

March 2023

ON COURSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**OGSA
Conference
Issue**

**Commercial
Diving**

**Tree Planting
for Success**

Using Data
Improve Agronomic
Management Decisions
and the Golf Experience

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ON THE COVER

1st place #TodyInOntario Social Media Contest photo submission from Nick Amsen, Superintendent, Mono Hills GC. Captioned, *I'll never get tired of these mornings.*

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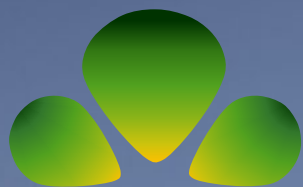
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Let's Educate and Inspire

After several years of serving on the OGSA board of directors and the executive committee, I am honoured to serve as your president this year, and I look forward to working with Ian McQueen (vice president) and Sean Gunn (secretary-treasurer), who join me on the executive team.

I want to thank immediate past president, Ryan Scott, for his dedication to the OGSA and excellent leadership during his tenure. I would also like to thank Al Schwemler for continuing to serve on the board again this year as director; his tenure and experience in our industry will be a valuable resource for the OGSA as newer directors become more familiar with the association. Our directors are spread out across the province from London to Belleville and Oakville to Huntsville. I look forward to working with Brad Hutchinson, Paul Snider, Kevin Collier, and Andrew Nieder to ensure that 2023 is another successful year for the OGSA.

It was great to see so many superintendents, assistants, mechanics, students, and industry professionals in person at our OGCMC in Collingwood. As volunteers on the board of directors, we are passionate about delivering a professional, organized, and enjoyable opportunities for members to connect. Our executive director, Courtney White, did an excellent job organizing the three-day event for 373 individuals. When you take a minute to think about what it takes to plan an event of this size, you realize and respect the effort that goes into it all. Thanks Courtney!

In general, one of my favourite things to see is the celebration of excellence in a field or a sport. Listening to Dean Baker accept the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award was a highlight of the conference. Anyone who has met Dean knows that he's a Hall-of-Famer in our industry. He is humble and inspiring, and his acceptance speech choked up the crowd of over 350 people and



Owen Russel, OGSA President, Superintendent, Markland Wood GC.

left us all looking forward to starting this season. (Congratulations Dean!)

During his acceptance speech, Dean reminded us that building a strong and lasting team environment is critical to our success in this industry and the best way to do this is to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow as turfgrass professionals. I'm proud to say that we saw this in action with so many members bringing their entire teams to the 2023 conference to educate and inspire, and we hope to this level of enthusiasm continue as we plan for next year.

"Building a strong and lasting team environment is critical to our success in this industry and the best way to do this is to provide them with opportunities to learn and grow as turfgrass professionals."

Dean also reminded us that we need to inspire young people. The OGSA welcomed a great group of young turf professionals from the University of Guelph that were able to attend the conference, for free, thanks to Brett Young's support of the Future Leader's Program. In this, my 25th year as a member of the OGSA, I have to say this it is wonderful to meet the up-and-coming turf professionals and see then connecting with the veterans at the conference. Future leaders, I hope you valued the experience too. Finding ways to

connect young people to our profession is a key priority for the OGSA as we move into our 100th year.

Before I close, I want to thank the suppliers for their support during the conference which is essential in allowing us to provide such a talented lineup of speakers and social events. Listening to the presentations was an excellent reminder to take pictures of the good, the bad and the beautiful. We are fortunate to work in an industry where we can produce such tangible results.

Enjoy the rest of the off season, and good luck with opening your courses this spring! To quote our good friend Dean Baker, let's "get the job done and have fun doing it." ■

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

As we roll into 2023, we say good-bye to two key contributors, Steven Rabski and Lisa Marie Guilfoyle who have taken on new challenges this year both personally and professionally! With our BIG thanks, we wish them an awesome year ahead. We'd also like to welcome Mark Weibe to the committee!

We've got a jammed packed conference issue for you and more articles from our speakers to come in June!

Be sure to say thank you to this team for all they do to bring you ONCourse each quarter!

Enjoy!



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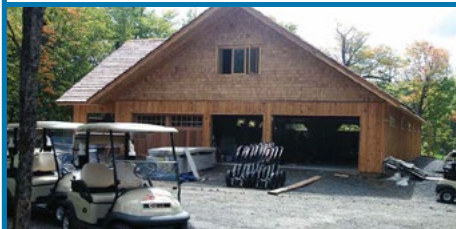


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WHAT'S NEW



By Courtney White, Executive Manager,
OGSA and ONCourse Editor.
manager@ogsa.ca

We are looking forward to 2023!

The OGSA Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday, January 18, 2023, at the Blue Mountain Conference Centre during the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference. The 2023 Board of Directors was elected and new OGSA bylaws were passed. The AGM documents and the new bylaws are available to members in the member portal or on our website.

With several board meetings already on the schedule, a lineup of events and our Centennial in less than a year, we have a busy 2023 ahead. The OGSA Board of Directors met in person on March 27 & 28, in Niagara Falls to set OGSA goals for the next two years, and to plan for our Centennial Conference which will take place at the Fallsview Casino Resort. Although planning for the centennial year will be a priority, we will also complete the BMP document and publish it, and build resources for members.

2022 was a record year for new membership and we welcome to all of you. We would also like to thank our returning members! Your continued support is valued. Please look for announcements regarding scholarships, event registration, and other news through clippings and on social media and don't forget to participate in Today in Ontario! ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING OGSA EVENTS

May 16, 2023

CAN / AM

Forest Lake CC, Bloomfield Hills, MI, USA

August 10, 2023

Assistants Tournament

St. Thomas G&CC, Union, ON

Sept 25 & 26, 2023

OGSA Championship

Deerhurst Resort & Muskoka Bay
Muskoka, ON

January 16 – 18, 2024

Ontario Golf Course Management Conference
Niagara Falls, ON

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Markland Wood Golf Club



Ian McQueen

Vice-President
St. George's Golf & Country Club



Sean Gunn

Secretary-Treasurer
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Warkworth Golf Club



Paul Snider

Director
Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club



Al Schwemler

Director and Past President



Kevin Collier

Director
Riverbend Golf Community

WELCOME to Our New Members

Casey Kea Cedarhurst GC	Class C	Yang Yang Lambton G&CC	Class C	Scott Ryall Scarborough GCC	Class C
Steve Kennedy Stonetree Golf & Fitness	Class A	Angaddeep Singh GolfLinks Toronto Inc	Class D	Stephen Denis Scarborough GCC	Class C
Patrick Mahoney Angus Glen GC	Class C	Jeremy Marshall Black Diamond GC	Class A	Dave Hughes Peterborough GCC	Class F
Cory Gill Sunningdale G&CC	Class C	Logan Mobberley RiverBend Golf Community	Class F	Hantan Nichols Twenty Valley GC	Class C
Ryan Bisser University of Guelph	Class S	Devon Durand White Squirrel GC	Class C	Matthew Baute Beach Grove GCC	Class C
McKenzie Crawford National Pines GC	Class C	Scott Herod University of Guelph	Class S	Derek Fox Maple City CC	Class C
Benjamin Wheeler Redtail GC	Class B	Michael Kooy University of Guelph	Class S	Trevor Lorimer Granite Golf Club	Class F
Ian Goring Queenston/St. David's Golf Club	Class D	Darin Hill Oslerbrook GCC	Class C	Jessie Ogden Coppinwood GC	Class F
Tim Hand Hidden Lake GC	Class F	Joshua Prohaska Diamond Black GC	Class F	Tyler Moir Oaks GCC	Class C
John Hiemstra Legacy Pines GC	Class D	Ray Stout Greystone GC	Class D	Mark Thordarson University of Guelph	Class S
Jared Foster University of Guelph	Class S	John Pendreigh RiverBend Golf Community	Class F	Katie Giles University of Guelph	Class S
Dillon Petrie Donalda Club	Class C	Andrew Klein Scarborough GCC	Class C	Erik Henriksen Credit Valley GCC	Class F
				Ryan Andrew Scott Maple Downs GCC	Class F

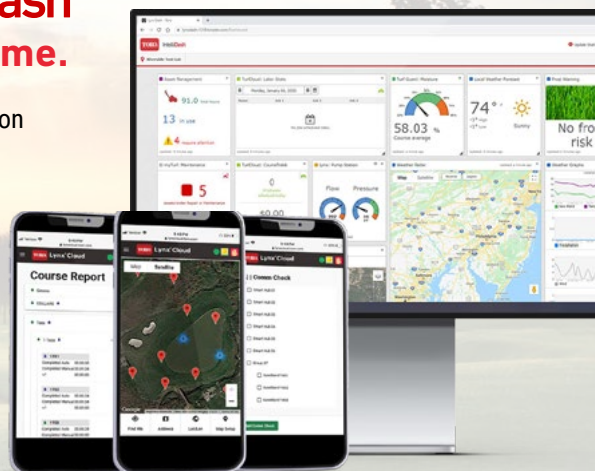


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11th Hole, The National.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The National is a George and Tom Fazio masterpiece built in 1974. Chris Dew shares three things that he thinks are fabulous about the course (despite it being as tough as nails!). The separation between holes on only 168 acres; the close proximity between greens and tees (for walkers); and just steps from the front door of the clubhouse, members can access not only the first tee, but the practice tee, the putting green, and the short game area as well.

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

Architect: George and Tom Fazio

Number of holes: 18

Number of rounds annually: 21,000

Practice Facility: Yes

Number of staff year-round/seasonal: Year-round, nine; seasonal, 24-28.

Number of mechanics & assistants: Two associate superintendents, one assistant superintendent, one equipment manager, and one assistant equipment manager.

Member since 1983

Chris Dew

Golf Course
Superintendent



Chris Dew

By Chris Lecour, Senior Turf Sales Representative, BASF

Few Golf Course superintendents have the opportunity to call the #1 ranked golf course in Canada home. It's rarified air and an exclusive club. It is even more special when you consider just how long Chris Dew has managed the grounds at The National Golf Club of Canada. He was hired as superintendent in 1997 and just celebrated his 26th year at The National, a course that is perennially ranked among the Top 5 in Canada, enjoying the #1 ranking on many occasions. Dew was also recently honored by

his peers as he was named the CGSA's 2021 Superintendent of the Year.

Dew began his career in golf course maintenance after a brief stint in the publishing industry, or as he puts it, "my first job was a paper route, but that didn't qualify me for a mortgage, so I moved into Greenkeeping." He realized he was destined for a career in turf management when he knew he wasn't good enough to make a living playing the game but wanted to be involved in the industry in some capacity. Originally from Sarnia, his first job at a golf course was at the Greenwood GC. It was not a love of turf that motivated him to apply at

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q: Favourite Major?

A: The Masters

Q: Best piece of turf equipment?

A: A tie between my paint gun and a Silky pruning hand saw!

Q: Favourite Band?

A: It always seems like it's the last band I've seen in concert...so Fleetwood Mac for now.

Q: Ultimate foursome

A: You and which three? Ackerman, Bartlett, and Scenna!

Q: Lowest round ever and where?

A: One under at the Chippewa Golf Club

Q: Favourite meal?

A: Anything that ends with a brownie, carrot cake or a cream pie!

Q: Favourite movie?

A: A tie between Pulp Fiction, Forrest Gump, Field of Dreams and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. And who can forget Roadhouse.

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: Not sure if I have found it yet...

Q: Favourite course designer?

A: Tom Fazio

Greenwood, but rather the free golf provided for employees of the club.

Dew attended the University of Guelph's Short Course and upon graduation, moved into a "quasi-assistant" role at the Sarnia GC where he spent two seasons before moving to Weston G&CC as the assistant superintendent under the tutelage of Bob Brewster. He spent seven seasons at Weston, working with both Brewster and Thom Charters. Eventually he moved on to Royal Woodbine during its construction and grow-in. Finally in 1997, he accepted the position of superintendent at the National Golf Club of Canada. As many in the turf industry know, The National is considered one of the most challenging, true tests of golf available in the country; its day-to-day conditioning is well known, and certainly appreciated by its discerning membership who demand the very best.

Dew believes that the key to maintaining a successful relationship with your staff and maximizing their productivity is showing that you care. If anyone understands what makes Dew such an effective leader and turf manager at The National, it's Grant Murphy. The two spent 16 years working



Coolers Open!

together – Murphy serving as the associate superintendent at The National and currently as the superintendent at Barrie CC. Murphy says his partnership with Dew was so successful and lasted so long because both men were able to have fun doing what they love to do. "It was never not cool to be there (at The National). It was always exciting and so much fun to be a part of that operation. Chris provided clear communication and clear expectations

which relieves 95% of the stress in planning."

Murphy also believes Dew's success can be traced to his insatiable curiosity. Refusing to put himself in a box, Dew is generally curious in nature. "Chris reads a lot, is a great conversationalist and listener, and is very genuine. He takes his job very seriously but tends not to take himself seriously at all."

Keith Bartlett, superintendent at Scarboro GC, is a long-time industry colleague and

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Predominate grass type: Bentgrass/Poa Annua or as our golf broadcasters call it 'Poanna'

Predominant soil type: Clay

Types of greens: California style

Course length: 7330

Size of greens: average size is 5600 sq. ft.

Size of tees: 3 acres

Size of fairways: 22 acres

"Chris Dew is one of the most respected superintendents in all of Canada. In addition to his agronomic prowess, it is common knowledge that Chris has been a great mentor and motivator to many accomplished and budding turf managers. He conducts himself with great integrity and his craftsmanship may be viewed as one of the best in the industry."

– Al Schwemler, OGSA Past President



10th Hole, The National.

friend of Dew's. He is also no stranger to the 'Superintendent-At-The-Best-Golf-Course-In-Canada Club' from his tenure at St. George's G&CC. Bartlett spearheaded Dew's nomination for the CGSA Superintendent of the Year award and says of the process, "as I recall from the submission, I gathered letters from across the industry from GMs, golf pros, golf writers and architects who all, not only commented on his skill as a turf manager but more the person who understood the industry and the game, and prepared the golf course to meet the challenges of member expectations. He is a very good communicator with members especially when there may be minor challenges or to educate the members on projects etc." Bartlett also offered the following lessons he has learned from his friendship with Dew:

1. If you can't do something well, then don't do it. Doing something only partially will be a failure.
2. Think about your actions before doing something. Pause, reflect, then act. This can pertain to people or turf. For example, before you fertilize or water, is it what the turf needs and what is the impact on playability it is not always how it looks but how it plays.

One current employee at The National who offered his perspective on Dew's influence as a leader and superintendent is Tyler Szlea, who shares day-to-day management duties at the club with Stephen Pitkin. Szlea appreciates that Dew is not a micro-manager, but rather hires people to do their job and stays out of their way, serving as a mentor and offering

guidance to employees along the way. "Chris focuses on the big picture at the club," says Szlea. "He is always pushing himself, just like he pushes the turf."

When asked to share some words of wisdom to anyone considering a career in turf or someone who has only recently entered the industry, Chris offers "Be fully engaged in the game, the industry, and the people within it. All while setting yourself apart from others via your work habits, energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity." Dew appreciates and recognizes the contributions of the Turf Department, a true indicator of a strong leader. "Contribution is a good choice of words. And it is a pleasure to see how our team contributes to our experience every day. And it is a gratifying to see and hear how our team integrates within a day's play." ■

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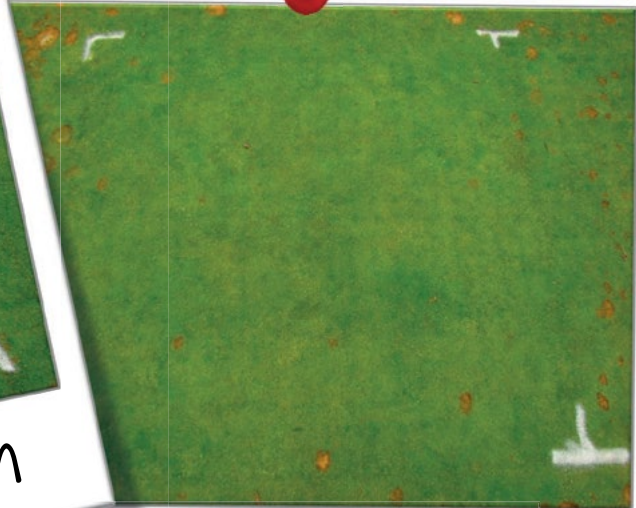
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2023 OGCM CONFERENCE

Education Sessions

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SYNGENTA

This year's Ontario Golf Course Management Conference was one for books. The turnout was outstanding, with high levels of energy and enthusiasm to match. It was exciting to connect with so many members for learning, networking, and comradery. We'd like to thank our speakers for taking the time to prepare for and attend our conference. The survey feedback is in, and the education sessions were on point! Thanks to our education partner Syngenta for helping the OGSA to bring a great group of speakers to the stage.



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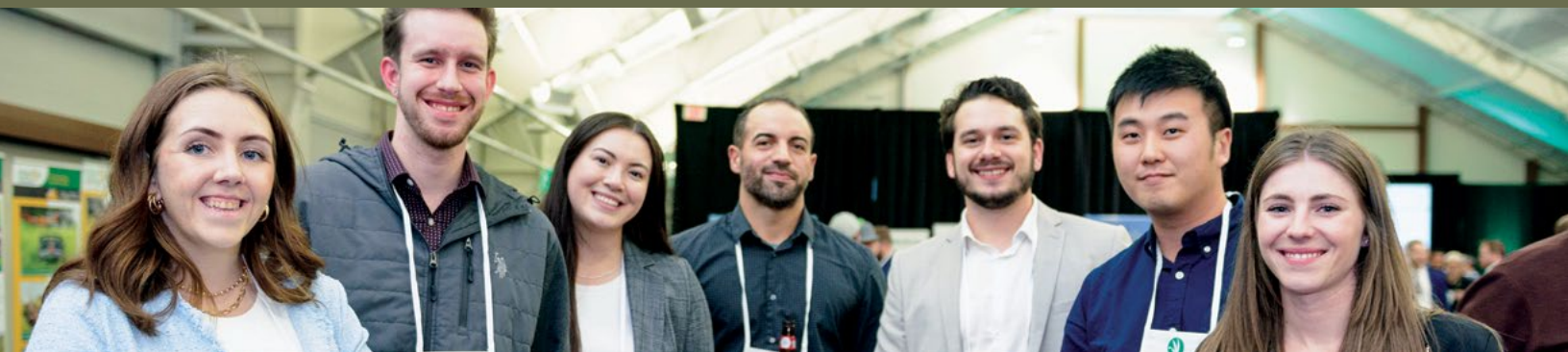
Networking

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TURF CARE & GC DUKE

Although Professional development is the order of the day at the OGSA conference, there was no shortage of networking opportunities! Turfcare hosted an awesome evening reception for all attendees on day 2, GC Duke partnered with the OGSA to host the networking lunch. These events gave attendees an opportunity to discuss the day's teachings, catch-up with old friends and make new connections!







OGSA Future Leaders Program

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRETT YOUNG

Conference season in our industry is a wonderful time for up-and-coming superintendents. One of the things we are most proud of is that we are able to bring turfgrass students to our conference at no cost to them, through the OGSA Future Leader program in partnership with BrettYoung. With the demand for turfgrass professionals at a high, the Future Leader program offered superintendents the opportunity to network with a group of engaged and enthusiastic students.

"The 2023 OGSA Conference surpassed all my expectations. A lot of new knowledge was gained in the three days whose value continues to manifest weeks later."

Lawi Sultan Njeremani,
UofG, Future Leader



Front Row (L-R): Mike Banton; Kyle Sbrocchi; Connor Brown; Matty Rodrigue; Amy Bultena; Katie Giles; Ryan L. Scott (OGSA President); Jasmine Wong; Elliot Gonsalvez; Luka Turkovich; Lawi Njeremani; Kelly Barnett. **Back Row (L-R):** Joe MacNeil; Matthew Lovelace; Nicholas Lafontaine; Brooks Schaefer; Sean Van Beurden; Andrew Hardy; Joel Archambault (BrettYoung); Owen Singer; Ron Milne (Brett Young); Lucas Rogers. **Far Back:** Steve Hewgill (BrettYoung). **Missing from Photo:** Eric Boehling, Max Spolsky, Dong Ho "Carl" Shin.

"This was my first time attending the OGSA conference. What an incredible experience with all of the educational speakers and the many vendors there to present their industry experience and professional products and services. Thank you to OGSA and BrettYoung for giving us the opportunity to attend and make some new connections."

Mike Banton,
UofG, Future Leader

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OGSA Awards Ceremony

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENVU

The sold-out awards luncheon was packed with celebrations and standing ovations, which created some of our favourite memories of the 2023 OGSA conference. It was an honour to share the day with Dean Baker our William Sansom Award winner for 2023, and celebrate our milestone members and award winners! We'd like to offer our sincere thanks to Envu for their continued partnership to help us bring this wonderful event to our members.

We must take a moment to mention Plant Products, Belchim, GT Golf & Turf, Pumps Plus, Ontario Seed Company, and Target Specialty Products for their sponsorship

support to bring us a photographer for headshots, coffee, hotel key cards and name badges to the event. These details are what create such a complete conference experience for OGSA members.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to all the suppliers who participated in the OGSA conference by either purchasing a table, being present to network or providing a prize for the onsite auction! Many members had a lot of fun with it, and the OGSA raised \$6475 to support the Scholarship and awards program. We look forward to developing our financial support opportunities for members.

50-Year Members

KENNETH WRIGHT

The OGSA acknowledged Kenneth Wright, retiree, and life member, for reaching the 50-year milestone. Unfortunately for us, Kenneth was unable to attend the ceremony; fortunately for him, he was living his best life snowmobiling! Kenneth will receive his award at a later time.

TURF CARE



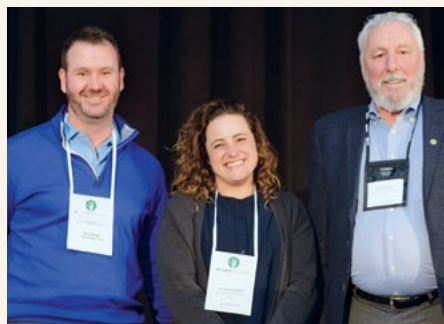
(L-R) OGSA Secretary Treasurer Ian McQueen presents 50-Year Milestone award to long time member and great supporter of the conference, Turf Care, represented by Bill Martel.

Editorial Awards

ONCourse is primarily comprised of original articles and photos that have been submitted by our members. We love celebrating these contributions through our Editorial Awards!

BARRY ENDICOTT ARTICLE OF THE YEAR & ONCOURSE PHOTO OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Lisa Marie Guilfoyle won for her submission *100 Years in the Making, Celebrating Ontario's Golf Club Centennials*, published in June 2022. Rob Wright won for his charming photo of *Sheep at holes 10 & 11, The Pulpit Club*, published in August 2022.



(L-R) Photo of the Year winner Rob Wright, Superintendent, The Pulpit Club, & Article of the Year winner, Lisa Marie Guilfoyle, Second Assistant, Burlington G&CC with Al Schwemler, OGSA Past President and Director.

25-Year Member

STEVEN MUYS



(L-R) Steven Muys, Superintendent, Twenty Valley GC, receives his 25-year milestone recognition plaque from Ian McQueen, OGSA Secretary Treasurer.

Scholarship Awards

Each year the OGSA awards over \$13,000 to support members, their families and turfgrass students. For more information on our scholarship awards available please visit ogsa.ca/scholarships.

Meet this year's winners.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SYNGENTA.

In memory of Huge Kirkpatrick.



(L-R) Nicholas Berdusco, Assistant Superintendent, Credit Valley G&CC, Kevin Collier, OGSA Director, Matt Legg, Syngenta, & Marco China, Assistant Superintendent, St. George's.

TURFGRASS EDUCATION AWARD



(L) Elliott Gonsalves, Beacon Hall GC & (R) Eric Boehling, U of G with (M) Paul Snider, OGSA Director.

PAUL BROWN INTERNSHIP AWARD

Funded by G.C. Duke



(L-R) Scott Herod, receives award from G.C. Duke Equipment rep Jason D'Andrea, & Paul Brown's son, Greg Brown.

HERITAGE AWARDS



(L-R) Jason Ireton, Plant Products, accepts award on behalf of daughter Caitlyn Ireton, & Laura Clark, daughter of Andrew Clark.

TURF MANAGER'S SHORT COURSE AWARD



(L-R) Josh Whalen, Loyalist GC accepts his award plaque from OGSA director, Brad Hutchinson, Warkworth GC.

#TodayInOntario Social Media Awards

Today In Ontario social media contest has launched again for 2023! Share your favourite moments on the course! See the cover for our first place winning photo.

1st Place: *I'll never get tired of these morning views*, submitted by Nick Amsen, Superintendent, Mono Hills GC (see front cover).

3rd Place: *Our resident coyote pups. Fun watching them grow up*, submitted by Matthew Booth, Superintendent, Oshawa GCC.

2nd Place: *Nice Saturday morning*, submitted by Ryan Surette, Puslinch Lake GC.



(L-R) 1st place winner, Nick Amsen, Superintendent, Mono Hill GC, & 3rd place winner Matthew Booth, Superintendent, Oshawa G&CC with OGSA VP Owen Russell. 2nd place winner Ryan Surette was unable to attend.



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WILLIAM SANSOM DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD – 2023.

Dean Baker

SUPERINTENDENT, BURLINGTON G&CC

*Written by Madeleine White, Associate Editor
& Special Projects, OGSA. Photos taken by Meg
Matera, Meg Matera Photography.*

This year, we had the honour of celebrating the 12th recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award, an occasion that filled the OGSA Awards Luncheon with immense pride and admiration. All eyes were on Dean Baker as the ballroom, filled with friends and colleagues, erupted into a standing ovation.

Considered our most prestigious award in the name of William Sansom, the OGSA's first president, this award recognizes the remarkable contributions made towards the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. As the nomination letters poured in, Dean's impact on the industry throughout his career was undeniable.

Dean's current position as superintendent at Burlington G&CC was preceded by years of experience resulting in an inspiring resume. From 1989-2000, he served as superintendent at Glen Abbey Golf Club where he hosted 11 Canadian Open Championships. In fact, Dean Baker holds the distinction of having hosted more PGA

"Dean has a magnetic personality. Only a brief meeting with him will leave you feeling inspired, capable, worthy, valued, seen, and heard. This innate ability of Dean's has resulted in a profound impact on countless generations of turf students, seasonal staff, golf course technicians, mechanics, assistants, and superintendents."

Cam Shaw, University of Guelph

Tour events than any other superintendent in Canada. In the words of Keith Bartlett, "his ability to work through the many challenges associated with this event speaks volumes to his tenacity, hard work, calmness, and humour that has and still does serve him well." His work has even been recognized by the Nicklaus Group for having the best conditioned Nicklaus-designed golf course



in North America! In 2001, he moved to The Club at North Halton until his transition to Burlington in 2012.

Dean's impact off the course is as significant as it is on; he has made waves in the greater golf industry by supporting the OGSA, GCSAA, and the CGSA (who named him Superintendent of the



(L-R) Angelo Capannelli, Mark Scenna, Ryan Scott, Dean Baker, Jennifer Baker, & Cam Shaw.

"In my opinion, he sets the standard when it comes to hard work and commitment in providing optimum turf conditions for members and golfers alike and just as important a healthy and positive work environment for his employees."

Angelo Capannelli
Hutcheson Sand & Mixes

Year in 2018), for three decades, and through his commitment to educating the next generation of turf managers at the University of Guelph. "Despite his many badges of agronomic accomplishment on the course, the man remains humble and focused on the things that matter most in this business - the people," Cam Shaw wrote. "Resting high above his other professional accomplishments, are Dean's countless impactful relationships with people; relationships founded on support, camaraderie, mentorship, personal growth,

"He has trained a countless number of people who have gone onto success within the industry and for that, he remains a sought-after person when seeking advice."

Keith Bartlett, Scarboro G&CC

inspiration, and love for the industry."

It's more than clear that he values the need to promote education not only to support the up-and-coming, but to protect the future of the industry. "If you see someone young climbing the ladder who wants to be better, send them to school," a mantra Dean strongly believes in, shared with all during his stage time. There's no doubt his emphasis on giving back through mentorship and education is fundamental to sustaining excellence in Turf Management. ■

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Using Data

TO IMPROVE AGRONOMIC MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND THE GOLF EXPERIENCE WITH ADAM MOELLER

Written by Marco China, Assistant Superintendent, St. George's G&CC.

Data collection is a term often used in our industry and has been one that can be either confusing or distracting. It is easy to get lost in a sea of data and it can be hard to know what information is really important for daily operations. Adam Moeller, Agronomist and Director of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section Education was able to shed some light on this hot topic at the recent Ontario Golf Course Management Conference in The Blue Mountain. Moeller guided the group of attendees through a presentation on data and the USGA's continuing efforts in helping superintendents and their facilities to make better and more informed decisions about how to best manage our facilities.

Moeller began by addressing the crowd to see who was using data; many attendees confirmed that they are using some form of data and collection at their facilities, but the way in which it is being used differed from property to property. Data can be used for making daily decisions, including but not limited to growth habits of greens, when to mow, and when to apply fertilizer. It was apparent from the start that data is important in determining many factors around our properties, but we must tailor it to our needs or we may get lost in the sea of data.

The USGA offers many tools to help with data collection that can help streamline the process for superintendents. Moeller focused mainly on the USGA's Deacon program. Deacon offers data collection tools that are tailor-made for superintendents who are looking to better understand their golf course. Moeller began with highlighting the USGA's GPS mapping services: they will provide a system and set it up where they track everything from a golfer's standpoint and in return, you receive useable data about golfer habits. One of the key takeaways from this whole presentation was the

idea that you need useable data. The data that the GPS service provides is golfer specific and tracks player traffic versus cart traffic. This service has players wear a tracking device that records whether they are walking or taking a cart before the round; the golfer is then entered into the system and has a profile with all the useful information about a player specific handicap, whether they are walking or taking a cart, and what tees they are playing from. The information received is a great tool to use when looking to make decisions for your golf course based around data collected from the end user. Moeller provided a great example of how to use data to inform forward tee projects or bunker projects where you have actual data that show how the user interacts with the golf course. Does it make sense to remove a bunker that is more penal for a high handicapper that is only in play for that user but is largely out of play for a low handicapper? This was a great example of how this data can be useful for a superintendent in presenting information about possible changes to a membership or committee.

Moeller moved on to showcase Deacon's abilities when it came to tracking surface management. The platform has the ability to fully integrate with your daily tasks by providing numerous measurable data points that can be used to make decisions and get a better look at what is happening on your golf course. It can be integrated with sensors in your greens to monitor moisture content, as well as weather systems, to give you even more data points to help you better make decisions around surface management of your golf course. It can greatly increase accuracy of applications and make decision making more streamlined, taking the guess work out of planning your programs.

The biggest takeaway from Moeller's presentation was when he asked, "what is data, and what are we doing with it?" From my own experience, it can be very overwhelming when information starts coming in and there isn't a clear goal in mind when gathering and using

data. Finding what it is that you are looking to use the data for is key because one of the big advantages to data collection is that it is a very effective tool for communication. By using tools like Deacon and Excel sheets, you can display data in a way that makes what you are trying to communicate clear to someone viewing it whether that be how much money and time it takes to rake a bunker or how reducing your nitrogen applications on greens reduces your overall expenditures when it comes to greens management, and how that has, in turn, affected the firmness and consistency of your putting surfaces. The possibilities to use it as a communication tool are endless.

At the end of his presentation, Moeller previewed new technologies that the USGA is working on specifically for data collection on golf courses with the introduction of a prototype golf ball called the GS3. It is filled with sensors and measures a variety of data features that are specific to how the game is played. The ball can measure trueness, smoothness, and firmness of the greens surfaces in a way not seen before. Although this golf ball behaves and rolls exactly like a normal ball would, it picks up large amounts of data points along the way that reflect more accurately what an everyday golfer would interact with. The possibilities with the technology are endless and it is continually evolving. It is being tested at a few facilities and will be a future tool that many superintendents will use as a way to better manage our properties.

Data collection is a major component in today's management of a golf course. Data-driven decision making can make a big difference in determining what is right for your property as we continue to move in this busy world of golf that has grown exponentially in popularity over the last few years. It is important that we are making the right decisions for our clubs and our departments, and data is a great tool to use to visually see what needs to be done to better manage our properties. ■



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GOLF COURSE Tree Planting for Success

Written by Steven J. Mann, SJM Arboricultural Consulting Ltd., ISA-BCMA ON-0533-B. Photos provided by Paul Hanousek, ISA-CA ON-0321-A.

Tree planting initiatives are often added to a long list of tasks that golf course superintendents are charged with outside of their normal turf grass operations. In this article, I thought it helpful to draw attention to best management practices for these projects' long-term success.

Planning

To quote Benjamin Franklin; "By failing to plan, you are preparing to fail." Keep this top of mind with any tree planting project no matter the size. As it seems with everything Covid, sourcing quality planting stock along with qualified contractors now takes significant time and resources. Use this as an opportunity to develop a sound plan of attack well ahead of the install timeline.

Try to involve all necessary parties (turf managers, golf professionals, course architect, etc.) to properly vet "planting opportunities" thoroughly before any trees hit the site. Involve course ownership in

these meetings so that they better understand all the considerations with installing trees on golf course grounds. This aids in developing sound communication to players on the most effective management strategies of tree conservation and golf course operations.

Try to take a "less is more" approach when establishing the number of proposed trees in any given site. We tend to extrapolate a few years later in canopy development but we need to constantly focus on the size and reach of mature canopies 50+ years into the future. This will result in well-spaced stems that can properly develop and mature while minimizing negative agronomic competition (i.e., air and sunlight penetration) to adjacent turfgrass surfaces. Try to avoid large scale planting projects which are economically taxing and hard to complete outside of prime playing seasons. Smaller projects completed on a semi-routine basis (>2-4-year rotation) often results in better planning for stem locations and increased age diversity with any installed canopy.

Review your properties dominant species count to properly select regionally native species that perform the best on your site. Endeavour to set a goal of your properties entire canopy coverage (all age classes) equally spread over at least 6 *Genus*.



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Buried root flare.



Deer damage.



Girdling root ball.



Rodent damage.

In some cases, we will lean on non-native and/or ornamental varieties where significant spatial and/or aesthetic concerns are paramount (i.e., Clubhouse grounds). As these species are often cultivated without significant plant hardiness in mind, they can require increased plant health care operations to maintain optimum vigour and aesthetics.

There is significant value for clubs to purchase plant material within the 40-60mm caliper (2-3m height) size class while large enough to minimize damage from maintenance and/or golf-related traffic. Substantially sized stock provides a more immediate aesthetic benefit but can be harder to source and handle on site. Additionally, it has been our experience that the smaller material will often overtake this larger material in a relatively short time (2-3 years) given their propensity to have a higher vigour potential.

Installation

It's better to put a \$25 tree into a \$100 hole than the alternative, so take the time to properly install these stems to maximize establishment to their new site. Remember to call before your dig (ontarioonecall.ca).

Root Flares: Significant cultivation activities occur with caliper stock from nurseries often resulting in excess soil surrounding the root flare of these plants. This can place excessive moisture up against the stem bark causing decay predisposing them to longer term decline. Look to excavate soil within the pot/root ball at the base of these stems to properly establish the identified flare above grade with proper hole depth (approximately 1/3 of root ball above grade). Properly back fill with native soil and/or quality topsoil materials (care not to rebury the exposed root flare) tamped in to reduce air pockets which can result in the plant shifting within the hole when settling.

Mulching: Establishing 2-4" of a wood chip mulch over top the disturbed area will further aid in the establishment of any planted stock; try not to rebury the exposed root flare. Natural wood chip mulch provides many benefits such as increased moisture retention, moderates soil temperature, and minimizes turfgrass competition, all reducing the risk of mowing operations damaging these installed stems.

Staking is not imperative with mid-sized stock but may be required with larger stock, especially thick canopy conifers more exposed to wind throw risks. Be sure to establish "T bars" or wooden stakes outside of the root ball/planting hole with tie points properly protected (rubber hose)/loose enough to not damage the upper stem bark. Remember to remove this hardware 1-2 growing seasons post installation to avoid girdling these stems. With smaller stock sized plantings, especially in non-manicured naturalized areas, additional protection measures may be required such as rodent guards and deer protection fencing.

After Care Maintenance

Proper watering of installed stock is imperative for establishment and survival with most woody plant material requiring deep but infrequent applications (>2cm over a 48-72-hour period) dependant on localized transpiration rates. Proper mulch applications can reduce the evaporation of any applied water; however, care must be taken to properly monitor plant moisture and provide dedicated watering. Golf course irrigation systems often do not adequately cover the fringe areas trees are planted in.

Pruning of any dead, dying, diseased, and/or broken limbs can happen at any time to promote plant health. Limit any live limb pruning (i.e., structural pruning) for a few seasons post installation, again, to promote establishment.

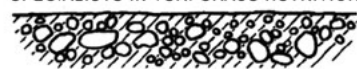
Fertilization: Soil amendments (organic and/or inorganic fertilization treatments) are not imperative for plant establishment where normal playable rough fertility treatments are taking place. Notwithstanding these conditions, specialized treatments such as liquid soil injection fertilization (deep root fertilization) can be prescribed to fracture the surrounding parent soil and encourage root development in heavily compacted and/or silty soils.

As we often recognize, trees can truly be a significant asset to any golf course property. By following just a few of these highly effective strategies, you can ensure the tree you plant today can be enjoyed for many generations, a true legacy!

Steven is an International Society of Arboriculture Board Certified Master Arborist specializing in the management of trees on Golf Course properties across Canada and the Eastern United States for over 25 years. More recently he has become a partner in DCS Agronomic Services to offer more comprehensive consultation to the Golf Course as well as Sports Turf Industry. Paul Hanousek is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist owning & operating Douglas Wood Large Tree Services across Ontario for over 35 years. ■

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Commercial Diving in Ontario

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

The sale of second-hand golf balls has become a lucrative business. A growing number of golf courses are hiring ball retrieval companies to recover golf balls from their water hazards or using their own staff to complete the task.

If your golf course retrieves golf balls from its water hazards, you must comply with the provisions made under Regulation 629/94 (Diving Operations) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

When you hire a diver or diving contractor for a job, including retrieving property, underwater filming, scientific diving, to build anything, or to inspect or repair your property, you have many of the same responsibilities of constructors and employers engaged in a diving operation.

You must complete a [Notice of Diving Operations](#) and file it with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. The written notice must be provided at least 24 hours before the diving operation begins, or it can be provided orally at least 24 hours before the diving operation begins if written notice is also provided within 5 days of the dive beginning.



Additionally, as an owner you must also

- prepare a written operational plan for the diving operation, which must describe:
- the tasks to be performed in the diving operation
- how those tasks are to be performed
- how the hazards that could be encountered in the diving operation are to be identified and handled
- which agencies, plants and facilities will be given notice

Prepare a written contingency plan for the diving operation, which must include:

- instructions for communicating with medical assistance in the event of an emergency
- emergency procedures for the evacuation of an injured diver from the dive site
- emergency procedures for responding to any significant failure of a component of any diving equipment
- emergency procedures for responding to a loss of communications with a diver
- emergency procedures for responding to hazardous weather or ice conditions
- emergency procedures for aborting a dive
- emergency procedures for responding to any inability of an offshore dive site to maintain station

To learn more about your roles and responsibilities:



To file a notice of diving operations:



Invasive Species



Garlic mustard, flowering.



Japanese knotweed in flower.



Phragmites (European common reed).

An invasive species is a non-native organism including diseases, parasites, plants, or animals. Once introduced to an environment, it begins to spread or expand its range from the site of its original introduction and that has the potential to cause harm to the environment, the economy, or to human health.

Ontario has what is called the Invasive Species Act. Under this act there are two classes of invasive species that are regulated: prohibited and restricted.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

Prohibited	Restricted
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Posses	
Deposit	Deposit
Release	Release
Transport	
Breed/grow	Breed/grow
Buy	Buy
Sell	Sell
Lease	Lease
Trade	Trade

The act applies to all living, invasive species including mammals, fish, and insects but for the purpose of the article, I will focus on the plant-related portion of the act.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Norway Maple is native to Western Asia and Europe. It was brought to the U.S. for cultivation in 1756 as an ornamental tree. It was used as a replacement tree in cities for urbanized sites after World War II to replace the White Elms which were killed by the Dutch Elm Disease. Through breeding, cultivars were produced with burgundy foliage making them an attractive tree for landscape usage. However, they have prolific seed production with a rapid growth habit and are highly adaptable to shade and multiple soil conditions.

Purple Loosestrife was introduced to North America in the 1800's. It's native to Europe and Asia. Its seeds were deliberately introduced for beekeeping, but it was also brought here through imported livestock, bedding and feed, and sheep fleece.

Japanese Knotweed came from Eastern Asia and was brought over mainly as a horticultural plant in the 19th century. Primarily ornamental, it was also used for erosion control and livestock forage.

Vinca Minor is a great selection as a ground cover for shady areas and is typically slow growing. However, it will spread by seed or creep into surrounding areas, eventually choking out and taking over the area in which it has colonized, usually in forested areas.

Japanese Barberry is a low maintenance shrub commonly used for its burgundy, purple, and green foliage. It spreads by seed; although the spread is not overly aggressive, if seeds take hold, they will grow where they don't belong. They will drop seed in the garden as well which will make for some

weeding to remove them.

Burning Bush is a fabulous shrub used for hedging or as specimens and often used for its brilliant red fall colour. It can be a prolific self-seeder and strong grower and will make its way outside the garden in areas of part shade; bush lines, and full sun, for example.

Ajuga is a low-growing groundcover with burgundy and green foliage, and erect purple/blue flowers in early spring. It's not quite as strong as Vinca in the way that it will colonize in the forest, but it will spread aggressively within the garden and overflow into immediately surrounding areas like lawns and other gardens.

Gooseneck Loosestrife is a plant I love. It has a truly unique white flower structure and is very low maintenance if it's in the right spot. It is highly aggressive and will take over an entire garden, so it needs a lot of its own space, or perhaps a whole moist garden space of its own. It spreads through Rhizome mainly but can spread, but not aggressively, by seed.

In closing, there is lots of information available from the Ministry, Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and other groups and associations regarding any and all invasive species. These bodies have lists of recommendations on how to handle, remove, and dispose of any invasive species you may come across. ■



*Chris Cumming CLP,
Horticulturist*

*Cell: 705-644-3994
chriscumming@live.ca*

Five Years Ago, Today



(L-R) Tim Muys (Piper's Heath GC), Ian McQueen (St. George's G&CC), Owen Russell (Markland Wood GC), Ryan L. Scott (Club at North Halton), Cory Janzen (Westmount G&CC), Jason Boyce (Smuggler's Glen GC), Mike Pellerin (Saugeen GC), Al Schwemler (Toronto GC), & Mark Prieur (Trafalgar G&CC).

The 2018 Board of Directors: **Corey Janzen**, President, Westmount; **Jason Boyce** VP, Smuggler's Glen; **Tim Muys**, Secretary Treasurer, Piper's Heath; **Mark Prieur**, Past President, Trafalgar; **Ian McQueen**, St. George's; **Al Schwemler**, The Toronto GG; **Mike Pellerin**, Saugeen; **Ryan Scott**, Club at North Halton; and **Owen Russell**, Markland Wood. The office staff consisted of **Sally Ross**, executive manager, **Laura Clayton**, accounting, and **Courtney White** who had recently joined the team as the member services coordinator.

IN MEMORY

David S. Gourlay passed away at the age of 95. Dave was born in Scotland. He was a member of the RAF during WWII before coming to Canada. In 1951, Dave entered the University of Massachusetts turf management course. He worked as a golf course superintendent at Chedoke, Kapuskasing, Pine Valley, Summit, Summerlea, and Thornhill – where he remained for 30 years. He was one of the

founding members of the CGSA, president of the OGSA (1968), president of the CGSA (1973), and editor of the CGSA's Greensmaster (1974-1981). Awards included CGSA Superintendent of the Year Award (1982), GCSAA Distinguished Service Award (1987), and the CGSA John B. Steel Distinguished Service Award (1996). Dave was instrumental, along with **Bob Heron**, **Sid Puddicombe** and **Jim Wyllie**, in taking over the Turf Conference from the RCGA and forming what is now the Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show.

Sam DiPinto passed away on December 16th. Sam was a 50-year OGSA member and a member of the CGSA and Western Greenskeepers Association. He was a well-respected golf course superintendent at Lido and Beverley Golf Club, retiring in 1996.

ON THE MOVE

Sid Witteveen retired from Lock March and **Chris Hewitt** took over.

TOURNAMENTS

The Pro Superintendent Tournament was held at Muskoka Bay Club hosted by **Chris Goodman**. The winning teams were: 1st place: Lakeview Golf Club, **Brad Bell** and **Martin Michell** (64); 2nd place: Hamilton, **Rhod Trainer** and **David Miller** (65); and 3rd place: Summit, **Dave Patterson** and **Ian Leggatt**.

John Gall won the George Darou Trophy at the joint WOGSA/OGSA Alex McClumpha Tournament held at Lookout Point hosted by **Aldo Bertolon**.

MILESTONES AND AWARDS

Marie Thorne announced her retirement from Syngenta after 37 years.

The construction of the new **GTI Frost Centre** began with a 14-month construction plan and an opening forecasted for the fall of 2019. **Bill Green**, Class A Superintendent and OGSA member at the neighbouring



Marie Thorne accepts Honorary Membership from OGSA president Cory Janzen.



OGSA president, Cory Janzen (M) presents the Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary Award to winners (L) Joel Johnston (River Bend Golf Community), and (R) Jordan Kitchen (Hamilton G&CC).



Thom Charters, Taboo Muskoka Resort, William Sansom Distinguished Service Award Winner & Wife Cindi at the 2018 OGSA Awards Breakfast.

Cutten Fields, was in charge of overseeing the grow in, with a team including Nick Berdusco, University of Guelph, Matt Hague, University of Guelph, OGSA members, and recent turf diploma graduates.

The Ontario Golf Course Management Conference was held in Niagara Falls. At the OGSA awards breakfast, Thom Charters was presented with the William Sanson Distinguished Service Award. Bob Heron (AA-R) and Glenn Burgess, Skyway Lawn Equipment, were recognized as 50-year members. 25-year members were Ted Bishop, Rolling Meadows; James Flett, Muskoka Lakes; Scott Gardner, Echo Valley; Rob Gatto, Chedoke/King's Forest; Chris McCracken, Oliver's Nest; Richard Perrault, Oaks; Robert Sloan, Cardinal; and Jeff Stauffer, Rosedale.

OGSA President Corey Janzen presented

the Hugh Kirkpatrick Bursary Award to Joel Johnston, RiverBend and Jordan Kitchen, Hamilton. The Heritage Award went to Daria Stauffer, daughter of Jeff Stauffer, Rosedale, and to Neale Taylor, son of John Taylor, Grand Niagara. The Barry Endicott Article of the Year Award was presented to Cory Janzen, Westmount, and the Photo of the Year award was presented to Jason Winter, Deer Ridge. Neil Beech presented the first annual Paul Brown Internship award, worth \$2,000, to Isaac Swanton, sponsored by Duke Lawn Equipment. ■



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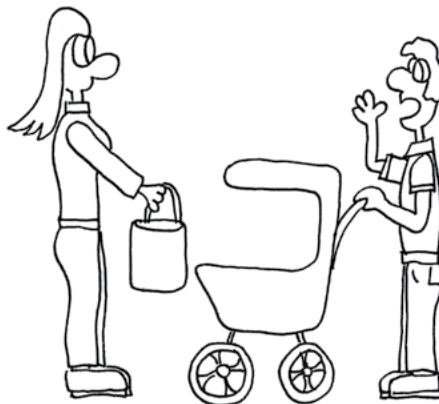
SPRING 2022 Cleo

*Written by Doug Breen, Superintendent,
Golf North Properties.*

My Dad always said that being a grandparent was far better than being a parent. He explained that when he was raising my two brothers and I, his greatest fear was that one of us would grow up to be “useless.” He told us this on a regular basis! He never really worried about our feelings, self-esteem, self-actualization, or anything like that – because such things hadn’t been invented yet. Any child of Generation X can tell you, that feelings didn’t even exist until around 1970, and that children weren’t allowed to have them until the 1980’s. We were raised by parents who just never wanted one of us to be a burden on society, or to embarrass the family name. And to be fair – most of my generation (certainly the Breen boys) have been a net positive gain to their communities – even if we are a tad emotionally stunted.

But when it came to his grandchildren, my Dad didn’t care about any of those things. In fact, there were days when I suspected that he was actually working against me and trying to make them useless. I clearly remember one Saturday morning when my son asked if they could have chocolate milkshakes for breakfast, and he said, “Yes.” That’s the whole story! I thought, “Who is this guy, and what did you do with the man who would make us clean out calf pens in the barn if we showed enough poor judgment to stay home sick from school?”

We were allowed – no, encouraged – to ride in the back of pickup trucks, or the back window of a sedan. My mom once packed a whole baseball team (18 of us) into a station wagon that never had a seatbelt in it. However, she wouldn’t take her grandchildren to the corner and back without a properly fitted, federally approved car seat. My kids were given wet wipes, hand sanitizer, and water bottles with their names on them – I got the ‘spit on a Kleenex’ and



I'm not going to try to teach her anything. My only commitment is to return her to you in roughly the same condition that I received her.

drank from a communal garden hose.

So, Krista and I (along with the rest of our generation), tried to strike a balance between what would now be seen as parental neglect, and secretly not wanting the fruit of our loins to grow up to be useless either. Time will tell whether we were successful on the useless part, but I can assure you my children and their friends, are quite emotionally intelligent and have the self-confidence of a psychopath.

Well - now I'm a Grandfather.

Seems like just yesterday that I was having kids of my own, and now one of my kids had a kid. My Granddaughter (Cleo) is conveniently located in beautiful Burnaby British Columbia, which is really undermining my ability to make her useless. Because it turns out that everything my father said was exactly right! I worried about my kids becoming well-rounded, functioning members of society; but I just want to take Cleo to Disneyworld and have chocolate milkshakes at every meal. And if all that chocolate makes her sick, or she gets over tired, or anything else negative, I'll hand her back to her parents and go play golf until she's fun again.

My Dad's behaviour is crystal clear to me now.

The role of Grandparent is infinitely better than the parental role. All the good stuff - with limited responsibility. Now I'm running around with a phone full of baby pictures (which I will force you to look at), and constantly planning what fun things we can do. I understand now, that my Dad wasn't trying to make my kids useless – he just really didn't feel any responsibility for it if they were.

Last, when your kids are small, you have no money, and you have no time. When you're a grandfather, you have a lot more of both, and I intend to use those assets to ensure that I have the most spoiled grandchild in Canada. Coupled with my newfound irresponsibility, there will be milkshakes for breakfast. ■

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