

March 2021

# ONCOURSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## 2020 OGSA Awards

### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Using Volunteers During COVID-19**

**Dogs in Turf**

**Regenerative Greenkeeping**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Al Schwemler,  
OGSA President.

As your newly elected President, it saddens me to report that after 11 years of tireless dedication to the OGSA, Sally Ross decided to retire at the end of February to spend time with her family; including her sons Michael and Robbie and her two granddaughters Lucy and Madelyn. While Sally's presence as the executive manager will be missed by our members, OGSA staff and at the Board level, the critical work she accomplished during her tenure with the association has laid a strong foundation for the OGSA to move forward into the future with confidence. We wish Sally the very best as she enters into this new chapter.

While there is still a great deal of uncertainty for 2021 and beyond, the OGSA is planning to expand their services and offerings for this upcoming year and the future. Staff and the Board are working on new initiatives such as: expanded educational opportunities, a new website, and an Ontario Best Management Practices document. Committees are planning for golf events and the 2022 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Collingwood. The OGSA is currently looking at ways to increase our membership numbers and the goal is to attain 1000 members by the 100th anniversary in 2024.

Thank you to all members that participated in the 2020 OGSA Member Survey. The results of the survey are being analyzed to see how we can better serve the membership.

I would like to personally thank outgoing Board members and Past Presidents, Cory Jansen and Jason Boyce for their years of service and dedication to the OGSA. Also, welcome two new Board members Andrew Nieder (Deerhurst Resort) and Kevin Collier (Riverbend Golf Community). While the OGSA Board has not met in person since February 2020, we continue to meet virtually on a regular basis. If there are any questions, concerns, or you would like to write an article for ONCourse, please contact the OGSA office or speak to a Board member.

Keep well and stay safe. ■



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#todayinontario 2020 Winning photo.  
Submitted by Matt Booth, Oshawa  
Golf & Curling Club.

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## ONCOURSE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Chris Lecour, Steve Rabski, Ryan Marangoni,  
Kendra Kiss, Al Schwemler, Ryan L. Scott,  
Mike Pellerin, Courtney White.

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## EDITORIAL MESSAGE

I'm writing this message on one of those rare winter days. You know the ones; the sun is shining, the birds are singing, the tree tops are gently swaying and the sky is blue, not to mention today's taunting temperature is hovering around 11°C. (Less rare for our friends south of London.)

This winter rounds out one full year since COVID-19 officially hit, and we all began to put one foot in front of the other, trying to manage our professional and personal lives ad hoc, as the saga unfolded. But today, one year later, I can actually smell spring. It's invigorating; winter's promise of new beginnings, hope, and opportunity to try something new, or hit the reset button and try again. As we move into 2021, we need to be invigorated.

Inside this issue, the OGSA celebrates our 2020 award and scholarship winners, and acknowledges our milestone members. Thank you to everyone who was able to help us celebrate virtually by sending in their selfies for the issue!

Ryan Scott from Oakville Golf Club and Joel Johnston from Riverbend Golf Community share observations and

teachings from last season to keep in mind as we move into 2021. Bill Godkin from CESafety discusses the use of volunteers during COVID-19 restrictions and, Randy Booker shares his views on soil biodiversity, in what will be a three part series on this method of turf management.

Chris Cummings shares some tips about planning for pollinators this year, and Al Schwemler spends some time highlighting a few of our K-9 members in honor of Floki, Miss December and 2021 LebanonTurf's Dog of the Year.

Of course no issue would be complete without highlighting one of our members and in this issue, Chris Lecour interviews William Baltessen, owner and superintendent at Chelmsford Golf Course.

And as usual, we can count on Doug Breen to bring humor to almost any topic in this edition of Turf and Consequences. We're also excited to share with you what's new with the Turf Club in member moments.

I'd be remiss if I didn't end this message by acknowledging one of the most important events in a decade for the OGSA. For us,

saying good-bye to 2020, also meant saying good-bye to Sally Ross after 11 years of leading the charge for our association. In this issue, she has shared a few words with you in What's New, and although farewells are never easy, I'm sure everyone will join me, your new President Al Schwemler, and the rest of the board in sharing our heartfelt thanks for all she has done for the association as she moves into retirement.

Keep well my friends. See you in June! ■



*Courtney White,  
Member Programs &  
Services, OGSA.  
ONCourse Editor.  
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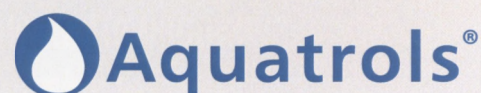
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# WHAT'S NEW

By Sally Ross, Executive Director, OGSA.



I can't believe that I am writing these words but, this is my last What's New. By the time this issue of ONCourse is published, I will be retired. I want to share with you here how much it has meant to me to be a part of this great association and the golf industry. Over the last 11 years I have come to know many of you a great deal better than I ever expected. I've worked closely with some, met others briefly at events and tournaments, and some I've only met over the phone or through email. Regardless of the way we connected, the professionalism and integrity of OGSA members never ceased to amaze me. I want to thank all the members who have served on the board during my time, and especially the ones who have worked with me over the last year as I transitioned to this chapter.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your executive director and I am confident that I am leaving you all in good hands.

Once again, thank you all for your support over the years to help make my career with the OGSA so enjoyable.

I will miss you all, Sally.

## MARCH BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday March 3, 2021 for the spring planning meeting to welcome new directors, appoint committees and set goals and strategies for the upcoming year.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We will start work on our printed membership directory shortly. We encourage members to go online and check your profile to ensure that your information is correct. The directory will be created from your member profiles.

## Board of Directors



*Al Schwemler,  
OGSA President.*



*Ryan L. Scott, Vice-  
President, Oakville GC.*



*Owen Russell,  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
Markland Wood GC.*



*Mike Pellerin, Director,  
Saugeen GC.*



*Ian McQueen, Director,  
St. George's G&CC.*



*Jessica Aytoun, Director,  
Sutton Creek GC.*



*Kevin Collier, Director,  
Riverbend Golf  
Community.*



*Andrew Nieder,  
Director, Deerhurst  
Resort.*

The OGSA virtual Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 via the Zoom platform. The 2021 Board of Directors was elected; Al Schwemler was elected president and Ryan Scott, Oakville Golf Club was elected vice president. Owen Russell, Markland Wood Golf Club, was elected secretary – treasurer. Tim Muys, Piper's Heath Golf Club, took over the role of immediate past president, but has since resigned from the board.

## EDUCATION 2021

In the absence of our annual conference, the OGSA partnered with the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association, to provide our members with an opportunity to earn IPM points virtually. This initiative was considered a success with many of our members participating.

We've also worked with supplier members and industry partners to help promote their education opportunities.

## GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The GIS took place between Feb 2 – 4, 2021. We hope you had a chance to attend and check out the impressive virtual trade show and education seminars. This was an excellent opportunity for many members who otherwise couldn't attend the GIS to get a taste of what it's all about. ■

Directors Ian McQueen, St. George's Golf & CC; Mike Pellerin, Saugeen Golf Club; and Jessica Aytoun, Sutton Creek Golf Club, were reelected and the association welcomed directors Andrew Nieder, Deerhurst Resort; and Kevin Collier, Riverbend Golf Community.

Annual Reports and 2019/20 audited financial statements were presented and approved. All reports are available by logging in to [ogsa.ca](http://ogsa.ca) in the Association Reports tab.

## WELCOME to Our New Members

<b>Victoria Brouwer</b> Hidden Lake Golf Club	<b>Class F</b>
<b>Wayne Lozier</b> Timberwolf Golf Club	<b>Class C</b>
<b>Andrew Radonicich</b> Hamilton Golf & Country Club	<b>Class F</b>
<b>Filippo Vasile</b> Dominion Golf & Country Club	<b>Class D</b>
<b>Scott Stirling</b> University of Guelph	<b>Class S</b>
<b>Michael Kenchington</b> The Granite Golf Club	<b>Class F</b>
<b>Christopher Ramage</b> Emerald Hills Golf Club	<b>Class C</b>



## Chelmsford Golf Course

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## Sixth Hole

Member since 2009

## William Baltessen

Owner and Superintendent Chelmsford Golf Course

*By Chris Lecour, Senior Turf Sales Representative, BASF. Photos provided by William Baltessen.*

### About the Course

**About the Course:** The course is known as the hidden gem of the North. It's situated on 360 acres. Narrow fairways with little room for error, but also forgiving. It was only 9 holes in 1975, then became 13 holes and eventually 18 holes designed and built by Howie Schnarr. The scenery of peaceful wildlife, surrounded by pure nature at its finest.

**Private, semi-private, public, municipal, resort?** Public

**Architect:** Howie Schnarr

**Number of holes:** 18

**Number rounds annually:** 25,000

**Practice Facility:** 350 yd driving range, 4,000 sq ft putting green

**Number of staff year-round, seasonal?:** 8

**How many mechanics, assistants:**  
Wade Baltessen (Jr. Assistant)

Northern Ontario is blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes in all of Canada and happily for many northern golfers, some exceptionally picturesque golf courses. It also happens to be home to some of the most down-to-earth and hospitable superintendents around. Chelmsford Golf Course is just that kind of golf course and William Baltessen is just that kind of superintendent. William or Willy as he is affectionately known, is also the owner at Chelmsford along with his wife Tracey. Together they, along with their children Wade and Sydney are the heart and soul of this family operation.

Willy grew up in Grand Bend, Ontario and spent his earlier years as a heavy equipment operator, working on large projects throughout Southern Ontario. He was even involved in construction projects at Sand Hills GC in Lambton Shores and River Valley GC in St. Mary's long before the thought of golf course maintenance as a career even entered his mind. It was in Southern Ontario that he met Tracey, love of his life for 27 years who



*William Baltessen, Owner and Superintendent Chelmsford Golf Course.*

originally hailed from Northern Ontario.

Those long days working construction and spending hours on the road driving to and from job sites began to wear thin on Willy, especially when his children were young. Fortunately a new opportunity came calling one day in 2004. The owner of Chelmsford GC and Tracey's father, Howie Schnarr, approached the couple and asked if they would



## In the Hot Seat

**Q:** Favourite Major?

**A:** The Masters

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

**A:** Ventrac

**Q:** Ultimate foursome:

You and which three?

**A:** Tiger, Rory and of course my wife Tracey

**Q:** Lowest round ever and where?

**A:** 83 Chelmsford GC

**Q:** Favourite meal?

**A:** Steak and Garlic Shrimp

**Q:** Favourite movie?

**A:** Caddyshack

**Q:** Favourite golf course?

**A:** Reynolds Plantation Georgia

**Q:** Favourite course designer?

**A:** They are all good

**Q:** Favourite Band?

**A:** The Eagles

like to take over the course. The Baltessen's loved visiting their family up north and were intrigued by the offer but unsure about such a major life change. Ultimately they decided they were up for the challenge and ready for something new. The following year they decided to make the move to Northern Ontario. They worked on the course and got to know the people and the area. "I decided this is what I wanted to do", Willy recalls. By the end of that season, they decided to put down new roots in Chelmsford.

Eventually he decided he would need some formal education in maintaining a golf course if they were going to take over the business someday. He completed the Turf Managers Short Course at the University of Guelph in 2007 and Baltessen continues to build on his turf education and is a welcome fixture at the OGSA Conference each winter.

During the season, Willy's day begins as one might expect for the owner/operator of a golf course, by turning on the irrigation system and making coffee. He and Tracey divide their duties at the course: Willy focuses on maintaining the golf course and handling event bookings while Tracey looks after managing the clubhouse and kitchen and is the head of PR at Chelmsford. Rarely does anyone get through the clubhouse doors



*Sydney, William, Tracey and Wade Baltessen.*

without a hug from Tracey. Their children now have their own roles at the club with Sydney helping to manage outside events, taking advantage of her post-secondary business education, while Wade is following in his father's footsteps on the course.

While there is little time during the golf

season to get away from golf course, Willy loves to sneak in a round of golf when he has the chance. In the off-season, his favourite place to travel would be "any place the weather is warm and the beer is cold", mentioning that their 4-week trip to Portugal in 2020 was his favourite trip so far.

## What You Need to Know

**Predominant grass type:** Bent poa greens

**Predominant soil type:** Clay

**Types of greens:** Push up

**Course length:** 6,500 yds

**Size of greens:** 75,000 sq ft<sup>2</sup>

**Size of tees:** 72,000ft<sup>2</sup>

**Size of fairways:** 35 acres

**Major Challenges:** Winter stress

"Meeting William at Chelmsford GC for the first time was memorable. I was a salesman...he the customer. He always had a way of making you feel like you are part of the family. Over the years I saw how he respected his staff, family, customers and myself! It was always a pleasure calling on the Club, seeing his wife Tracey and the kids Sydney and Wade."

– Kevin Jensen, Sales Manager, The Toro Company

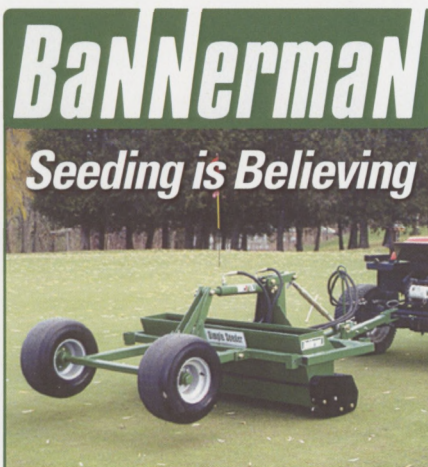




*Fifth Hole.*



*Fifth Hole.*



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Willy credits his father-in-law for being a great teacher and mentor in his first few years at the golf course and even up to Howie's passing in 2015. Baltessen is also quick to acknowledge the important role his staff plays at the course. "I have a dedicated team that have been with me for years. They all understand the tasks and jobs at hand. They are devoted to their work and to them, it's something they enjoy doing. When you have a team like this, it makes my job easier." His attitude towards his valued staff members is simple: "I treat my staff the way I would want to be treated, and always have an open mind. Our staff is more like an extended family." The family are fortunate to still employ staff members that have been with the club since before their move to the area. The same can be said for some club members who have been enjoying the course since before Howie Schnarr purchased the golf course more than 45 years ago.

Perhaps one experience at the club in particular highlights the love and respect Chelmsford's members and staff have for the Baltessen's. Several years ago, just two days prior to the start of a major weekend tournament and during a Wednesday Mens Night event, a major storm quickly blew through the course. Many trees on the property were uprooted,

branches and debris littered the course and up to four inches of rain fell on the property in only 20 minutes. Baltessen and his team were unsure if the weekend tournament could even be held in the midst of all the chaos on the course and cancelling the event was looking like a real possibility. But Thursday morning at the club started with a very pleasant surprise: every staff member turned up for work along with a numbers of member volunteers to assist with the cleanup. By the end of Thursday, most of the damage had been cleared away and the destruction caused by the previous night's storm was just a memory. The tournament was able to continue as scheduled. "I was blown away by the support," said Willy.

While Willy and Tracey have no plans to completely turn things over to the kids any time soon, he says that one day they would like to retire to a little cottage on the lake. Wade and Sydney play significant roles in the day-to-day operations of the golf course, making the thought of retirement a little easier knowing that the family business will carry on for many years to come. Fortunately that leaves plenty of time for members and guests to continue enjoying the conditions provided by Chelmsford GC's William Baltessen, who took a leap of faith with a career change over 15 years ago and has never looked back. ■





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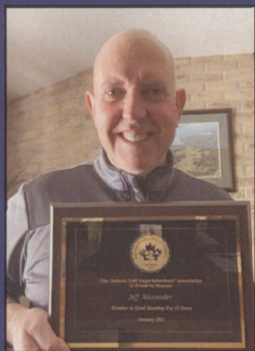


# 2020 OGSA Awards

Although the OGSA could not host our traditional awards ceremony to acknowledge our well-deserving award winners and milestone members, we have made every effort to acknowledge the following members through letters, emails, and social media as the awards were given.

## 25 Year Milestone Membership Awards

We would like to acknowledge the following members for their longstanding support of the OGSA



Jeff Alexander,  
OGSA past president



Jason Dowling,  
R.A. Properties



Richard Froese,  
Oxley Beach Golf Course



Peter Lucas,  
Watson's Glen Golf Course



Derek Lelievre,  
Manulife

Jason Miller, Miller Golf Designs (unavailable for a photo)

## Scholarship Awards



OGSA remains committed to broadening knowledge through formal education channels and by exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members. One avenue of achieving this is through our scholarship program. We are thrilled to announce this year's winners.



OGSA / Syngenta  
(Hugh Kirkpatrick) Bursary



This bursary program is to recognize the leadership, commitment and accomplishments of Assistant Superintendent members of the OGSA.

The OGSA in partnership with Syngenta are happy to present this year's recipients with a \$1,500 award for their impressive essay submissions.

Congratulations to Matt Coburn, The Toronto GC, who was unavailable for a photo, and to Christine , Rattlesnake Point Golf Club.



Turf Managers  
Short Course Award

This award is given to the student who achieves the highest marks and who is also currently employed at an Ontario golf course. This year's recipient is Rob Bruce, Rosedale Golf Club. Rob received an award of \$1,300 and a complimentary OGSA membership.

### UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIPS

Please note, the OGSA has made some changes to some of the scholarship deadlines. The OGSA will accept applications for following scholarships on or before May 15, 2021.



### OGSA / BrettYoung Turfgrass Education Awards

For students pursuing a career in turfgrass management and enrolled in a full time post-secondary program. This award is judged on essay submissions as well as academic achievement. Applications must be received by the OGSA office no later than MAY 15th of each year.

### OGSA Heritage Awards

For children or grandchildren of OGSA members enrolled in college or university program not related to turfgrass. Applications must be received by the OGSA office no later than May 15th of each year.



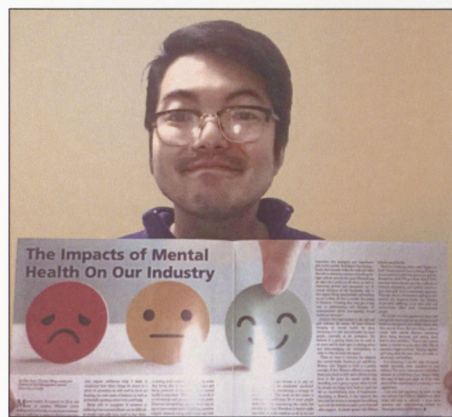
# OGSA Editorial Awards & Social Media Awards, in partnership with Bayer



## EDITORIAL AWARDS

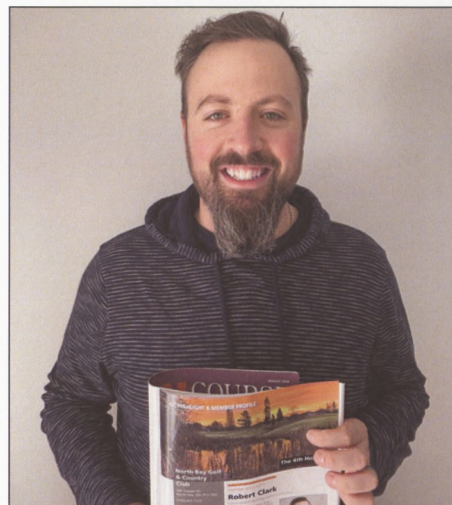
Each year the OGSA and the editorial committee produce four issues of ONCourse magazine which is largely comprised of original articles and photographs that are submitted by our members. To celebrate the contributions our volunteers the OGSA, in partnership with Bayer, presented the following awards:

### BARRY ENDICOTT ARTICLE OF THE YEAR Winner of \$400



*"The Impacts of Mental Health" featured in the November issue, written by Tommy Wang, a University of Guelph, Diploma Turf Management student member.*

### PHOTO OF THE YEAR Winner of \$400



*"4th Hole", featured in the August issue, submitted by Robert Clark, superintendent from North Bay G&CC.*

## #TODAYINONTARIO @ONTARIOGSA

The OGSA, in partnership with Bayer, awarded three cash prizes to the top social media tweets from 2020 using #todayinontario2020 and tagging @OntarioGSA.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Winner of \$400



*Matt Booth, Superintendent, Oshawa Golf & Curling Club for his photo, "Our favourite coyote basking in the morning light."*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Winner of \$300



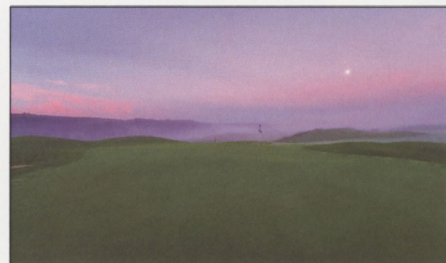
*Chris Schuurmans, Assistant Superintendent, Victoria Park East Golf Club for his photo, "Harvesting the very 1<sup>st</sup> batch of honey from the course apiary in the next few days!"*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Winner of \$100



*Yanik Mayer, Superintendent, Granite Golf Club, for his photo of a Dragonfly, captioned "Nature at its best."*

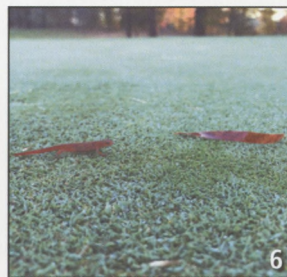
We'd also like to acknowledge the following tweeters who made our Top 10!



*4<sup>th</sup> Denis Bowie, Assistant Superintendent, Deerhurst Resort, "Kaleidoscope Sky."*



5



6



7



8



9



10

*5<sup>th</sup> Place: James Horvath, Second Assistant Superintendent, Richmond Hill GC, "Fall colours."*

*6<sup>th</sup> Place: David DeCorso, General Manager/ Superintendent, Victoria Park GC, "Eastern Newt, perfect camouflage."*

*7<sup>th</sup> Place: Rob Wright, Superintendent, The Pulpit Club, "Deer watching the Club Championship."*

*8<sup>th</sup> Place: Amanda Friends, Assistant Superintendent, Ladies G C of Toronto, "What a beauty."*

*9<sup>th</sup> Place: Kendra Kiss, "Have a great Sunday everyone."*

*10<sup>th</sup> Place: Mike Claydon, Superintendent, Savannah Golf Links, "Our resident swans having some breakfast."*



# Golf Course Dogs

## A Person's Best Friend



*Floki Thomas, 2021 Dog of the Year.*

*By Al Schwemler, OGSA President.*

The Merriam – Webster Dictionary defines a dog as: “a highly variable carnivorous domesticated mammal of the genus *Canis* (*C. familiaris*) closely related to the common wolf (*Canis lupus*) broadly: any member of the family *Canidae*”. But we prefer the terms dog, canine, doggie, hound, pooch, tyke, mutt, pup, puppy and best of all, “man’s and woman’s best friend”.

Dogs are awesome and popular on golf courses properties, especially within turf management operations. They are utilized as working dogs to manage goose populations or perform security duties, and others are companion dogs which provide moral support to course staff and golfers. The popularity of the golf course dog has resulted in the formation of social media pages (@DogsOfTurf) and calendars specific to golf course dogs (GCSAA’s Dog Days of Golf Calendar). This article will highlight a few of our K-9 members found on some of Ontario’s golf courses.

### LebanonTurf Dog Days of Golf, Dog of the Year

I’d also like to thank everyone who voted for Floki (Lesley Thomas, Scarborough G&CC) during the trades how at the LebanonTurf booth. We’re thrilled that our K-9 member won the crown. As in the past, the OGSA will donate the \$3000 awarded to our association to a not for profit organization.

### The Star of the Show - Floki

As many of you know, Floki was chosen as Miss December 2020 in the Dog Days of Golf Calendar and subsequently voted as the 2021 LebanonTurf Dog of the Year during the virtual Golf Industry Show. Floki is a 1.5 year old Borderpoo (half Border Collie and half mini poodle) owned by Lesley Thomas, Assistant Superintendent at Scarborough Golf & Country Club in Toronto. She has grey, white, and black colorations (a blue merle coat) and one blue eye and one brown eye. Lesley chose this breed due to the intelligence and loyalty of the Border Collie and the low shedding characteristics of the mini poodle. Floki earned “smartest in class” during her puppy training for socializing and will undergo recall training for those frightful episodes of chasing after coyotes.

Floki’s on-course job is to chase geese and she is also very adept at maintaining staff morale. Once she arrives at the maintenance facility, she patiently waits for the “go say hello” command, and then proceeds to happily greet everyone while receiving a plethora of pets and scratches. The rambunctious pup loves ball play, water, children, chasing squirrels, geese and the odd golf cart (a bad habit that Lesley is working to correct).

While at the golf course, Floki hangs out with Lesley pretty much full-time. Lesley mentioned that, “fortunately at Scarborough, we have lots of dog lovers. The members have really taken to Floki and love seeing her out on the course. They always want to say hello and routinely bring dog treats in their bag for her. One particular dog loving member will forget to say good morning to me, but is more focused on seeing Floki”.

The process of entering a dog into the calendar contest is rather simple. The submission form can be found on the GCSAA website, by doing a simple search for “dog calendar”.





(Top) Skye, (Below) Taff.

### Lambton's Finest – Skye and Taff

Skye is a year old female Border Collie owned by Peter Kinch, Golf Course Superintendent at Lambton Golf and Country Club in Toronto. Taff is an 11 year old male Border Collie, purchased by the golf club but cared for by the Kinch family. Peter has always owned Australian Shepherds or Border Collies due to their boundless energy and extreme focus as herding dogs. Skye is Peter's fourth dog and both dogs were obtained from Asset Kennels, who specializes in trained "goose dogs". Taff was acquired as a fully trained goose dog, and Peter chose to personally train Skye to help manage Lambton's goose population. Both dogs have lead dog personalities and will run out front of the golf cart, ready to bolt at the sight or sound of geese.

Skye has a unique look with an all-white head and red body. Peter describes Skye as "loyal and happy. She remains focused on her owner at all times. She will not stray from my side. It takes some getting used to that your dog will follow you anytime you move, even within my house. Some would feel they have a shadow or a stalker, but I like it. She is an energetic greeter of fellow staff, suppliers, and members. Her tail seems just a bit too big for her, so the greeting is not always coordinated." Skye will be bred by the original breeder when she is two years old. Her registered name is Asset's Red and White Canadian Girl.

Peter emphasized that his members love the course dogs and will often speak to him exclusively about their passion for dogs instead of the golf course or turf.

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Niko.



Shelby.



Maverick.

### Three is Not a Crowd – Niko, Shelby, and Maverick

Jessica Aytoun, Golf Course Superintendent at Sutton Creek Golf Club in Essex, Ontario is the human pack leader for three golf course dogs.

Niko is a 15 year old Border Collie/Husky mix that was a rescue (at 9 years old) from the Essex County Humane Society. The “old Man” was an abused dog at his previous home and came with some challenges. Jessica stated that “it didn’t take long to see Niko’s sweet side come out. He is a relaxed and laid back guy that would love

nothing to do but chill and eat, with the occasional trip to the golf course”. Niko is the “special pup”, and has dealt with several drawbacks including his pre-golf course life, Lyme disease, diabetes, and blindness.

Shelby is an 11 year old Border Collie, bred in Ohio. As a puppy, she had a racing stripe extending from her nose to her neck, hence the name after the sports car. Shelby was adopted a week after Jessica was undergoing nine months of physio and bed rest from a fractured hip. All her initial dog training was performed bedside. Shelby loves the water and will swim endlessly fetching balls.



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Roux.



Ace and Jack.

Maverick is a three year old Australian Shepherd which was obtained from a breeder near Guelph. Jessica describes Maverick as a “different character, very rambunctious, sweet, crazy, loves the water and plowing/pushing snow with his head”.

Although the dogs have not been professionally trained as “goose dogs”, all three dogs have been utilized for goose control due to their natural herding instincts. Niko would even lay on the nests to keep the adult geese from returning to the nesting sites. In addition to their addiction to chasing after geese, they are Jessica’s personal companions.

### Cutten Field’s Cart Companion – Roux

Roux is a nine year old Border Collie owned by Jamie Laird, Assistant Golf Course and Grounds Superintendent at Cutten Fields in Guelph. She has reddish/brown fur, a half white collar, and white “socks” on her paws. Jamie chose this breed due to their strong birding instincts and he liked the temperament and trainability of the Border Collies that were contracted for goose control at the club.

Jamie speaks fondly of Roux – “She has a lovely personality, loving and loyal. She has become defensive of the shop and golf course as she has gotten older; a little too defensive for my liking. She will play all day.” She has an amazing ability to sense when someone ‘new’ comes into the shop. The shop layout does not allow for visual confirmation, but she can tell if she knows the person before seeing them. Even when people have not been around for years come back to visit, she still remembers their scent.”

Roux was trained exclusively by Jamie by referencing training methods from books. Roux acted as a backup to the goose control service, but as the birds became less of an issue over the years, she has become a shop dog and cart companion.

### Maple City Duo – Ace and Jack

Greg Brown, Golf Course Superintendent at Maple City Country Club in Chatham ON, helped fulfill a “want” from the club when he was recently hired at Maple City. The club specified they wanted a course dog and now they have two.

Ace is an 11 year old Shepherd/Lab mix that was adopted from the

Windsor Humane Society when he was 6 months old. Greg chose this mixed breed for its size and intelligence. Ace began his golf course career at Essex Golf and Country Club in Windsor, primarily as a shop dog. He would run the course during the morning hours and spend the remainder of the day with the mechanic and staff. His favorite time of the day was lunch break with the crew. Ace still enjoys chasing squirrels and geese but is slowing down as he ages. He will mainly be a shop dog at Maple City keeping up staff morale.

Jack is a 16 week old Dutch Shepherd/Belgian Malinois that was purchased from a breeder in Hanover ON. Greg caught a break when the original buyer backed out at the last minute and Greg was able to “snag” his new pup. Greg picked this breed for a few reasons, “They are extremely active and intelligent – almost too smart for me! They have a high drive and will be well suited for running the golf course day in and day out”.

Jack will be utilized at the golf club to greet members and staff and to chase geese. Interestingly, Greg is training Jack to use his nose for tracking. He has been using deer antlers as his training tool and his goal is to have Jack track down deer antler sheds during the springtime. Jack learned to swim at an early age while attempting to cross a partially frozen ditch. To Greg’s relief, after falling through the ice, Jack was able to continue breaking through the ice and swam to the other side.

Greg has benefited from having the elder Ace assisting in puppy training. Jack will follow Ace’s lead on “sit and come” commands and Ace will give a corrective growl to end negative actions such as biting or jumping at the kitchen counter.

While it appears most golf course dogs are being utilized for goose control, one cannot emphasize the positive effect dogs have on staff morale and member interactions. Their desire to please, upbeat personalities, and comical idiosyncrasies are fascinating. These four legged favorites are true ambassadors on a golf course. ■

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# REGENERATIVE GREENKEEPING

## The Paradigm Shift

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Oct 12, 2018

*Mastering microbes, Randy Booker.*

*By Randy Booker, Director of Operations,  
Otter Creek Golf Club.*

I have been a superintendent for 28 years and living the golf life for well over 35 years. I've practiced turf academia as taught and researched conventional greenkeeping methods for most of that time. Synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and PGR's were a mainstay, along with disturbance cultivation practices of coring, verticutting and topdressing, amongst others.

Golf has been actively participating, for almost 10 decades, in the "Green Revolution" that evolved after World War 2 with the introduction of synthetic fertilizers and the ability to grow plants quickly, easily and relatively inexpensive. Soon to follow was the need for pest control products due to the N-P-K school of thought.

As educated greenkeepers we have been taught that we can control the outcomes on the green through the chemical inputs we make. Although we have learned a lot along the way, if we rely on these beliefs, research shows that the turf health we strive for will always remain elusive and certainly isn't ecologically or economically feasible. But as the industry moves toward less and less chemical applications, greenskeepers must consider a new way of turf management.

Eight years ago, I began to notice changes to our five year young bentgrass greens and tees. These surfaces were becoming softer and puffy. There was mechanical damage from mowing, and localized dry spot appeared. The area required an increased need for fertilizer, and diseases making regular appearances required routine applications of pesticides. And if that wasn't enough, I was battling

the encroachment of our friend *Poa Annua*. This wasn't supposed to be happening. The conventional green keeping model wasn't working.

That was my "Ah-ha" moment where I stood back and asked WHY? - Why am I performing these disturbance cultivation practices? Why are my turf surfaces getting worse? Why are my expenses to manage these surfaces going up from year to year and why is my pesticide use increasing?

The more I asked why, the more I realized the current methods of treating symptoms are fundamentally flawed and not sustainable for the long term. Not for mother nature and not for the bottom line.

Every year pesticides are applied with less and less of a response, and more disease and pest activity is the result. It can be defined as a circle of decline.

I decided to stop reacting to the symptoms and correct the cause by focusing on the natural and complex ecosystem that I'm working with.

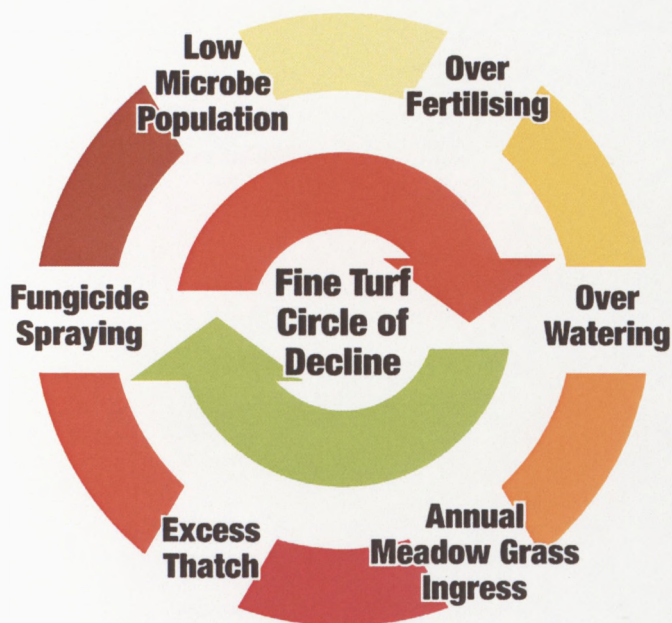
To reduce or eliminate chemical and disturbance cultivation practices, we need to start thinking of our environment as a complete ecosystem that includes both the above ground plants

and the below ground livestock or workforce. By developing a basic understanding of soil ecology, we can help ourselves to give it the chance to thrive

As Stewards of the Environment, we know that many forms of wildlife are abundant on most golf courses and we are getting better at looking after that environment. But it's time to consider the wildlife below our feet - there are more organisms in a teaspoon of soil than humans on earth. This below ground system is vitally important to the success of our product on the surface, yet we

Is it Management,  
Minerals, Organic  
Matter, Microbes or  
Mindset that is your  
limiting factor?





continue to ignore it and for the most part suppress it, and even kill it with the continued use of synthetic fertilizers and “icides”.

Plants have the remarkable ability to make their own food through the process of photosynthesis. If given the chance plants and soils work in unison and plants will give up 30% to 50% of their photosynthetic energy through root exudates to feed this underground workforce. Sugars, acids, enzymes and secondary plant metabolites are exuded from the roots as food and signaling mechanisms for microbes, in exchange for nutrients and protection from pathogens.

We cannot have a healthy plant without a healthy soil. Nature has been perfecting this process for millions of years. Nature is self-regulating and self-healing, if we begin to understand and appreciate the soil food web and nutrient cycling we begin to make the process work with us and actually for us. If we focus our intentions on increasing microbial populations, rather than eliminating them, we begin to have healthy functional soil.

If you look at most soil tests we are certainly not deficient in minerals - what we're deficient in is biology! The locked up nutrients we believe aren't available are in fact readily available if we begin to monitor the soil life and master the microbes.

## HEALTHY SOIL = HEALTHY PLANT = HEALTHY SOIL

Beneficial microbe populations will grow and become the powerhouse keeping the pathogens in check decreasing disease and pest activity while making nutrients soluble and plant available. The turf environment is very dynamic and as such the plant/microbe connection can provide nutrition and pest protection every second of every day as dictated by the needs of the plant.

So, what's our part in this as turf managers? Encourage

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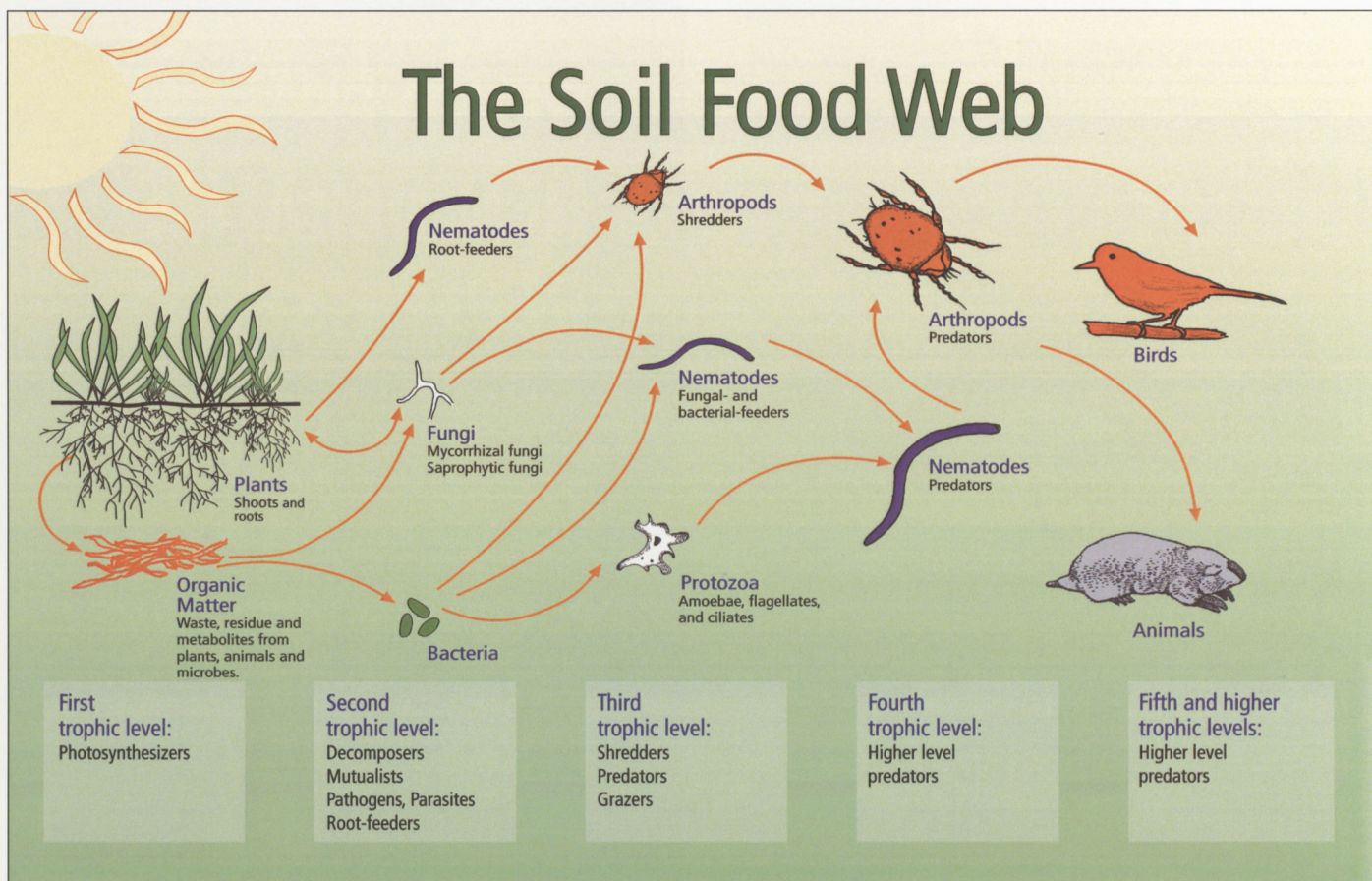


Image courtesy of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

underground workforce growth by reducing our disturbances and cut back on or eliminate synthetic inputs. Pay attention to the ecology and succession of plants with the need to increase our fungi populations and work towards a more balanced fungi to bacteria ratio of .75: 1 or 1:1 which is more in line with the needs of perennial grasses.

Evaluate current practices and ask if they are needed or are they being performed simply because we've always done it. The thought of achieving true turf health by working with Nature rather than against her, is a path to a bright future.

And spend time reading the research that is available on this subject. Excellent research has been conducted on this subject by renowned Soil Biologists and Ecologists such as Dr. Elaine Ingham, The Soil Food Web; Dr. Christine Jones, Australian Soil Ecologist, Nicole Masters, Agroecologist Integrity Soils; Dr. James White, Centre for Turfgrass Science Rutgers University and John Kempf, Advancing Eco Agriculture. And there are webinars and podcasts available online.

Regenerative Greenkeeping is all about getting back to the root cause and solving the problem. The greatest innovation in agronomy has been perfected by nature over millions of years. Life on our planet would not be possible without microbial soil organisms. Biological soil management helps us to leverage this to grow healthy turf.

As Agroecologist Nicole Masters states in her 5 M's ...is it Management, Minerals, Organic Matter, Microbes or Mindset that is your limiting factor? My guess is that it would be similar to what mine was eight years ago - Mindset. It might be time to shift that mindset paradigm and move towards balancing the eco-system that we all depend on.

In the next issue of ONCourse, I will cover how I've begun to Master the Microbes and experience positive results. ■

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# The Use of Volunteers During COVID-19

Bill Godkin, CEsafety.

With the COVID-19 pandemic upon us plus a rise in minimum wage increases that happened in Ontario in 2018 and 2019, along with a rise in utilities and other costs, some employers are looking at the use of volunteers to keep costs down. While the intentions of all concerned may be good and genuine, this can lead to some potential issues. This topic was visited by us a few years ago so I think it timely to review it once again.

First of all, you need to talk to your lawyer and insurance company as to what are the potential consequences of a volunteer contracting COVID-19 on a property you own or manage. I know what the insurance company will tell you and the news is very likely not good. More than likely your lawyer will say the same thing. Waiver forms can certainly help and if you aren't using them yet, start immediately. Signature Risk Golf Insurance has a waiver platform that is cloud based. Please consider using it.

If you do decide to allow volunteers on the property and they are doing tasks such as working on flower beds close to the clubhouse where they won't get run over by a golf cart or other motorized equipment, there are still factors to consider. Any piece of litter or garbage is a potential biohazard during this pandemic and if the volunteer is older with health issues, being exposed to COVID-19 could prove fatal. Don't forget sun stroke, heat stroke or other potential situations you really don't want to deal with.

In discussions I have had with some of my contacts in the Ministry of Labour over the last few years, it was clarified as to what their stand is on the use of volunteers in the workplace as per the Occupational Health and Safety Act for the Province of Ontario.

An unpaid volunteer falls outside of the scope of the OHS Act and is not covered by the Act. They are also not covered by WSIB and are not entitled to WSIB coverage as such. They may sign a waiver form with the employer but the waiver may not stand up in civil court. And if it doesn't, you can almost be certain of civil litigation to follow. If your

insurance policy doesn't cover this potential problem, you could be at risk of paying the damages by yourself so check with your broker first in regards to this part of the conversation.

It is still the responsibility of the employer to ensure that all volunteers are properly trained and a hazards risk analysis should be performed on the various tasks that the volunteers will be doing BEFORE they actually start doing the work. The risk categories can be as simple as High, Medium and Low risk. For example, doing work with a chainsaw on the property or changing light bulbs overtop of the ice surface in a curling club would be high risk, using a mower or a meat slicer may be medium risk and cleaning washrooms, gardening and customer service would be considered low risk.

Some examples of safety training that should be provided for volunteers performing the functions listed above could include: chainsaw training and licensing, WHMIS, ladder safety and workplace violence and harassment.

In the event that a volunteer suffers a critical or fatal injury, the employer still must report it immediately to the Ministry of Labour, conduct an investigation within 48 hours of the incident and then send that to the MOL. Failure to do so have led some employers to be fined in the \$20,000 range!

They will send an inspector to investigate the situation to determine if this kind of injury could happen to a regular employee.

The inspector may not be able to lay charges against the employer for not protecting the volunteer, but the inspector would certainly do a thorough inspection of the employer's workplace, it's programs, training records and any other categories that the Inspector deems necessary to examine. There would definitely be follow up inspections and it would take a long time for the employer to work itself off of the Ministry of Labour's radar.

What could also take place in this scenario is that the volunteer could unintentionally create a safety hazard for an employee, a customer, guest or contractor. If that happened and an employee got injured as a result, the employer could then be charged with failing to protect the employee!

Going forward, I strongly suggest that if the employer is going to use volunteers for any function, a risk hazards analysis be performed ahead of time and any training that is required be done before the volunteer starts doing the work. At least by doing this you are educating the volunteer as to what potential hazards in their work will be and control measures can be put in place to prevent the volunteers from hurting themselves, someone else or creating unexpected hazards that could lead to a critical or fatal injury. Please consider this information before allowing volunteers to perform work at your workplace. One final piece of advice is to not permit ANY person to perform work at your facility unless they have WSIB coverage and can prove it to you! ■



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# COVID 19 What 2020 Taught Us

By Ryan L. Scott, Superintendent, Oakville Golf Club.  
Joel Johnston, Assistant Superintendent, Riverbend Golf Community.

The NGCOA recently released their rounds played report for October 2020. It's no surprise to anyone who had boots on the ground at any golf course across the country last season, that the "year to date rounds growth was 18.9% over 2019 and 17.8% better than the 5 year average." For Ontario, we were right at the median, with year to date increase for rounds played of 18.2%.

Courses were offering longer tee time schedules during the day and sent out double the carts to encourage players to social distance, which reduced the time allotted for superintendents and their crews to perform maintenance, plus increased the wear and tear on the course.

With this increased popularity came new players with little to no knowledge of course etiquette – especially when it came to repairing their damage on the course. Ryan Scott, superintendent at Oakville Golf Club and OGSA Vice-president recalls, "We had traffic, wear and tear, tired worn-out turf, especially in those walk on and off areas around greens and tees. Tee decks, in particular par 3's, took a beating and were just hanging on to the bitter end. While the

growing season was winding down, golf courses were still turning out record breaking rounds."

Canada is on the fast(ish) track for COVID – 19 vaccines but with travel restrictions forecasted to last for quite some time, and social distancing requirements still prevail, the We are Golf partners have worked diligently to ensure golf will remain accessible in 2021. As stated in their recent press release, "In all colours (from Green to Grey) of the Framework, golf courses and outdoor driving ranges will be able to open (with various restrictions depending on what colour your health unit is in). As well, indoor golf simulators and indoor driving ranges, will be able to open (with various restrictions) in Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red zones." And, more details regarding the golf restrictions moving into 2021 can be found at these links.

- Rules for Stage 3 (Orange, Yellow, Green zones);  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364>
- Rules for Stage 2 (Red zone);  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200263>
- Rules for Stage 1 (Shutdown zone & Grey zone):  
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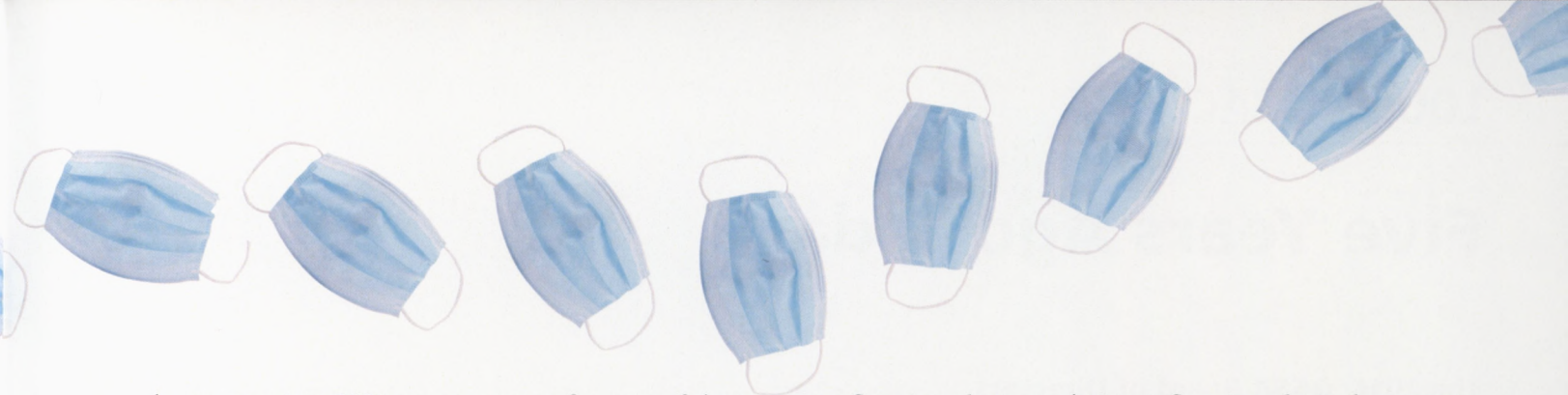
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As we move into 2021, we can prepare for more of the same restrictions we saw last year: morning meetings held outside, limited use of lunchrooms and appliances, hand sanitization stations, cleaning stations, pails with personal protective items, phones used for job boards, and staggered start times for staff to reduce the chance of contact, will all be part of the day-to-day.

So as we begin to ramp up for what promises to be another successful season, what did 2020 teach us?

Scott says it best when he states, “2020 gave us a written playbook to follow this season. We did it together as a community by networking with our peers, bouncing thoughts and ideas off each other in order to keep not only our staff and golfers safe, but to keep ourselves and our families safe as well. This is something we should all be proud of.”

Scott also recalls his biggest challenge, “I found that everyone was on board with keeping equipment and tools clean and organized throughout the course of the season, what I found the most challenging part was keeping everyone at a safe distance from one another. We are by nature, social, we want to be near each other have conversations and work closely with our co-workers.” This is set to be a challenge again in 2021.

But the success of 2020 wasn’t just because we stood six feet apart and kept our work spaces sanitized. If you ask Joel Johnston, assistant superintendent, at Riverbend Golf Community, he’ll tell you he found the experience to be tough, but with positive outcomes for himself and his team.

Johnston shares, “In a year like 2020, we are always looking for positives. What did we learn? What could we have done or do differently? One positive has been the convenience of having regular meetings with assistant superintendents, even though they may be virtual. Many of my colleagues, including myself have found that we have had stronger, more dedicated teams who are more united than in years past.”

“Dealing with Covid-19 in 2020 created an opportunity for a consolidated effort to work towards the common goal of keeping each other safe. This goal is so much more powerful than preparing for a golf tournament could ever be.

Some encouraging and prominent characteristics Johnston witnessed within his crew were: Respect, organization and collaboration. “It’s ironic that while socially distancing, we all seem to have become closer.”

Johnston often refers to working as a team is like owning a Swiss watch. If one gear is seized or missing, all of the other gears are useless. Dealing with a pandemic has made this analogy more current than ever. “We realize that if one person is not taking precautions like wearing a mask or washing their hands regularly that it can compromise the efforts and safety of everyone else. This developed a mentality within our organizations and communities that we need to count on each other.”

Johnston also reminds us that two key components to 2020’s success was offering compassion and understanding. “Can we

as Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents do more to understand our staff, what motivates them and what their goals are? Are we doing everything we can to educate our staff as to why we do what we do, some of the science behind our decision making processes? Can we do more to give them ownership over their tasks? Do we take the time to ask them how they are personally and how they are dealing with the stresses of the world we are living in? I am sure most of us can make improvements and yes being busy and having little time are limiting factors, but I think the success we have shared this season shows this investment of our time and effort might be worth it.”

As we move toward the 2021 golf season, spend time reviewing the successes of last year, and connecting with your network for best practice strategies.

And, take time for self-care. Johnston emphasizes, “There are many tools available to do this, personally, I have found taking the time at the end of the day to stop and think about or write down, what I found challenging, what was successful, and how did I feel about it. And of course, opening up to people I trust and respect has become an instrumental part of my life.” ■



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# Five Years Ago Today

### The 2016 OGSA Board of Directors



*In 2016, the Board of the Directors of the OGSA were: (L-R Back Row) Mark Prieur, Trafalgar GC, (pres); Al Schwemler, The Toronto GC; Tim Muys, Piper's Heath GC; Rod Speake, Mill Run GC, (vice pres); Scott White, OSC; (L-R Front Row) Andrew Lombardo, Wyndance GC; John McLinden, Ladies GC of Toronto (past pres); Cory Janzen, Westmount G&CC, (sec/treas); Jason Boyce, Smuggler's Glen.*

### ON THE MOVE

Ron Heesen retired from the Nottawasaga Golf Club and was replaced by Chris Browning. Wayne Barrett left Willow Valley and was replaced by Michael Giblin. Darwin Howard left Knollwood and was replaced by Dave Finn. James Scott left Shawneeki and was replaced with by Jordan Hill. Keith Bartlett left St. Georges and went to Bayer and Ian McQueen took over.

Tim Steen joined Bayer as Territory Sales Manager Professional, a position previously held by Colin White who moved on to Marketing Manager for Environmental Science Canada. Scott White joined the sales team at Ontario Seed Company.

### MILESTONES

There was a contest to rename our "Green Is Beautiful" magazine to "OnCourse", a name submitted by Mike Kehoe from Nutrite.

The OGSA and CGSA jointly hosted

the Canadian Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show at the Toronto Convention Centre chaired by John McLinden and Co-chaired by Mark Prieur.

Mark presented the first 50 Year associate member to George Bannerman from Bannerman Ltd. 25year membership awards went to Steven Phillips, Ingersoll, Keith Bartlett, St. Georges, Allan MacKay, Ainsdale, Mark Piccolo, Galt, Dave Stevens, Beaverbrook, Charles Ashley, Norfolk, Dean Baker, Burlington, Paul Evenden, Brantford, Gary Grosicki, Guelph, Steve Hallard, Oshawa, Bob Harwood, Links of Kent, John Parker, retired, and Rick Piccolo, Paris Grand.

The Barry Endicott Article of the Year award was presented to Kevin Kobzan from Granite. The William Sanson Distinguished Service Award was presented to John Taylor from Grand Niagara. Norm McCullum was presented with an Honorary Membership.



*George Bannerman, Bannerman Ltd., receives the first 50 year member award.*

### TOURNAMENTS

The Pro/Super Challenge was held at the Grand Niagara Golf Club in Niagara Falls hosted by John Taylor. The Bill Bowen Trophy was presented to first place, by retrogression, to Adam Cherry and Jason Hanna of Credit Valley and Rhod Trainor and pro David Miller of Hamilton, both teams scoring a 66. Third place went to Shane Courtney and pro Joey Pacone from Turnberry.

The 70th Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was at Whitevale Golf Club hosted by Blair Rennie. The winner of the George Darou Trophy was Rob Ackermann of Weston Golf and Country Club. First place for low gross of A Flight was Andrew Lombardo, Wyndance, second place was Stephen Hicks, Dundas Valley and Matt Booth, Oshawa came in third. Low gross for B Flight was John Alpaugh, All Turf.





*Assistants Tournament, 1st Place Team – John Mellor, Jeremy Hubbard, Paul Lenartowich, and Darren Fritz.*



*Superintendent Blair Rennie (R) receives a plaque from OGSA director Andrew Lombardo for hosting the Alex McClumpa.*



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



*Robert Ackermann (L), Superintendent at Weston G&CC, receives the George Darou Trophy from Bill Martel of Turf Care Products.*

## EVENTS

There was a special luncheon for all Past Presidents of the OGSA at the Toronto Golf Club hosted by Al Schwemler, Superintendent, and John Gravett, General Manager. 24 Past Presidents attended as follows:

Robert Moote (1967), John Arends (1971), Bob Heron (1974), Paul Dermott (1975-76), Alan Beeney (1977), Pelino Scenna (1978), Stuart Mills (1979), Ken Nelson (1981), Barry Endicott (1986), Thom Charters (1988), Neil Acton (1989), Rhod Trainer (1992), David Gourlay (1993), Keith Bartlett (2000), John Gravett, (2001), Jim Flett (2002) Mark Piccolo (2003), Paul Scenna (2005), Jeff Stauffer (2008), Doug Breen (2012), Rob Gatto (2013), Phil Scully (2014), John McLinden (2015) and Mark Prieur (2016).

## IN MEMORIAM

In June, Paul White, a very prominent member of the turf industry in Canada, passed away. Paul was a Past President of the OGSA (1980) and a Past President of

the CGSA (1992). He received the CGSA Superintendent of the Year in 2003. Paul was the superintendent at the following clubs: Kanawaki (1968), Glendale (1972), Lambton (1979), Glen Abbey (1988), Mississauga (1990) and The Briars (2000-2011). ■



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**L**ike any project you have to start with a plan and like any plan you have to start with a goal.

Pollinators have been a hot topic for a few years now. Some golf courses are going as far as maintaining bee hives on their properties in order to help honey bee populations. That is quite the brave endeavour considering the amount of work that is involved, especially when that is not the main focus of the business. It can easily get put aside for things in a higher priority category. However, with proper planning and achievable goals in place you can set yourself up for success even when there is a priority shift.

When designing a garden or area that is to promote pollinators you should take into consideration the different lifecycles of the pollinators you are looking to create a habitat for. As most of you know from your experience with pest insects, beneficial insects also have multiple life cycles. Within each life cycle they feed on different things, sometimes very specific things. They also lay eggs on very specific things or overwinter in very specific areas. Plan to have an area diversified in plant material to accommodate the needs of the different life cycles of what you are trying to attract. Do some research and really try to target certain pollinator species and then design your area outward from there. You should take into consideration that pollinators in their adult form require pollen or nectar as a food source through the entire growing season. Meaning you should be designing

with seasonal flowering times in mind and creating a diversity of plants blooming from early spring to fall.

Planting species together in larger masses helps the pollinators see and smell the food source which allows them to efficiently

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Honey bees have received the most attention or popularity in recent years but there are approximately 420 other Bee species in Ontario and are equally as important.

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feed or collect pollen, minimizing travel distance between the plants that are in flower at that time.

A pollinator-specific designed garden or area still requires the same process's as any garden design. A site analysis should be done to determine growing conditions, sunlight, soils, microclimates etc. Also, identify existing plant species on site in order to take inventory of any known host plants for pollinator egg laying and larval feeding. Identifying host plants can help to determine

where to implement a pollinator habitat or they could be transplanted to a more desirable area and implemented into the plan.

If you want to start small, consider using planters or containers to grow pollinator friendly plant material in. Growing in containers give you an opportunity to generate an educational experience for passersby, by locating the planters in high traffic areas with some informative signage or a QR code that people can scan with their phone to get the information. Starting on a smaller scale with planters placed in easily monitored locations gives you a chance to take inventory of what pollinators are currently residing in your general area as they show up to feed from the flowers in the planters. Once you have identified what species you have around you can start upscaling your efforts in a more targeted effort.

Honey bees have received the most attention or popularity in recent years but there are approximately 420 other Bee species in Ontario and are equally as important. Outside of Bee species, there are bats, wasps, flies, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and beetles that are also important pollinators with species native to Ontario.

### Here's a list of plant material to get you started:

- **Asclepias Tuberosa** (Butterfly weed) Ontario native. Use as a larval host for the Monarch Butterfly as well as food source for the adult Monarch. This is a Food source for Honey bee and Bumble bee species as well.
- **Lupinus Perennis** (wild Lupine) Ontario native. The wild Lupine is the only known food source for the Karner Blue Butterfly caterpillar. It is the only host plant for this butterfly species. Be sure to get wild Lupine and not any of the other Lupin species, as the Karner Blue Butterfly will only be found on the wild species.
- **Dill, Fennel and Parsley** are host plants for the Black Swallowtail butterfly.

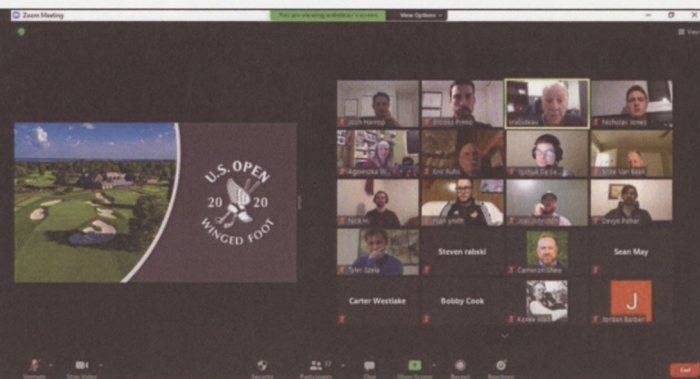
Happy pollinator hunting! ■



*Chris Cumming CLP,  
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# University of Guelph: Turf Club 2021



*Guelph Turf Club "How to Host a Major" – Stephen Rabideau from Winged Foot Golf Club.*

*By Brooks Primo, and Josh Harrop, Co-Presidents.*

The past year has been anything but ordinary. We as an industry, along with the rest of the world have had to adjust our lives through these unprecedented times. One of the many benefits of going to school for Turfgrass Management in Canada is being noticed at conferences, welcomed, and encouraged. The face-to-face networking our program offers is invaluable. This was until the world came crashing down.

At the University of Guelph, the Diploma of Turfgrass Management (DTM) program has a student-run group called Turf Club that has been around for decades. The purpose of this club is to increase networking and education opportunities for current students. In non-COVID years, guest speakers from within the turf industry are invited onto campus each week to talk about an industry related topic. The experience and information gained from these meetings is not something that you come across every day and valued by students. Luckily for second-year students, we were able to experience all the regularities of what Turf Club offers, such as in-person Turf Club, conferences, trade shows, etc. But sadly, for our first-year students, starting a University education in the middle of a pandemic has been a challenge. The first-year students have had little-to-no chance at networking with other students, professors, or people in the industry. Because of these struggles, we decided to move Turf Club online.

The transition to moving Turf Club was rather seamless due to the emergence of Zoom. Being able to host Turf Club talks online allowed us to continue Turf Club, while also opening the possibilities for potential speakers. In normal years, Turf Club is limited to speakers from the province of Ontario. There's nothing wrong with

that, as there are incredible people and golf courses in the province. However, being able to obtain speakers from around the world gives students a better idea of what opportunities this industry provides them. When we finally had our first Turf Club meeting at the end of November, it gave students a sense of normalcy, and gave the first-year students a way to be included and network. With the first few weeks going so well, the two of us decided to take things further. We opened the doors of Turf Club to the community, promoting each week's talk

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Students can meet and  
ask questions just like  
we would at an  
OGSA conference

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on Twitter, in hopes of bringing in people from the industry for students to network with. This change has led us to some of the greatest speakers in Turf Club history.

- **Dave Delsandro**, Oakmont Country Club
- **Scott Powers**, Oncore Group, LLC
- **Paul Scenna**, Toronto Golf Club
- **Dean Baker**, Burlington Golf & Country Club
- **Gordon McKie**, The Old Course at St. Andrews
- **Colin Young**, Beacon Hall Golf Club
- **Stephen Rabideau**, Winged Foot Golf Club

Despite the incredible list of names listed above, we're just getting started. After the success and interest level from the first talk about hosting a major championship, Mr. Rabideau has agreed to speak again in March. This talk will focus on the greens reconstruction and restoration that recently occurred at Winged Foot GC. When the semester is done, we will have had speakers from Ontario, British Columbia, the United States, St. Lucia, Scotland, and New Zealand; something that would have been impossible just twelve months ago. The responses and feedback we have received from everybody has been phenomenal. After each talk we receive messages thanking us for opening the talks to Twitter. Some people miss the comradery that Turf Club brings, while others never got to experience it. We offer open seats to information you may not find anywhere else, while also being great promotion for our program. Even when the world reverts to normal someday, Turf Club has been changed for the better, forever. This change has closed doors, while also opening Turf Club to a world of information and opportunity.

We have exchanged thousands of emails and messages with possible speakers, and it has been incredible to see the willingness to help students, despite their busy schedules, from some of the biggest names in our industry. Students can meet and ask questions just like we would at an OGSA conference, or any other networking event. We understand none of this would be possible without these guest speakers so we can't thank them enough for what they are doing for Turf Club.

The turf industry is a very small and close industry. Everybody knows everybody. Luckily due to the introduction of an online Turf Club, the industry is closer than it's ever been. ■



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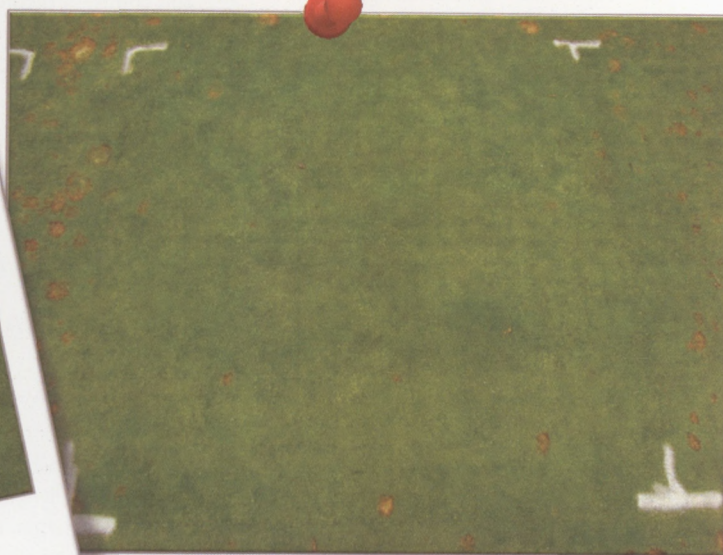
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# Spring 2021

Doug Breen

## Vandal-tainment

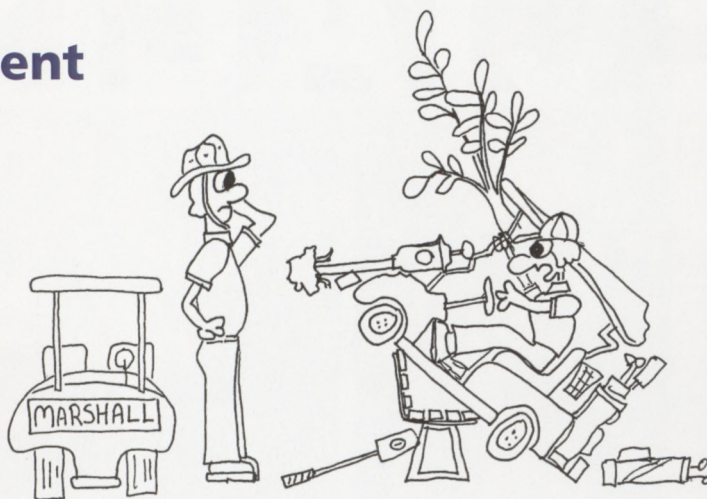
By Doug Breen, Superintendent,  
Golf North Properties.

Way back in 2002, a group of young men (whose parents had clearly done a poor job of raising them) sullied theatres with the release of *Jackass - The Movie*. Not to be confused with *Jackass - The TV Show*, *Jackass - The Novel*, or *Jackass - The Opera*. For those who are too young, too old, or too dignified to have seen this cinematic masterpiece - it featured the insertion of fireworks into various human orifices - and devolved from there.

Normally, such a movie would fly under the radar for most of us. Using bungee cords to launch a man airborne in a portable toilet is not exactly the highest form of humour. But that summer, the movie (alongside its alcohol fueled real-life imitators) was everywhere. I became aware of the phenomenon when damage to golf carts increased exponentially - seemingly overnight. Apparently, one of these academy award destined films (there were three sequels) - devoted several minutes to the destruction of golf carts - on a golf course. It was a long, long summer of roof replacements and broken steering mechanisms.

More recently, there were a rash of Instagram posts with people running over their unsuspecting friends with golf carts. I'm not sure whether people posted those after they drove their friend to the hospital, before the drive, or during. This fad (no surprise) began to reveal itself on public golf courses as well - and the perpetrators were always shocked to find out that running over your buddy with a golf cart could seriously injure him. I realize that this is the generation of Tide Pod eaters, but I would have thought it pretty obvious, that broken bones and soft tissue damage would be a clear and present danger.

Then there is the third group in the Holy Trinity of cart vandalism - the ones that just wreck things without encouragement from media (social or otherwise). These



What makes you think we touched the governor?

are the same people who grew up smashing children's snowmen, and pulling the wings off flies - as adults. When you're walking down a sidewalk, and someone has broken off a newly planted street tree by rocking it for half an hour, and you think, "Who the hell would do that?" - it's these guys. They simply destroy; without remorse, joy, or any other human emotion. They are psychopaths - and we rent them golf carts.

There is a fourth group, and I sometimes feel sorry for them. It's the group that simply can't drive. Sometimes it's a ten-year-old, and Grandpa thought it would be "fun" to let him drive the cart down the steepest hill on the property. Sometimes it's a senior who goes for the brake and hammers on the accelerator. Sometimes you wonder how a person ever got their licence in the first place, when they can't judge the distance to an immovable object that's only a few feet away. How do you drive 18 holes on a flat tire without noticing?

Last spring/summer, during the Great COVID Golf Rush, we saw a lot of people driving carts who had never been on one before. Many had never been on a golf course before. Some barely took a swing, but realized that it was the only place where you could drink in public with your friends (as restaurants, patios, beaches, and everything else were closed). Golf was simply the activity - drinking in the sun with your friends, was the purpose.

Let's not be hypocrites though - who among us hasn't done the same thing to a

bowling alley? And just like in that bowling alley, the serious players look at the "newbies" with suspicion, concern, and often derision. At some level, they're happy to see renewed interest in the sport they love - but they really don't want to play anywhere near them, resent the fact that they're taking up limited space, and hope that they aren't damaging the property.

Now I understand the sideways glances we used to get

when we stumbled across the street, from the Stampede Ranch to the Woodlawn Bowl, in our Aggie jackets back in the 1980's. They were happy to take our money, but everyone cringed at our presence, and the "Marshall" certainly kept a keen eye on us. Speaking of which, I think I still have a pair of their rental shoes around here somewhere.

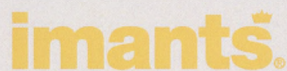
The cart dramatically increases your ability to carry alcohol. It also dramatically increases your ability to do damage to yourself, your friends, the golf course - and of course, the golf cart itself.

The result is always the same for the cart. Low branches tear off roofs. Stones, curbs, and bridge walls break steering or bend rims. They end up in ravines, creeks, and ponds, but by some miracle, none of this damage is ever caused by "driver error". They'll look you straight in the eye, and swear that they, "Thought there was something wrong with the brakes", or that the "Steering felt funny all day." Nothing could be more hilarious than releasing the cart strap on someone else's bag, until the driver shaft snaps - then suddenly it's a cart maintenance problem, and the person responsible for the bag falling to the ground gets super quiet. Oh, the hours spent pouring over maintenance records! The time spent by mechanics to show that, "The brakes and steering are fine!" Hurray for video surveillance of the tournament staging area.

And thank goodness for the most important phrase in public golf - SIGNED CART WAIVER. ■



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