

AUGUST 2016

# ONCOURSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A photograph of three men working on a golf course. They are in a sand bunker, using tools to maintain the grass and sand. The man on the left is wearing a black shirt and khaki pants. The man in the middle is wearing a black shirt, khaki pants, and a blue cap. The man on the right is wearing a black shirt, khaki pants, and a white cap. They are all focused on their work.

## Water And A Delicate Ecosystem Make The Canadian Open A Challenge

### ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Projecting Professionalism  
Reflecting On A Summer Of Drought  
Nutrition And Fertilizing Tips**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Mark Prieur  
OGSA President

As July quickly comes to a close, one thing seems to be certain—this summer has taken its toll on most superintendents. Hopefully we can soon put summer in the rear view mirror and look forward to the fall. The hot, dry conditions that have been the theme to date have left most superintendents sleepless, walking zombies. Irrigation problems, babysitting summer staff and weekend afternoons stolen by being on a hose or TDR can most certainly burn you out in a hurry. There is hope though...it's called Fall.

Fall is the hope to regain one's sanity before the rush of getting the property buttoned. Hopefully Mother Nature will be kinder to us than she has been all year and provide us with cool, damp nights. Even the occasional rain. This will allow golf courses to perhaps recover before the turf gets put to bed for the winter. Besides a cool fall providing some serenity, exchanging stories, failures and successes over a round of golf near seasons end is proven to be very therapeutic. Don't let this be another season where your clubs have collected dust in your office closet.

The OGSA's fall classic, the Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament, thanks to your input, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 11th, 2016 at Whitevale Golf Club. The club, under the direction of host Superintendent Blair Rennie, has seen quite the transformation since his tenure began over a decade ago. Please mark your calendar and support your association. Make this the fall that you get out and play. Hopefully this summer's drought will be nothing more than a footnote by then. ■



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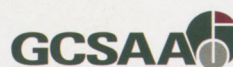
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Raking bunkers at the RBC Canadian Open.  
Photo Credit: Golf Canada Archives

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## EDITORIAL MESSAGE



by Justin Parsons,  
Engage Agro Corp.

“For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past, or the present, are certain to miss the future.” – John F. Kennedy

I like good quotes. I think most would agree that they stimulate thought. They cause you to stop and evaluate how you look at something and that is never a bad thing. Now, if you are actually taking the time to read the Editorial Message, then you already

know that the name of this publication has changed. Indeed, *Green is Beautiful* has been retired.

I'm sure this will be met with mixed reaction amongst OGSA members. Some probably don't care, while others are likely thrilled to be rid of the old handle. However, something tells me that there is a third group of people who aren't too happy about it at all. The quote above is intended for this group.

I can't say that I am a big fan of change myself, that is until I make a change, adjust to it, and then wonder how I ever did things the old way. There is plenty of evidence to support how much the turf maintenance industry has changed in how it functions from day to day over the years. Heck, even five years ago when I left the

maintenance side of the business, nobody used a TDR or shared information on Twitter, or even considered rolling fairways as a form of dollar spot suppression. Yet, here we are.

I will grant you that some things are tried, tested and true and that not all change is for the better. I think there is plenty of evidence in modern day life to suggest that the way some things are done now does not represent an improvement. However, when the amendment is made with good intentions of adjusting to the changing winds around you and steering the ship in the direction of calm, things often work out for the best.

The reality is this – the public perception of what we do and how we do it has to change because inputs are being scrutinized now more than ever. In order to get there, we need to change it. Turf professionals should be commended for how they have adjusted their maintenance practices to further align with a global drive toward sustainability. Our association, and, by extension, our associations publication, which is now resides in more clubhouses than ever before, needs to lead the way.

So after 41 years and more than 190 issues, it has come to this. *Green* will still be beautiful, but so are other colors. Our thinking as an industry has evolved and we now have a new name to reflect that – *ONCourse* – which, as it turns out, is appropriate in more ways than one. ■

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## WHAT'S NEW

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

### CONFERENCE 2017

We are hard at work on the event pages for the conference, and by the time this issue goes to print, registration will be open. We cannot stress enough how important it is to register early for the best savings. We have an early early bird rate which will only be available for a month. Please refer to "Clippings" for the latest updates on the registration dates and all other news related to the conference.

### OGSA MAGAZINE

"Green is Beautiful" is respectfully retired. While green will always be beautiful, we are now officially "ONCourse".

Based on multiple professional designs presented, the OGSA Board of Directors at their recent July meeting has unanimously agreed on, not only the title of our maga-

zine, but on the design of a new masthead which we hope will create renewed interest in our publication. We also believe the title and design will reflect both our provincial solidarity, and will better depict the changes and growth in our industry. We hope this big step will encourage and engage all those interested in the golf industry to just pick it up and have a read.

### PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON

This event was a great success; you only have to see the smiling faces in the pictures we have included in this issue to see what a good time everyone had. We hope to bring our Past Presidents together like this, at least every few years. Feedback has been outstanding.

### ALEX MCCLUMPHA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

The OGSA Board of Directors agreed to change the date of this event to ensure that

those who wish to also attend the CGSA's Fall Field Day, can do so. A survey of our members was done in order to see which date would bring a higher number of participants and hence, the event was moved to Tuesday, October, 11, 2016. ■

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING 2016 OGSA Tournament & Events

### Assistants Tournament

Brantford G&CC, Brantford, ON  
Tuesday, August 23, 2016

### Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament

Whitevale GC, Whitevale, ON  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

## SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION



Al Schwemler (OGSA Director), left, presents a plaque to Peter Kinch of Lambton Golf & Country Club, hosts of Ontario Mid-Amateur Championship held on June 23rd, 2016.



Dave Girard, right, host superintendent of Investors Group Ontario Women's Amateur Championship, receives a plaque on July 15th from presenter Doug Kennedy (Seven Lakes Championship Golf & KEGS President).



Scott White (OGSA Director), left, presents to host superintendent Patrick Greenman and the grounds and maintenance crew of Briars Golf Club for hosting the Investors Group Ontario Women's Senior & Mid-Amateur Championship on June 9th, 2016.

## WELCOME to Our New Members

Dylan Calvert..... Class F  
Magna Golf Club

Greg Fach..... Class A  
Black Bear Ridge Golf Course

Cory King..... Class C  
Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club

Lise Roseman..... Class C  
Oaks of St. George

## Plant Products Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament

Saturday, July 23rd saw teams from across Southern Ontario take to the diamonds at Turner Park in Hamilton to participate in the 22nd Annual Plant Products Slo-Pitch Tournament. Teams showed up at the diamonds for a hot, sun filled day of baseball. For the third year in a row, the finals showcased some great baseball between Cardinal Golf Club and Rattlesnake Point Golf Club. When the dust settled, Rattlesnake came out on top again and won for the fourth straight year. Rattlesnake Point has now earned the right to be considered a dynasty, as they perennially power through the round robin and preliminary playoff rounds, only to come out on top against the always tough Cardinal Golf Club. Everyone at Plant Products would like to thank all the teams who took time on their weekend to join us and we look forward to hosting you all again in 2017. ■







Seated, Robert Moote (1967) and John Arends (1971), and from left around the table – Jim Flett (2002), Alan Beeney (1977), Rhod Trainor (1992), David Gourlay (1993), John Gravett (2001), Rob Gatto (2013), John McLinden (2015), Rod Speake, Doug Breen (2012), Keith Bartlett (2000), Al Schwemler, Thom Charters (1988), Sally Ross, Bob Heron (1974), Mark Prieur (2016), Tim Muys, Mark Piccolo (2003), Jeff Stauffer (2008), Phil Scully (2014), Cory Janzen, Andrew Lombardo, Paul Scenna (2005), Barry Endicott (1986), Neil Acton (1989), Pelino Scenna (1978), Paul Dermott (1975-76), Ken Nelson (1981) and Stuart Mills (1979).

## More History At The Toronto Golf Club

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

On Wednesday, July 13, 2016 the OGSA hosted a special luncheon for all Past Presidents of the Association at The Toronto Golf Club. It seemed a fitting location for a number of reasons, primarily because the OGSA's founding President, William Sansom, was the superintendent at the Toronto Golf Club for many years, but also because General Manager and COO, John Gravett, is a Past President, and the current superintendent, Al Schwemler, serves as a Director on the OGSA Board.

23 Past Presidents joined the OGSA Board for this event which started out with drinks on the lawn and the breezeway, followed by an outstanding luncheon. The Past Presidents covered almost 50 years

of OGSA history, from Robert Moote, President in 1967, to John McLinden, last year's President. All guests wore their name tags with the year(s) they served as President, and were given gold OGSA pins reserved solely for this illustrious group.

A group picture was taken prior to the luncheon, following which, current OGSA President Mark Prieur welcomed everyone, thanked them for their service to the association and acknowledged their dedication and contributions over the many years. Mark stated that the success the Association has had and continues to have is directly related to all these men who were responsible for its growth and achievements spanning the last 50 years.

The OGSA would like to thank John, Al, and the staff from the Toronto Golf Club for making the day so special for so many. ■



1) Robert Moote seated, chats with Alan Beeney while Joan Arends, (who had transported her husband John to the party) looks on. 2) Enjoying a reunion on the breezeway we have Mark Piccolo with Paul and Pelino Scenna. Paul Dermott reconnects with John Arends. 3) Bob Heron with David W. Gourlay who holds the travel record, as he is now the General Manager & COO at Boca Grove Golf & Tennis Club in Boca Raton, Florida. 4) Jeff Stauffer speaks with OGSA Director Tim Muys, John McLinden and Jim Flett. 5) Doug Breen, OGSA Secretary Treasurer; Cory Janzen and Keith Bartlett. 6) Stuart Mills (likely our most avid facebook user) along with his travel buddy Ken Nelson, Thom Charters and Bob Heron.





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# PRO/SUPER CHALLENGE 2016



Andrew Lombardo congratulates the winners from Credit Valley G&CC - Jason Hanna (R) and Adam Cherry

by Sally Ross, OGSA Executive Manager

The OGSA's Annual Pro/Super Challenge took place on Monday, June 6, 2016 at Grand Niagara Golf Club. Hosted by Superintendent John Taylor, and Golf Professional Bob Culig, 68 golfers had a great day and were challenged with very windy conditions.



L-R: OGSA Director Andrew Lombardo presents John Taylor with the host superintendent plaque; Andrew Lombardo and Host Pro Bob Culig; Second Place Winners: Hamilton G&CC - David Miller (L) and Rhod Trainor with Andrew Lombardo.

OGSA Director Andrew Lombardo was the Emcee for the tournament which resulted in two teams being tied. The presentation of the Bill Bowen Trophy and first place (by retrogression) went to Adam Cherry and Jason Hanna from Credit Valley G&CC for their 66, and the second place team, also with a 66, was Rhod Trainor and David Miller from Hamilton G&CC. Third place went to Shane Courtney and Joey Pavone from Turnberry GC. For the superintendents, the longest drive was won by Paul Grosvenor (Forest City National GC) and the closest to the pin went to Jason Crawford (Eagles Nest GC). For the Golf Professionals, the longest drive was won by Al McLean (Forest City National GC) and the closest to the pin went to Jon Kerr (Trafalgar G&CC). There were seven skins, which were divided between six teams, with the team from Emerald Hills GC winning two. Emcee Andrew Lombardo thanked our hosts and all the staff at Grand Niagara GC for an outstanding day. ■

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## Marc Brooks

Vice President, Legacy Ridge Golf Club

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

The turf industry is chock full of hidden gems, many of whom fly under the radar. These hidden gems stride towards greatness just as hard, if not harder, than others who remain in the headlines and spotlight. These salt of the earth types don't seek out attention, nor do they require a pat on the back after a job well done. Whatever the challenge, they continue their daily grind, all the while forging a tremendous resume of experiences, successes, milestones and mentorships. Marc Brooks is one such character.

To call Brooks a hard worker would be somewhat of an understatement, even in the world of professional grass growers. Growing up in the small town of Simcoe, Brooks cut his teeth as a young farmhand working eighty or more hours a week during the corn, wheat and tobacco harvest. Needless to say, when the opportunity arose to work turf at the Nanticoke Golf Club (now The Greens at Renton) under then



*Marc Brooks, Vice President,  
Legacy Ridge Golf Club*

Superintendent Dave Wray, Brooks did not hesitate. As a young pup, he certainly enjoyed the shorter work week, mainly because it freed up time to play more golf, which he loved. The job only took one season before it sank its hooks in, as it has



## In the Hot Seat

**Q:** Favourite golf tournament?

**A:** The Masters

**Q:** Favourite piece of turf equipment?

**A:** ProPass

**Q:** Favourite golf course?

**A:** St Andrews

**Q:** Ultimate foursome?

**A:** My sons Wendel and Forrest, with Bill Murray

**Q:** Favourite Movie:

**A:** *Cool Hand Luke*

**Q:** Lowest round and where?

**A:** 69 at Stone Tree

done for so many of us. "I loved working with my hands, being outdoors and solving problems," remarks Brooks in our phone interview. In fact, Brooks enjoyed the job so much that he decided to further his career by attending Seneca College in 1983. After graduating in 1985 and continuing to grow in his seasonal role at Nanticoke, Brooks decided to further his education by enrolling into the Ag program at the University of Guelph, specializing in turf. It was during his time at Guelph, that Brooks met Carolin, his wife of 29 years. After graduating with the class of 1987, Brooks took the position of Superintendent at the New Liskeard Golf Club. "It was a different industry back in those days. Most of us were offered superintendent jobs right out of school, with little to no practical experience." Later in the winter of 1987, Marc and Carolin got married and were thinking about starting a family. The couple decided they wanted to be closer to home, so in 1988, the newlyweds moved just west of London, Ontario. Brooks assumed the role of superintendent at nearby Strathroy Golf Club (now Bear Creek Golf and Country

Club) where he would remain for nine years. It was during his tenure at Strathroy that Marc and Carolin welcomed two sons into their family; Wendel born in 1992, and Forrest in 1994.

In 1997, Brooks pounced at the opportunity to gain some additional experience in golf course construction, and accepted the position of Superintendent at Sawmill Creek Golf Resort. Although he only stayed for one year, Brooks managed the construction of 14 holes before he left in 1998 to assume the position of Superintendent and Property Manager at Stone Tree Golf Club in Owen Sound. Brooks remained at Stone Tree for 19 years, thus making it his longest tenured position as a superintendent. When Brooks arrived, the club had just been built and desperately needed some finishing touches before it could be considered ready for play. Brooks shared his trademark giggle as he discussed some of the issues he uncovered upon arrival. However, Brooks put his head down, rolled up his sleeves and continued to perfect his craft. It wasn't long before he grew a reputation for delivering a superb product on a very tight budget. Working at Stone Tree also offered Brooks the freedom to pursue his appetite for knowledge and education. Always a big believer in personal development and continuing education, in 2002, he attended the Organic Golf Course Management Short Course at Cornell University under program director

Dr. Frank Rossi. The course included some very cutting edge and relevant concepts that were all being executed at the Bethpage Park Green Course. Brooks was able to incorporate many of these insights and lessons into his management scheme at Stone Tree, which eased the burden on his small budget. In 2010, Brooks achieved both his CGCS from the GCSAA and his Master Superintendent's designation from the CGSA, a designation that only a few superintendents in Canada have achieved. Brooks fondly considers this designation to be one of the crowning achievements of his career. "Continuing education is not only a great way to stay current, but it also helps elevate the status of our profession and, in truth, helps you earn more money. By increasing your knowledge and skills, you are also increasing your value to the organization and industry".

To add to Brooks' diverse set of experiences, in 2012 the management team at Stone Tree purchased one of their direct competitors, the struggling Owen Sound Golf and Country Club. Brooks was a major force in the acquisition and strategic development process for rebranding this club as Legacy Ridge. From its inception as Legacy Ridge, Brooks managed both properties until this past January, when Balnar Property Management, then owners of Stone Tree and Legacy Ridge, decided to get out of the golf industry.

Continued on page 15...

## What You Need to Know

### Predominant Grass Type:

Mixed bag, predominantly green!

### Predominant Soil Type:

Again mixed bag

### Type of Greens:

Push up

### Course Length:

6,200 yards

### Size of Property:

128 acres

### Size of Greens:

2.5 acres

### Size of Tees:

2.5 acres

### Size of Fairways:

22 acres

## Major Challenges

Providing consistent playing surfaces with the varying subsoils. We are in the process of sand capping tees and fairways.

"Marc is one of the most influential figures that I have met during my career. His work ethic, job knowledge, vast skill set and mentorship helped spark my love for this industry and inspired me to achieve a higher standard in the work place. I strongly recommend that anyone young or old should work for Marc if given the opportunity... or at the very least to play on his greens. You won't be disappointed."

*Morgan Robbins, Environmental Co-ordinator,  
Capilano Golf Club Vancouver, BC  
(Former employee of Marc Brooks)*



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*Overlooking hole #18 and beautiful Georgian Bay.*



*Hole #17 named Perfect Picture (Signature hole at Legacy Ridge GC).*

Brooks, alongside Michael Todd (former Golf Director for Balnar Golf) and Bert Leeder (a local businessman) decided to team up and purchase Legacy Ridge under the condition that it would remain the only club in Owen Sound (ie. if sold, Stone Tree could not operate as a golf course). To see Stone Tree close was a bittersweet step for Brooks, but he is excited for his new role as Vice-President, and part owner of his club. "Legacy Ridge is a beautiful property with a rich history. The community and membership has been very supportive of this strategic move, and we all believe that the market for golf in Owen Sound is much healthier as a result," remarks Brooks. Currently Legacy Ridge Golf Club is in the planning stages of a new practice facility, which will help to strengthen the brand and attract new interest to the property.

During the course of Brooks' fascinating career, he has also managed to give back to the turf industry in spades. Indeed Brooks seems as though he is involved in the turf community at every corner. His volunteer experience in the industry includes serving on the accreditation committee of the CGSA for five consecutive years, sitting on the CGSA conference education committee on two separate occasions, being a member of the board of directors for the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association (GBGSA) for five years (two of which were as President), and being a guest speaker at the University of Guelph Turf Club. When asked if he had any particular heroes or idols in the industry, Brooks was quick to mention Brian Youell, Superintendent of Uplands Golf Club in Victoria, BC. "I met Brian at Syngenta's Superintendent University and we

spent a lot of time together. His knowledge, insight and philosophy on management had a profound impact on how I go about my job, and I am constantly inspired by his ability to overcome the challenges he has faced." To this writer, Marc Brooks is just as inspiring and a shining example of what it means to be the total superintendent. He is a determined, hard-working individual who leads by example and is in constant pursuit of growth and development both at the property and on a personal level. Brooks requested that his profile close with a sincere thank you to all his staff and co-workers, both past and present. "Over the years I have been blessed with an extremely dedicated and hard-working staff of professionals that have helped me every step of the way. It is always a team game and without the help and support of others, none of it would be possible!!" ■

**"Marc Brooks, or "Brooksy" as we know him, is a consummate professional. His pursuit of higher knowledge is evident from his credentials and certifications across all associations. His personality is welcoming and sincere, always allowing time for others. His environmental awareness should be commended as he strives to reduce impacts whenever possible. His ability to play the game of golf is amongst the best in our business and a day on the golf course with Marc brings laughs, great conversation and the enjoyment of watching him approach the game at hand with skill and integrity just as he approaches life with the same characteristics. I am fortunate to consider Marc a friend and colleague and always enjoy spending time with him."**

*Jay Honeyball, Superintendent, OslerBrook Golf Club, Collingwood, Ontario (close friend of Marc Brooks)*





*Hand watering turf at the RBC Canadian Open.  
Photo credit: Golf Canada Archives*

## Water And A Delicate Ecosystem Make The Canadian Open A Challenge

*by Robert Thompson*

Andrew Gyba knew that taking the superintendent's position at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville came with a series of unique challenges. First of all, Glen Abbey, a Jack Nicklaus design that opened 40 years ago, was partly built on a flat plain, with the most interesting holes plunging into a river valley where air circulation and light have been a challenge since the course's inception. But more than that, Gyba had no experience preparing a golf course for a PGA Tour event, and, as practically anyone who follows golf in this country knows, Glen Abbey was created for the RBC Canadian Open, and has hosted the tournament regularly throughout its history.

"You hear the horror stories about how difficult the tour will be to deal with," Gyba says. "And they knew I was coming in with zero experience at a PGA Tour event. But they offered a lot of help. They just want to put the best product out there for the week the tournament is here."

This year Gyba faces interesting challenges. A spring with little rain has turned into a summer with nearly no precipitation, and water use is always a delicate balancing act for the Canadian Open.

"There was a time, I think, when the science of using water wasn't really understood," Gyba says. "What we've learned is that water can kill a course if you don't know what you're doing."

How to create a playing surface—greens and fairways—that measure up to the consistency of what the PGA Tour's best expect, while also allowing the course to be played in corporate events leading up to the tournament is a challenge. Also, how and when water is used is key.

Bill Paul has seen it all when it comes to the Canadian Open. The long-time tournament director, who now works trying to locate or create venues for future tournaments, has attended or been part of every Canadian Open held at Glen Abbey since its first in 1977. Paul says the course's conditions have always been a challenge, but they've improved as the years have passed.

"I think in the early days the guys were experts in their time," says Paul. "But now the superintendents are better educated. The tour guys are better. And there's more of a science to maintaining the course. They've certainly taken a really thoughtful approach to how water is used."

Water has long been an issue for Glen Abbey, which is set in a residential community, with Sixteen-Mile Creek running through the valley holes. The course has a mix of holes that have poa greens, and others where newer bentgrass was used following the ice damage of 2014. It makes for an interesting mix and raises the question of how Gyba gets consistency out of two different types of grasses.

"How do you get a new bentgrass green to react the same as



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"There was a time, I think, when the science of using water wasn't really understood. What we've learned is that water can kill a course if you don't know what you're doing." – Andrew Gyba

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a 40-year old poa green?" he asks. "Speed comes from firmness. So everything is done by hand. We water the greens—especially the low spots—by hand so we don't overwater them."

He says proper water management throughout the course is key.

"There's a time when the science wasn't understood—it was water all the time," he says. "But what we've learned is that water can harm a course and we've got more appreciation for consistency. If you're just turning the sprinkler heads on mindlessly, no golf course will hold it and the water distribution of your sprinklers will make the low points wet. You're watering now for your wettest spot on a hole. You want just enough so a player won't stand on it and find it squishy."

Instead Gyba wants to water for the driest parts of the course. That means instead of watering at night, he irrigates at a minimum in the dark hours, with significant hand watering during the day. Then he carefully monitors any watering in the morning. "I light up only the areas that are dry and get them to match up," he says.

Paul says there were opportunities for the RCGA, which owned Glen Abbey until 1998, to redo the course's greens with a newer bentgrass. For some reason they never pulled the trigger, and now Gyba deals with the mix of turf. Adding to the challenge is the microclimate created in the river valley where holes 11 through 15 run. Air circulation has long been a problem in the area, though Gyba says he manages the troublesome greens—namely the par 4 11th and par 3 12th—by using the alternate greens built for both holes.

One of the key issues facing Gyba is how he balances the demands on the course for the tournament with that of the regular members and corporate outings that dominate Glen Abbey for most of the year. How do you grow rough without turning a company outing into a six-hour blood bath where no one is happy? How do you keep the greens in the shape you need and be able to push them to speeds of more than 12 on the stimpeter?

Gyba has most of this down. To deal with pitch marks on greens he keeps the putting surfaces relatively firm. He grows the rough to three inches for Monday of tournament week and allows it to naturally lengthen from that point.

"We are dialing the moisture percentages down and there's a point where the green plays firm and fast, still has an adequate amount of water for the plant, and is resistant to ball marks," he explains.



*Staff preparing to walk mow turf at the RBC Canadian Open.  
Photo credit: Golf Canada Archives*

On the actual tournament week Gyba has a staff of 80, including other ClubLink employees and additional superintendents, to assist with his efforts. The PGA Tour sends Harry Schuemann, one of its agronomists for competitions, to the Abbey regularly. While many pundits and outside observers feel the PGA Tour has mishandled club courses by forcing them to grow the rough too high—only to cut it down tournament week, Gyba hasn't any issue. He says the tour spent more time with him when he was new to the Abbey, but that they've helped him put forward the best course available.

"They want the best possible product they can put out there, and they are incredibly understanding," he says. "They look at the means you have, and say what they'd like. But then they work within those parameters."

What does Gyba want? He wants the course to be a little brown, with the fairways turning colour as the week goes on.

"You want to have some aesthetic appeal," he says. "But in a perfect world on Monday you'd be green tee to green. And then we turn the water off and as the day goes, some of the humps and mounds start to turn. That's not the end of the world. We're never going to be Chambers Bay at the U.S. Open. I think the players appreciate how we keep the golf course."

Sure he hears criticism when Bubba Watson or Jason Day smash a drive 350 yards on 17 or 18, but Gyba says that's balanced out by the firmness of other areas of the course.

"I'll have people say 'Are you kidding me, Bubba hit it 380 on 18?' But that makes no difference," he explains. "If you make him respect the approach shot and worry about the downhill putt, then you're making the course work the way it should."

In the end, Gyba says running the tournament at Glen Abbey remains a thrill, even if tournament week is tiring. Paul, who has seen numerous superintendents work the tournament, says the experience is invaluable, and benefits both the course and the golfers who play it.

"One thing is clear," Paul says, "when the Canadian Open leaves a course, the super will be better at his job and his members will have a better golf course." ■

*Veteran golf journalist Robert Thompson is Senior Writer at SCOREGolf, a columnist with Global Golf Post, and television golf analyst for Global News.*



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Superintendent, Oakmont Country Club

Hosting the 2016 US Open



# Water Use Is Key

by Ian Andrew

I played at my home course this morning and the rough has all gone dormant. On my way to the airport this afternoon, I passed Heron Point Golf Links where the dam has broken and the lake is empty. All I could see were dormant fairways, but I have to believe that much of that turf is now dead.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "When the well is dry, we learn the true value of land."

In the last 25 years, the biggest change I've seen in Canadian golf is the continuing reductions in accessing water. Even when we appear to have adequate supplies, it often doesn't guarantee that it is available. Truthfully, even when a club has a water source it has used for years, it doesn't mean the latest regulations will allow that to continue.

Essentially water is becoming an increasingly valuable resource. People and agriculture will always have priority, and as urbanization places more strains on the rivers, the secondary users such as golf are being asked to cut back on their water use.

I'm all for this, but it doesn't mean that this is a simple issue to address. I've spent a couple of decades helping clubs address this issue with storage facilities; for example I've worked on a city course that is actually self-sufficient, but practiced limited water taking to keep the ponds attractive. Also, I've seen a development of a new course halted over the inability to get a water taking permits.

The question used to be whether a club has the money to buy water, but now it's do you have the ability to draw or take a minimum volume of water? The most common approach today is to take the excess water available during storms and run-off events. Once a stream or river gets below a certain threshold, a club can no longer take water. For that reason, most of the clubs I have worked with have holding or storage ponds to help them get through periods where water isn't readily available. If there ever was a test of your limitations, this dry summer has been one of the most challenging seasons in memory.

Placing a pond brings up four major questions: 1) Can I make the facility large enough to meet the volume the club desires? 2) Can we get this through the approval process? 3) Where will I take the fill? Since most projects have the pond placed in natural low locations, there are demands the fill be placed above a flood line for cut and fill balance. 4) Do we want this to be in play or not? This is a particularly troubling question when we're dealing with historic clubs where adding a pond will change the strategic balance of a hole.

Essentially most planning involves a volume, which is turned into acreage. The bubble representing that acreage is tested in numerous locations. Some questions and challenges to review are: does it fit, how hard is the grading, are there environmental issues, where does the wet well go, and is there a close source of power to keep that cost down? Also, how you will address any excess material left over and the question of cost are important issues to consider, as most projects are very expensive.

The biggest question is whether it is worth it; this seems to be the year your club will find out. My course is fortunate enough to have the water to irrigate greens, tees, and fairways. I look at Heron Point Golf Links, and only see the greens being irrigated. Without water, the tees and fairways will need to be re-seeded come next spring.

That brings me to my final truth—without water a golf course is just vacant land. ■

*One of Canada's foremost experts in the restoration of classic golf courses, golf designer Ian Andrew is a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.*



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# Projecting Professionalism

by Anthony Angelis, Superintendent  
Innisfil Creek Golf Club

I recently found myself at a career crossroads with really only two options; one was to work as an assistant superintendent at a high end private facility, and the second option was to work as a head superintendent at a more modest golf course facility. Some superintendents had advised me that option two could be a dead end and have a negative effect on my career and my dedication to it. On the other hand, one of my mentors insisted that there were advantages to working at a public golf facility with less resources because I would likely have more control over all of the problems that came up on a daily basis allowing me to learn with less interference. He believed that this would prepare me for being a turf manager at a property with higher expectations down the road.

So I decided to take a job as head superintendent at a public golf course just south of Barrie. Now, the very idea of what I believe is an exceptionally run golf course has changed a lot over my career. Most notably is the way I perceive the maintenance shop itself. When I entered the business I simply viewed it as a "barn" where we stored our equipment. As the years went on and I assumed more of a management role in turf departments at golf courses in the GTA, there came a sudden maturation in my view of the role I believed our building played in the overall reputation of our golf course.

Nevertheless, I was there to make the changes I thought were necessary to ensure not only that the turf maintenance department ran smoothly, but also to improve the overall respect for what we do in the eyes of members and employees alike. These changes I am speaking of were not only to benefit me and the owners of the property, but to ensure that the next superintendent taking over after me did not have to deal with some of the adversities I had dealt with upon my arrival.

The words of my mentor will always stay with me, "It should always be your goal to leave the course you are at in better shape than how you found it". I knew a task like this was not going to be easy, however, I have long been drawn to the challenge of taking something that was not working properly and making it better.

When trying to build public respect for a property, I have found there

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The words of my mentor will always stay with me, "It should always be your goal to leave the course you are at in better shape than how you found it."

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are many very important things that often get overlooked. The first step was to take all of the equipment out of the shop and sweep, mop and dust every crevice of the area. Next I took all of our tools and equipment and rearranged it in a way that I felt to be less cluttered and crowded. Then I took the opportunity to throw out things that were of little use that had collected over time.

I then set-up an office and renovated the room so that it had a much more professional appearance. I believe this to be important because superintendents are expected to be increasingly administratively savvy.

These days we are expected to follow much more stringent rules and legislation that require us to have organized documentation available and easily accessible to auditors and government bodies.

My next step in our improvement plan was ensuring that our employees have a respect for our building. I achieved this by setting up a common area for us to conduct a morning meeting in. Having a professional area like this has always been a constant in my experience of watching

many excellent superintendents run stellar turf departments. At the epicenter of a meeting area is what I believe to be the most important facet of management in any business – I am of course referring to the "whiteboard". I got in contact with my sales rep immediately and ordered a whiteboard system and put it into practice.

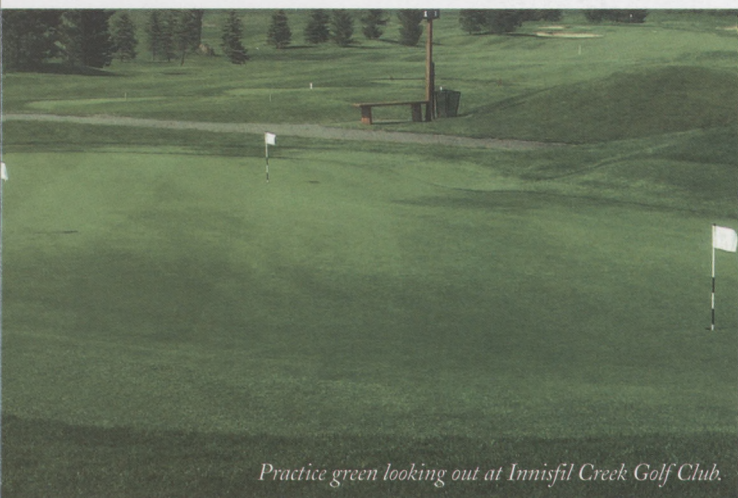
I am so adamant about having morning meetings, and, of course a proper place to conduct one, because it is the key to having all your employees on the same page. They must be aware of the overall plan that is unfolding around them in order to appreciate the complexities of running an operation like ours.

My next step was to approach ownership to ask if they would allow us to employ a mobile mechanic and replace all of our outdated equipment. After all, the condition and maintenance of the equipment affects the visual appearance of the property as much as anything.

I pleaded that instead of putting band-aid solutions into place for our old equipment we should sell it all for what it is worth and lease a new fleet. This way we could ensure that equipment would never be the same source of headaches because the fleet would be replaced before expensive repairs became an issue. I laid out all of the pros and cons of leasing and financing alongside a summarized account of all our bills from repairs and parts to labor and depreciation. The owners were reluctant at first but eventually warmed up to the idea of leasing. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive ownership group.

What happened after all these plans I have mentioned were put into practice? Well, we succeeded. Golfers that had played there for 20 years started to notice the small things. We became well known for having greens that were exciting and visually appealing.

Obviously the stars aligned for us, so to speak, which helped make us look the way we did that particular season. Not all properties have the capital at any given time to make some of the changes we made. I believe the change that made the biggest difference though was making the maintenance building a center of organization that commanded respect. After the shop had its makeover, I insisted that it no longer be called the "barn" and that we start calling it what it actually was, a turf maintenance facility. ■



Practice green looking out at Innisfil Creek Golf Club.



# Paul White – A Distinguished Career

This past June, Paul White, a very prominent member of the turf industry in Canada passed away. Paul was an OGSA member for 44 years and served as our association's President in 1980. He was also very active on a national level serving on the CGSA board from 1988-1993. He has worked at some of the finest golf clubs in the province over his half a century in the turf business and has

*"I especially admired Paul for his dedication to his family and his profession. Paul was very well respected throughout the industry."*

— Paul Dermott

touched the lives of many turf professionals along the way. ONCourse thought it was only fitting to take a look back at his distinguished career and his contributions to the turf industry in Canada.

Two of Paul's sons, James and Scott, as well as his brother in law John, are active members of the turf industry to this day. Paul leaves behind his loving wife Helen, four children, Peter, James, Scott and Melissa, as well as seven grandchildren.



Left to right: Peter, Scott, Paul and James White

Paul will be missed, but his contributions to our industry will not be forgotten. ■

*"He was a very good and highly respected superintendent and he loved to play the game. He was very keen in promoting his golf courses and the profession, but the thing I admired the most about Paul was that his wife and his family were always his number one priority."* — Al Beene

*"Paul and I served on the OGSA Board together, we golfed together and we shared a mutual respect for each other. He was a great family man and will be missed."* — Pelino Scenna

**1960** Started his turf career at St George's G&CC working for Bruce Wooley when the club hosted the Canadian Open.

**1966** Graduated from the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

**1967** Became the assistant superintendent at Markland Wood G&CC. He was once again hired by Bruce Woolley who had filled the role of superintendent.

**1968** His first superintendent's job at Kanawaki GC in Montreal.

**1972** After struggling with some of the language and cultural issues that were firmly entrenched at that time, Paul left Kanawaki to come back to Ontario as superintendent of Glendale G&CC, near Hamilton. Paul joined the OGSA.

**1979** Became superintendent of Lambton G&CC in Etobicoke.

**1980** President of the OGSA.

**1988** Paul moved on to become superintendent at Glen Abbey G&CC where he relished the challenge of hosting The Canadian Open that year. This was the first year the tournament was held in September so staffing the event was an issue for Paul.

**1990** Accepted the job of superintendent at Mississauga G&CC, where he would remain for the next 10 years.

**1992** CGSA President.

**1997** Received OGSA 25 Year Membership Award.

**2000** Paul's last role in his illustrious career was as the superintendent at Briars Golf Club in Jacksons Point, Ontario.

**2003** Received CGSA Superintendent of the Year award.

**2011** Retired from the Briars and started the Greenkeeper Training Program for the Georgina Trades Training Inc. (GTII)



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# Reflecting On A Summer Of Drought

The summer of 2016 will be remembered as a summer that was dominated by the absence of rainfall. As of mid-July, most of Ontario is still in the midst of a significant drought. Irrigation is an important aspect of turf management every year, but in drought years it becomes even more important. This article reviews some interesting results from research at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute over the years that have influenced the way we irrigate and our understanding of how drought affects turfgrass stands.

## DORMANCY AS A SURVIVAL MECHANISM

As a growing trend, many golf courses are not irrigating the rough and instead are focusing the use of water solely on the greens, tees and fairways, while the roughs have been allowed to fall into dormancy. This contrasting appearance of brown and green provides a unique experience for the golfer that is eye catching because it happens rarely in Ontario. One added benefit to allowing the roughs to fall into dormancy is that certain weed species that do not have good dormancy mechanisms will eventually die and be eliminated from the stand without the need for herbicide applications. We observed this in a weed trial performed by then graduate student, Evan Elford, in 2006 where the clover in the control plots was 25 per cent cover in the irrigated trial and less than 2 per cent in the non-irrigated trial (Elford et al, 2008).

Another benefit of leaving areas of the course dry is the reduction in egg laying by grub producing insect species. The egg of Japanese beetle and other scarabs must imbibe water within 24 hours of egg laying, and dry soil prevents this. This summer I observed a swarm of adult Japanese beetles in an area of rough that was consistently being irrigated by fairway sprinkler heads. Not surprisingly, the adults were swarming in this area quite intensely. This was a timely reminder of why it is important to try to minimize irrigation events during adult activities of important grub species.

## MOSS AND IRRIGATION FREQUENCY

During the heat of the summer, and particularly during a



Figure 1. Picture of Japanese beetles swarming and laying eggs in a recently irrigated area during a time of drought.

prolonged drought, irrigation frequencies are understandably increased. Research at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute showed that continuing with light, frequent irrigation into the fall can have undesirable consequences. Research has shown that daily irrigation of creeping bentgrass significantly increases moss encroachment over irrigating every four days with the same amount of water (Figure 2). As expected, the root growth of creeping bentgrass under a deeper, less frequent irrigation regime of every four days was significantly greater than other frequencies tested (Figure 3).

It is important to remember when coming out of a drought to revert back to best management practices in order to minimize conditions conducive to pest invasion and persistence.

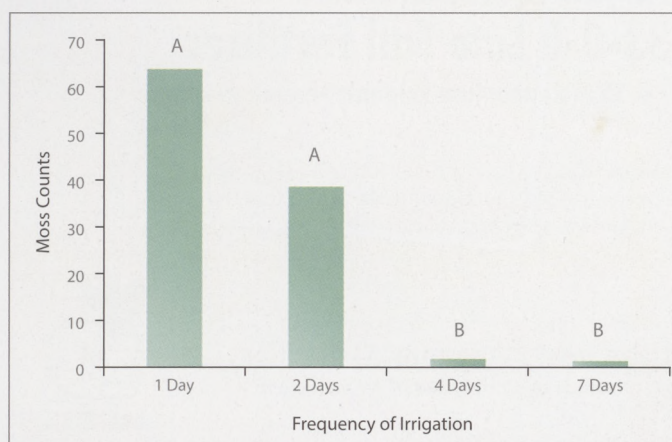


Figure 2. Moss counts of creeping bentgrass irrigated with different frequencies.

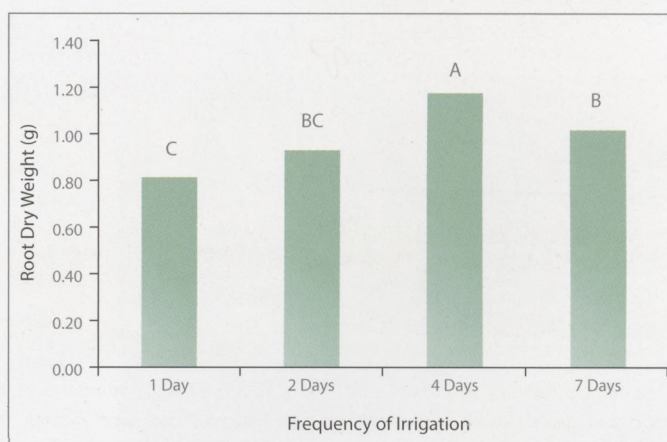


Figure 3. Root dry mass of creeping bentgrass irrigated at different frequencies.



## STRESSED ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

Hot dry summers can be particularly stressful on annual bluegrass putting greens. Reduced humidity and heat typically presents less disease pressure for annual bluegrass, but under these conditions, a lot of the annual bluegrass then suffers from decline due to abiotic stress factors. Annual bluegrass has limited rooting depth compared to creeping bentgrass, therefore, during times of heat and drought it also struggles to get sufficient nutrients from the soil. During these stressful times, foliar feeding of annual bluegrass can help push it through, particularly if the drought was persistent through the time the annual bluegrass was actively seeding. Research performed at the GTI by former graduate student, Kelly O'Connor, has shown that annual bluegrass has anatomical features that allow it to take up nutrients through the leaves more efficiently than creeping bentgrass, allowing it to compensate for a lack of root growth during stressful times (Figure 4).

It is also important to remember that as we continue to irrigate to a consistent depth, the salt content of the root zone tends to increase. Annual bluegrass is much less salt tolerant than creeping bentgrass, therefore, when managing annual bluegrass greens, it is important to make sure that the root zone is flushed by watering to a deeper depth regularly. In order to accomplish this goal, good infiltration is necessary. Diligence with regular core aeration and thatch control practices in previous years will be rewarded in drought years. These practices will allow for good water infiltration, resulting in the salts being flushed below the active root zone. Effective infiltration and flushing will restore the functionality of the roots.

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Currently at the GTI there are a number of research projects that have recently been completed or are still in progress that impact water use of turfgrasses. Current graduate students, Craig Harnock and Nancy Xiao, are studying the effects of different cultural practices on water use by turfgrasses. One of the most

surprising findings from Harnock's work has been the amount of water that turfgrasses transpire during the dark period when water is abundant. We are currently testing the mechanism behind this and we believe that grasses transpire excess water to reduce water availability to species less able to handle drought. Xiao is looking at the effects of nitrogen rate and mowing height on water use and drought tolerance of grasses. Preliminary work has shown that increased nitrogen rate may increase drought tolerance by maintaining a higher photosynthesis rate during a dry down. This information will help golf course superintendents try to maintain deep, infrequent irrigation even during times of summer drought and heat.

The researchers at the University of Guelph, Guelph Turfgrass Institute are always trying to perform research that helps the golf superintendents of Ontario deliver a premium and sustainable product to the golfing public. As the GTI takes on new challenges with a new site and new directions, we hope to keep you informed of the development and innovations coming from the researcher partners associated with the GTI. ■



Eric M. Lyons Ph.D.,  
Associate Professor, University of Guelph  
Director Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI)  
elyons@uoguelph.ca

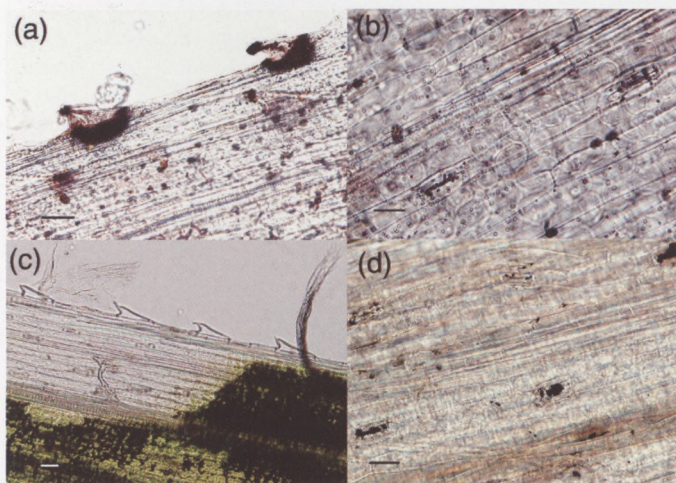


Figure 4. The cleared leaves of annual bluegrass (a and b) and creeping bentgrass (c and d) under light microscopy after treatment with silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ ). Characteristic silver deposits are in black a) barbs b) stomata c) barbs d) stomata.

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# Nutrition And Fertilizing Tips

Plants need to be fertilized because most soil does not provide the essential nutrients required for optimum growth. Even if you are lucky enough to start with great garden soil, as your plants grow, they absorb nutrients and leave the soil less fertile. Remember those tasty tomatoes and beautiful roses you grew last year? It took nutrients from the soil to build those plant tissues. By fertilizing your garden, you replenish lost nutrients and ensure that this year's plants have the food they need to flourish.

There are six primary nutrients that plants require. Plants get the first three—carbon, hydrogen and oxygen—from air and water. The other three are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

There are quite a number of fertilizers available today, both organic (plant and animal derived) and inorganic (synthetically derived). While the majority are commercially produced inorganic fertilizers, there are a few options for the organic gardener. Many rely on the old standbys—animal manure and compost—which, although organic and good for soil building, actually contain few nutrients. For flower and fruit development, bone meal with a high phosphorus count is the



*Superdos fertilizer injector.*

organic of choice, while blood meal is a good source of nitrogen.

There are several ways to apply granular and water-soluble fertilizers, but there are a few general guidelines that one should follow when applying them. Avoid applying a fertilizer on windy or rainy days. This can cause it to be misplaced and therefore less effective. When using a granular fertilizer, always be sure to knock the fertilizer off plant leaves to avoid burn. Never apply a granular fertilizer when the soil is extremely dry, and water it in thoroughly after applying to prevent plant burn.


Knowing when to fertilize is as important as using the right fertilizer. If you don't apply the fertilizer at a time when the plant can use it, there's no point in fertilizing. Most perennials, annuals, vegetables, and lawns will reward you handsomely if fed with a balanced granular fertilizer in early spring. However, avoid fertilizing before the spring showers or you will be throwing your money away since the nutrients will simply leach out of the soil. Annuals like to be fed an additional three to four times during the growing season with a high-phosphorus, water-soluble fertilizer.

About 10 days after my annual planting, I like to use a soluble granular 8-16-16 to help them through the transplant shock. Then 7-10 days after that I start with my water soluble application, which continues every two weeks for most of the growing season depending on weather. I like to use the granular early due to time restraints and we usually get rain at some point around that time, so the rain distributes the fertilizer into the soil. The other reason for using a soluble granular right after transplanting is because the plants haven't filled in yet, meaning there is a lot of exposed soil to put the fertilizer on, without it getting hung up in the canopy. For my water soluble applications I use a fertilizer injector which allows me to put an exact amount of nitrogen out. Some companies have a list of all their fertilizer ratios and the quantities to make your concentration to achieve the desired ppm of nitrogen you want to put out based on your injector settings. The injector is a great tool to get your plants watered deeply, while simultaneously give them a foliar feeding and get the fertilizer into the root zone. The injector is called Superdos; it's very easy to use and very efficient once setup. The injector draws the fertilizer concentration into the water supply going out.

In the spring when preparing the perennial and annual beds I like to add a 5-4-5 turkey compost and 6-5-0 bone/blood meal to the beds, which is cultivated into the soil. There are a few good organic chicken and turkey compost options in granular form.

Of course you should have a program in place to amend your soils with compost to

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Understanding the types of plants you are growing and their natural growing range will enable you to create a growing environment similar to the plant's native habitat.

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provide season long nutrition, but you also have to feed the organic matter to help it breakdown to release the nutrients to the plants. So, think of it as feeding the soil rather than feeding the plants.

Perennial flowers, ground covers and grasses generally don't need a lot of fertilizer and, in fact, some will react negatively if too much is applied. An over-fertilized perennial will reward gardeners with excess growth that flops over and becomes leggy halfway through the season. Over-fertilization can also affect bloom performance, producing ample foliage at the expense of blooms. Many perennial experts recommend no fertilization when plants are in a healthy garden soil. However, if your soil is composed primarily of sand with little organic material, your plants will most likely benefit from routine, light fertilization.

Understanding the types of plants you are growing and their natural growing range will enable you to create a growing environment similar to the plant's native habitat. It is helpful to keep a watchful eye and journal of plant "behavior" in hopes to correct situations later such as leggy growth and poor performance. You could send your soils away for testing, but if you get into an amending program you should be able to identify nutrient deficiencies from leaf colour, plant vigour, flower size, and plant rigidity.

Well-established shrubs do not need to be fertilized often or even yearly, but fertilizer requirement should be based on performance and all factors affecting performance should be considered. Specifically, location, moisture, soil type, sunlight exposure, and so on. Compost or composted manure applied once every three to five years is enough to meet their needs.

When they are grown in suitably rich soil, a fast decomposing mulch is sufficient. If you are mulching your shrubs it is a good idea to add some nitrogen to feed the mulch as it breaks down. Mulch or carbon based products will rob nitrogen from the soil and make it unavailable to the plants that have been mulched. This may prove to be problematic over time with continuous mulching and no soil amending to replenish the nitrogen in the soil. ■



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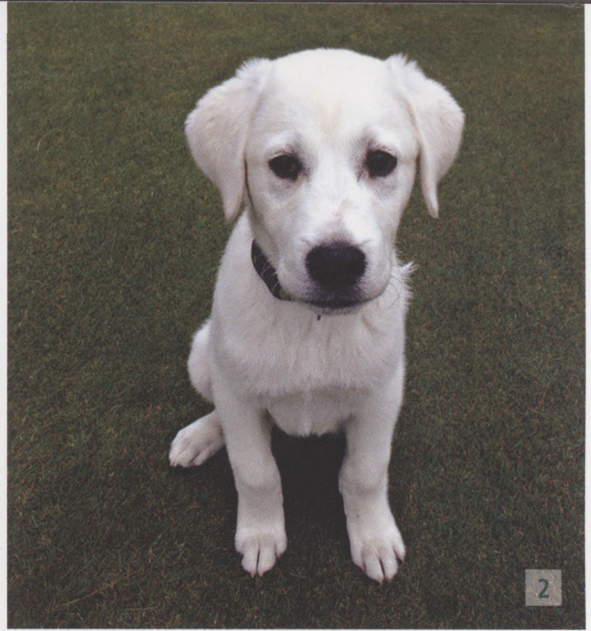
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## MEMBER MOMENTS



1



2



3



4

1: Canada Day Fireworks. **Matt Booth, Assistant Superintendent**, Oshawa Golf & Country Club | 2: Mac's first day adventuring the course. **Geoff Hay, Assistant Superintendent**, Heron Point Golf Links | 3: Salamander at Mono Hills Country Club. **Nick Amsen, Superintendent**, Mono Hill Country Club | 4: A local resident enjoying a shower. **Phil Song, Assistant Superintendent**, Lambton Golf & Country Club. | 5: Moth on the course. **Barry Cleary, Superintendent**, Burlington Springs Golf & Country Club.



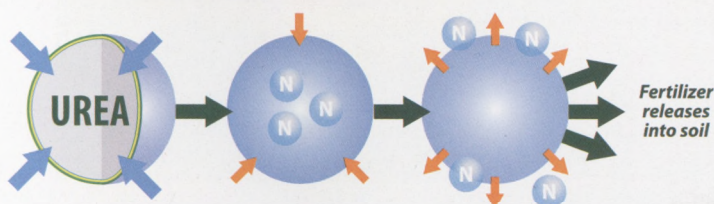
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## Five Years Ago Today



2011 Board of Directors

In 2011 the Board of Directors were as follows: **Chris Andrejicka**, President, Essex G&CC, **Jeff Alexander**, Past President, Parry Sound G&CC, **Doug Breen**, Vice President, GolfNorth Properties, **Rob Gatto**, Treasurer, King's Forest GC, **Jennifer Pendrith**, Secretary, Kawartha G&CC, **Stu Leachman**, Diamond In The Ruff GC, **John McLinden**, Ladies GC of Toronto, **Mark Prieur**, Trafalgar G&CC, **Phil Scully**, Granite GC, **Rod Speake**, Mill Run GC, **Chad Vibert**, Mad River GC and **Scott White**, Donalda Club.

**Dorothy Hills**, the OGSA Executive Manager retired and was replaced by **Sally Ross**. Congratulations went to **Jennifer Pendrith**, superintendent at Kawartha G&CC, on the arrival of a baby girl, Brooklyn.

Dorothy Hills with OGSA Past President, Jeff Alexander.



Sally Ross becomes Executive Manager.

**ON THE MOVE:** **Paul White** retired from Briars GC and was replaced by his assistant **Patrick Greenman**. **Bob Pattinson** retired from The London Hunt & CC and was replaced by **Deb Dale**. **John Trelford** left St Andrews Valley GC and was replaced by **Bryan Wasylw**. **Corey Phillips** took over Frog's Breath GC and **Bob Burrows** left for Banff Springs GC. **John Taylor** left Oakville GC and moved to Grand Niagara GC. He was replaced by **Scott Thompson** from The Toronto

Hunt. **Scott Heron** from Bigwin Island GC moved to The Toronto Hunt and was replaced by **Kevin Schultz**. **Paul Grosvenor** became the new superintendent at Forest City National GC and **Tim Baxter** moved to Sutton Creek G&CC. **Mark Trudell** became the superintendent at Mount Elgin GC. **Michael Schneider** became the new superintendent at Diamond In the Ruff GC, **Michael McDevitt** moved to Tangle Creek GC, **Ian McQueen** moved to Islington GC, **John Chang** moved to Bushwood GC, **Mark Pickering** moved to 4 Seasons CC and **James White** went to Woodington Lake GC. **Ted Tom** was the new superintendent at Uplands Golf and Ski Club as well as continued to teach at Seneca College.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Bob Moote** and **David Gourlay** received 50 Year Member Awards. The following superintendents received 25 Year Member Awards: **Kelly Barnett**, **Leo Dagle**, **Charles Eberle**, **George Forest**, **Mark Mallot**, **Gerald Sterling** and **John Taylor**.



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



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



Kelly Barnett, left, and John Taylor receiving 25 year membership awards.



Paul Dermott, DSA recipient.



Bronson of Lookout Point CC.

CGSA Superintendent of the Year Award.

**Tom Brain**, Burlington G&CC, qualified to play in the 13th annual Toronto Star Men's Amateur Tournament.

**Aldo Bortolon's** dog, **Bronson of Lookout Point CC**, was picked for the GCSAA Lebanon Turf "Dog Days of Golf" calendar and was voted as "Dog of the Year".

**Debbie Amirault**, superintendent at Quarry Golf Club in Edmonton, became the first female president of the CGSA in its 45 year history and the first female president of any national association of golf course managers.

**TOURNAMENTS:** The Pro Super Challenge was held at Wyndance GC hosted by **Jake Riekstins**. **Chris Emerton** and pro **Rob Mininni** from Tangle Creek G&CC won with a score of 67.

The Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was held at Oslerbrook G&CC in Collingwood, hosted by Jason Honeyball. Flight A Low Gross was **Bert McFadden**, Georgian Bay Club - 77





Left to right: Grant Murphy, National GC of Canada, Deni Terenzio, Hawk Ridge GC, Adam Schuller, New Course Construction and Jay Honeyball, OslerBrook GC.

and 1st Low Net was **Dan McAllister**, Donalda Club - 68.

Flight B (Associates and Guests) Low Gross was **Sean Lavin**, Turf Care - 74 and 1st Low Net was **Dave Jacobsen**, Weston G&CC - 69. The George Darou Trophy for superintendents over 50 went to **Ray Richards**, Mad River GC.

Greystone GC was the venue for the annual OTRF golf tournament hosted by



Chris Emerton, left, and Rob Mininni winners of the Pro Super Challenge.



Ray Richards from Mad River GC is presented with the George Darou Trophy.

**Adam Trenton** and \$27,000 was raised for turfgrass research.

President's Day tournament was held at Toronto GC hosted by **Al Schwemler**. The team from Otter Creek GC, **Randy Booker**, took top honours with a minus 23, second was Orr Lake GC, **Jason Harris**, and 3rd was Weston G&CC, **Rob Ackermann**.

The Summer Scramble was held at Springfield G&CC hosted by **Ray Dlugokecki**. The winning team from flight A at 15 under par was **Jamie**



OGSA President Chris Andrejicka presents the winning team from Otter Creek GC with the William Sansom Trophy.

**Spencer, Scott Gardner, Mark Trudell and Graeme Calder**. Flight B winning team was the father-son duo **Paul and Scott White**, with **Dan McAllister** and **Paul Halk** at 10 under par. ■



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## Fifty

by Doug Breen, Superintendent  
GolfNorth Properties

Well – I turn fifty this summer. There were many, who quite rightly, didn't think I'd make it to fifty – the first thirty years were pretty hard miles. The past twenty (the child rearing years), have been a blur of homework, hockey arenas, golf courses, windshields and football fields. It also means that this is my 30th year of toiling away on golf courses.

I'm actually pretty OK with turning fifty. I've come to terms with the fact that I'm no longer anyone's target market. Nobody cares whether or not I like a new team logo. Nobody cares whether I am keeping up with the latest technology, or social norms – if I still want to use a CD player, and think that facial piercings look stupid – the world yawns. Apart from the endless drug ads on CNN, nobody's really even trying to sell me anything. They know that I'll buy the same cars, eat in the same restaurants, and take the same vacations for the next twenty years; as I have for the last twenty. I've become like one of those guys from my Dad's generation, who kept buying Buicks, no matter how crappy they got – and kept Arby's afloat during the 1990's.

I must admit, that if I had it all to do again, I would have stretched more. When you're young and athletic, Doctors and Physiotherapists will actually try to fix you. At my age, when you say that your knee hurts, they say, "Yup, that's the way it's going to feel from now on, and it's your own damned fault". I really should have done a lot more maintenance. I've become like a high mileage car, and I never bothered to change the oil – or check it. I've had several warning lights illuminated on my body's dashboard, for as long as I can

remember. I've even had a few well intentioned Police Officers, who pulled me over to warn me about everything from burned out headlights, to an excessively loud exhaust system. I ignored them all. My wife often ridicules the state of my car, and doesn't seem to want to go for a ride as frequently as she once did. She still needs to get to the store though! I guess I could get serious about diet and exercise, and try to restore the old jalopy – but it would really be more of a rebuild at this point.

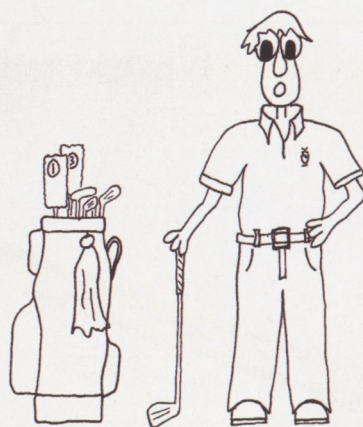
One of the best kept secrets about being fifty – is the freedom. One kid is off studying football at University, and the one that's left, is pretty much as indifferent to my presence as her mother. Sure,

they're both happy to see me when I'm around, but don't really care how often that happens. I used to wonder why some of the older guys on the course would work insane hours, and never take days off. Now I get it – there's no point going home to an empty house. That may sound sad to you thirty somethings, with houses full of Happy Meal Toys and Go-Gurt tubes – but I assure you that it's quite the opposite. I haven't had this level of freedom since I was twenty, and now I have enough money to really enjoy it.

The band is as busy as we want to be, I have season tickets to both the Ticats and the Argos (strike

that off the bucket list), I'm coaching high school football, and I'm more available (even if not as spry) at work than at any other time in my life. Fifty is actually pretty young to be a County Councillor, so at those meetings, I actually do feel kind of spry.

You know what? I'm not just OK with being my age – I love it. I highly recommend turning fifty to everyone, and it's certainly better than the alternative. ■



At 50, I can't hit the ball as far as I used to – but I still have inaccuracy, inconsistency and impatience.



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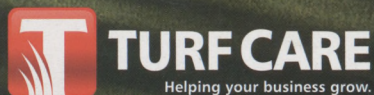
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