lambton G&CC and **Dave Svab** moved to Buck Ridge GC. **Jason Pickering** was the new Superintendent at Tamarack Ridge GC and **Jason Bindi** took over as Superintendent at Nobleton Lakes GC. **Bob Heron** retired from Beacon Hall GC and was replaced by **Paul Scenna**, from Donalda Club. **Scott White** took over at Donalda Club and **Brian Taylor** went to Mystic GC. **Ian Bowen** left The Rock GC and started working for Hutcheson Sand and Mixes and **Jason Winter** became the new Superintendent at The Rock GC. **Barry Endicott** started working for Gordon Wendover Construction and **Simon George** started with Maple Turf Supply.

ACHIEVEMENTS: **Norman McCollum** retired as Research Superintendent at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Rhod Trainor, Hamilton G&CC, was selected as *Superintendent of the Year* by the CGSA.

Ray Dlugokecki obtained "Certified Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary" status at Springfield G&CC.

Dr. Clayton Switzer was inducted into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame for his contributions in various positions in agriculture that resulted in the creation of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

TOURNAMENTS: The Spring Field Day was held at the Guelph Lakes G&CC hosted by **Don Heinmiller**. **Dr. Clayton Switzer** presented the winning trophy to **Bruce Burger** who shot a 72. Other scores were **Scott Gardener**, 72 and **Paul Scenna**, 76.

The 37th Presidents' Day was held at Scarboro G&CC hosted by **Keith Rasmus**. First place winning team from The Club at North Halton, was led by **Dean Baker**.

The 60th Annual Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was held at Lakeview GC hosted by **Bruce Burger**. Low scores

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1. Thom Charters (left) wins the George Darou Trophy presented by Mark Scenna of Turf Care. 2. Don Heinmiller (left) receives a plaque from Director Chris Andrejicka for hosting the Spring Field Day. 3. Keith Rasmus (left) is presented with the best superintendent plaque by OGSA President Paul Scenna, Presidents' Day 2005. 4. Trevor Clapperton presents the William Sansom Trophy to Dean Baker, Ian Scott, Herbert Arnold, & David McNally (Club at North Halton) who were the winning team at Presidents' Day 2005. 5. Norm McCollum retires from the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. 6. Bruce Burger (left) receives the winning trophy from Dr. Clayton Switzer at the Spring Field Day

were Thom Charters, 71, Bill Fach, 75, Rick Trainor, 77, Rhod Trainor, 78 and Tom Brain, 79. Thom Charters won the George Darou Trophy presented by Turf Care.

IN MEMORIAM: Keith Nisbet (1917-2005). In 1966, Keith became a charter member of the Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGSA). In 1980, Keith retired as Superintendent of Westview GC, and turned the management of Westview GC over to his son Colin. In 2001, he received the John B. Steel Award from CGSA.

Rene Muylaert designed many golf courses in the GTA including Chinguacousy G&CC (now Caledon G&CC), Glen Eagle GC, Diamond Back GC, St. Andrew's Valley GC, Horseshoe Resort, Nobleton Lakes GC, Pheasant Run GC, Hawk Ridge GC, Heritage Hills GC, Sparrow Lakes GC and Peninsula Lakes GC. Rene's brother, Charlie, did the construction.

Mac Frost owned Cedar Brae GC, Parkview GC, Brookwood GC, Spring Lakes GC and Vespra Hills GC. He was a member of the OGSA and CGSA and winner of the John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award in 1993. He was inducted into the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame in the builders category in 2005. Mac was also a founding sponsor of the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Ted Charman had been the superintendent at Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, London Hunt and Country Club and the National Golf Club of Canada. ■



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Bandwagon

by Doug Breen, Superintendent
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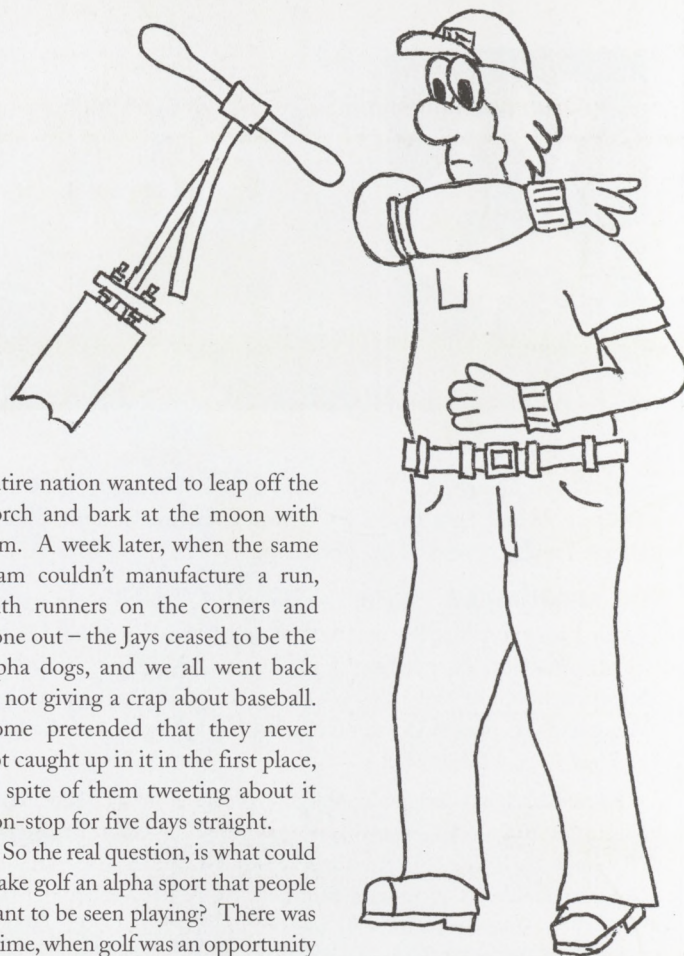
I watched with interest this fall, as seemingly everyone around me, jumped onto the Blue Jays' bandwagon, knowing full well, that they'll never watch another baseball game until the next playoff run. I'm always puzzled by bandwagon jumpers. Why would a person show absolutely no interest in a thing, and then suddenly become some kind of wild-eyed super-fan overnight, only to lose interest in it again after a relatively short time has passed? More importantly, what is the anatomy of the bandwagon jumper, and how do we get them onto golf's?

I started, by looking at other examples of the phenomenon. Every time the Leafs win back to back games, their casual fans start a buzz, and their hard-core fans lose their minds. If they win three in a row, they start dusting off the mantle for the Stanley Cup. One overtime loss, and they're back to cynically griping that "none of us will live long enough to see the Cup in Toronto."

The entire Olympic movement is based on bandwagon jumping. Every four years, we all become experts in fringe sports that we barely grasp the rules of, and pin our worth as a country to teenagers, who didn't have the sense to play sports that people actually care about. A week later, we can't remember why we were watching judo in the first place.

I always feel bad for the real fans that get pushed off the bandwagon (or relegated to the back row), in order to make room for casual/backslidden fans, legitimate fans' girlfriends, and scenesters. I have a cousin, who watches pretty much every Jays game on TV, apart from the dozen or so that she attends live. She used to umpire minor baseball, coached, and has been doing all of this since the 1970's – but she couldn't get tickets to see the Jays playoff run. Imagine if you'd dedicated your entire life to the sport of hammer throwing, but couldn't get tickets to a world championship in your home town, so some frat-boy could do Jaguar Bombs in a luxury box!

But again, how do we use this phenomenon to get the casual golfer, the golfer's girlfriend, and the "flavour of the month" crowd to play more golf? It seems that the driving force behind most bandwagon jumping, is the age old desire to be involved in whatever is happening. People are like dogs in many ways – most of them initiate nothing, but are panting on the sidelines of culture, waiting for their opportunity to bark and run with the alpha dogs. When Bautista did his now famous "bat flip", he was at that moment, the alpha of the alpha dogs, and an



Hole Changer Flip

entire nation wanted to leap off the porch and bark at the moon with him. A week later, when the same team couldn't manufacture a run, with runners on the corners and none out – the Jays ceased to be the alpha dogs, and we all went back to not giving a crap about baseball. Some pretended that they never got caught up in it in the first place, in spite of them tweeting about it non-stop for five days straight.

So the real question, is what could make golf an alpha sport that people want to be seen playing? There was a time, when golf was an opportunity to run with the alpha dogs of the business world. Whether you were having an informal meeting with the Vice President of Arse Kissing, or wooing a client, corporate golf was a sign that you had arrived in the business world. When someone decided that golf was no longer a legitimate business tax write-off, they killed that opportunity for us. Incidentally, no one in Ottawa can actually remember when or why they did that, nor can they explain why lap dances are still tax deductible when golf isn't.

Another thing that leads to bandwagon jumping is "media buzz". If the vapid nattering of the local radio station's "Morning Zoo" are about a certain restaurant or movie or golf course – then it creates a sense of it being the place to be. Those "mentions", as they're called, are actually for sale. It's another form of advertising revenue for the station. Did that depress any of you? It probably should.

But I believe; therein lies the answer – advertising. Golf spends a fortune, advertising to itself. Preaching to the choir, as it were, but we do very little to promote our game to the masses. Walt Disney didn't promote Disney World because he wanted to make everyone in Orlando richer, but it did. A rising tide lifts all ships, and the State of Florida prospered, because Walt promoted his brand. He didn't open his amusement park, and then wait for the state to promote vacations to there, or expect the American Association of Theme Parks, (there is one, I checked) to figure it out for him. He spent money to get us to believe that Disney World was the alpha dog of family vacations. No one spends more on advertising than Nike, McDonald's, and Coke – and they are the three most recognized brands on the planet.

If we want people to jump onto our bandwagon, we need to be seen as the alpha dog of leisure time activities – and we're going to have to spend some money to do it. ■

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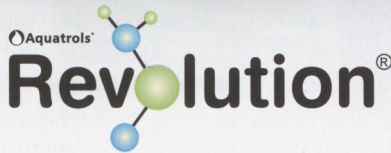


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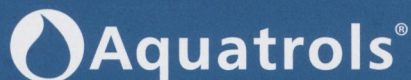
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