

June 2022

ON COURSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

100 Years in the Making

Celebrating Ontario's Golf Club Centennials

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Maintenance for Playability

The Rising Cost of the Game of Golf

Managing Accent Fescues

Shop Feng Shui

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ryan L. Scott,
OGSA President.

It's been a long winter and nothing could lift our spirits better than when the Ontario Provincial Government lifted most Covid-related restrictions at the end of March, and for the first time in two years, we were back in the driver's seat when it came to deciding when our courses would open. Well, us and the weather.

For many across Ontario, colder-than-normal temperatures caused a delay in spring clean-up, cultural practices, and for many in Southern Ontario, the spring started off with some unseasonably warm temperatures which meant that those who covered their greens had to remove them just in time for March break. Overall, based on what I have heard, most Ontario courses came out of winter unscathed and at the end of the day, the best thing that a turf manager can ask for at the start of a new season is healthy turf no matter when their course opens.

The OGSA board had a busy spring. On March 22nd and 23rd, the Board of Directors met in-person for the first time in over two years for our annual two-day, long-range strategic planning meeting. The meetings took place in Guelph at the new (and impressive) GTI for our first day, and at the Fairfield Inn meeting room for our second day. For most of us, it was our first visit to the new offices and worth the trip. With so many new faces on the OGSA board, it was really nice to be able to see everyone face to face and to shake hands with our newest board members. Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff, joined the meeting for approximately 45 minutes via zoom to discuss and provide an orientation for new board members and review the GCSAA resources and opportunities that are available to the OGSA like Rounds for Research, First Green, and strategic planning support.

During the cold snap in early April, Owen Russell, our vice president connected with Rhod Trainor, along with a few of his closest colleagues, in person to present him with a beautifully engraved whiskey decanter set in recognition of the William Samson Distinguished Service Award and his dedication to our industry. It was great to get together and share some stories and have a few laughs as always. Congratulations again, Rhod, and thank you for your years of involvement and service with the OGSA. We hope to see you soon and catch up at our events.

Speaking of events, we are excited to announce that the OGSA will host our 2023 Ontario Golf Course Management Conference, *live and in person*, at the Blue Mountain Resort and Village Conference Centre in Collingwood on January 17-19, 2023. Courtney, along with the conference committee, have already been hard at work confirming the lineup of presenters. We've planned for a spectacular roster with a very well-rounded education package with the likes of Ben McGraw, Bruce Clarke, Joel Williams, Adam Moeller, and human resource expert, Anthony Folan. In addition to all of the education opportunities, the social events will add to the enjoyment of our conference, at a venue that was very successful back in January 2020. Don't miss it!

We are also planning an OGSA golf tournament for September, open to all! Stay tuned for more information on this event. The OGSA is always looking for clubs who are willing to host us for these important networking events. If your club is interested in supporting the association, please contact the OGSA office or one of the directors.

We look forward to a great season! ■



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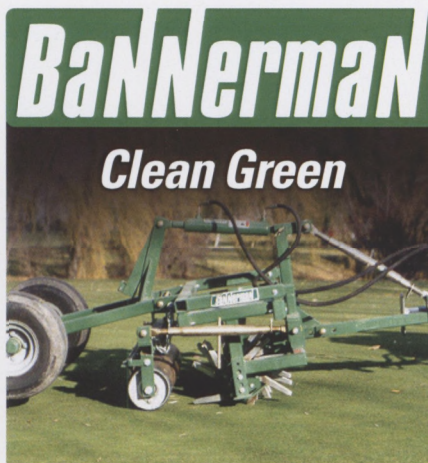
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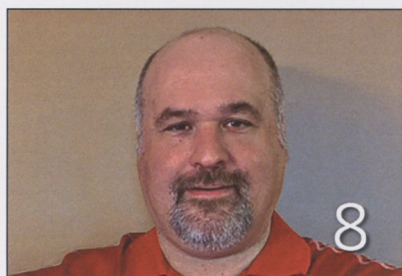
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Golf in 1922. Photo provided by The City of Toronto Archives.

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Marco China, Joel Johnston, Chris Lecour,
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ONCOURSE 2022

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

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

I love June. No more waiting with bated breath for what we always hope is the last snow fall; the sun is hot, and the game of golf is in full swing – especially this year as we finally kick off the season with little-to-no Covid restrictions! What's equally exciting? We get to publish a save the date announcement for the first time in two years! Check out the President's Message and What's New; we are confidently planning an IN-PERSON Golf Course Management Conference for January as well as a golf tournament this season!

This restriction-free season is exceptionally exciting with the surge in golf popularity that we saw in 2020 (ironically thanks to the pandemic) as mentioned by Chris Lecour in his collaborative article "The Rising Cost of the Game of Golf," where he focuses on the trials and tribulations of rising raw material prices and shares his fellow golf course personnel's subsequent tactics in budgeting and operational adjustments; a good read to help offset the stress of rising costs while embracing the golf boom.

2022 marks the 100th anniversary of some of Ontario's beloved golf courses. Take a journey through time with Lisa Marie Pearce, as she celebrates the incredibly rich history of our golf club centennials and the

game that brought us all together.

Doug Breen put forward an excellent supporting article to further show our appreciation of the evolution of golf with "Knowing Your Roots," another entertaining Turf or Consequences special. He shares his experience as he set out to research a course centennial, fell down a rabbit hole of the golf boom, and ended up on the course with a set of brassies, spoons, mashies, and niblicks.

Take a look at what tips and tricks our contributors have shared to set you and your courses up for success as we enter the busy season. Al Schwemler provides great insight on best practices for managing accent fescues, Chris Cumming shares his off-the-fairway expertise on growing your plants from seed, and if you pop into Technician's Corner, Taylor Cairns, Equipment Manager at London Hunt Club, offers some notable suggestions for Feng Shui and flow in your shop to give your team a safe environment and healthy atmosphere to work in. Joel Johnston discloses Roger Sloan's ideal playing conditions and what areas require the most focus and maintenance to keep the membership happy and challenged.

Steven Rabski profiles Mark Kay, superintendent at Stone Ridge Golf Course,

MARK YOUR CALENDARS UPCOMING OGSA EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2022

OGSA Championship,
Lake Joseph Club & Rocky Crest Resort

JANUARY 17-19, 2023

Ontario Golf Course Management
Conference, Blue Mountain

and Barry Endicott takes us back to 2012.

Thanks for taking some time with us this issue. A big thanks to our volunteer writers and committee members for their excellent contributions. Now, go kick-off this sure-to-be-booming season with a bang! See you in August! ■



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

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WHAT'S NEW

By Courtney White, Executive Manager, OGSA.

Board of Directors Meeting

The OGSA Board of Directors met in person for the first time in over two years. With several new board members joining us, this two-day meeting was not only an excellent opportunity to brainstorm initiatives for the growth of our association, but for team building as well! The Board has approved several critical projects. Members can look forward to a new, user-friendly website with improved features and an enhanced member portal. We're developing a resource tool kit for members – which we will launch with a Best Management Practices document for Ontario.

OGSA Award for Turf Managers Short Course

A big congratulations to Josh Whalen from Loyalist Golf & Country Club, for winning the OGSA award for the Turfgrass Short Course this year! This award is automatically earned by a golf course turfgrass employee who earns the top marks in their class. Josh will receive \$1,000 to help support further professional development and a 1-year membership with the OGSA. Well done!

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ANNOUNCING THE OGSA CHAMPIONSHIP!
Registration Opens June 15, 2022!

September 26 & 27th, 2022
Lake Joseph Club & Rocky Crest Resort, Muskoka, ON.

OGSA Staff Change

We would like to welcome Celia De Grave as the new Member Services and Marketing Advisor. Celia has extensive experience in client services and project management, and has worked with organizations like the Turkey Farmers, Adfarm, and Synthesis Agri-Food Network. We look forward to leveraging Celia's expertise in marketing and communications to serve our members.

Madeleine White will continue to provide member support and edit and coordinate the production of ONCourse as Celia becomes familiar with the association.

#TodayInOntario

The Today in Ontario Contest is up and running! The contest runs between March 1 and November 30, 2022. Be sure to snap, tweet, and tag @OntarioGSA with #TodayInOntario to enter to win one of three cash prizes! Hint: Clever captions get you bonus points!

Turfgrass Education Award

In April, the OGSA scholarship committee had the pleasure of awarding two very deserving students with the Turfgrass Education Award. Congratulations to Eric Boehling, intern at Oviinbyrd, and Elliott Gonsalves, intern at Beacon Hall GC, for submitting excellent essays highlighting their dedication to the turfgrass industry. Both students will work at Ontario golf courses this season, and will receive \$1,500.

Ontario Golf Course Management Conference

Our conference committee is actively planning an in-person conference at Blue Mountain, Collingwood, January 17-19, 2023. Save the date!

G.C. Duke Paul Brown Internship Award

The OGSA and G.C. Duke would like to congratulate Scott Herod for being the successful candidate for the Paul Brown Internship bursary. Scott will receive a \$1,500 award to help cover expenses during his internship, which will take place at Liberty National Golf Club in New Jersey! Congrats! We wish all the turfgrass students the very best this season! We also encourage students to make note of these excellent funding programs and apply next year! ■

WELCOME to Our New Members

Nigel Harding	Class B
Rolling Meadows Golf & Country Club	
Dave Cooke	Class E
Devron Sales Ltd.	
Elliott Gonsalves	Class S
University of Guelph	
Shaemos Campbell	Class B
Duntroon Highlands Golf Club	
Cody Norris	Class C
Westmount Golf & Country Club	
James Marjoribanks	Class C
Deerhurst Resort	
Joseph Grebenc	Class C
Port Colborne Country Club	

Stone Ridge Golf Course

Holes 5 & 6, Stone Ridge GC.
Photo provided by Northern Exposers Photography.

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Member since 2009

Mark Kay

Superintendent at Stone Ridge Golf Course

*By Steven Rabski, Assistant Superintendent
Idylwyld Golf & Country Club. Photos provided
by Mark Kay.*

About the Course

Stone Ridge at Elliott Lake opened in July 2005 to rave reviews. The course was designed by renowned GC architect Ted Baker, and offers breathtaking views of the rock escarpment, Ryan Lake, and vast northern wilderness. Stone Ridge challenges its players from tee to green, but with four different tee decks, the course is suitable for everyone.

Architect: Ted Baker

Type of Club: Public, owned by the city

Number of Holes: 18

Practice Facility?: Yes

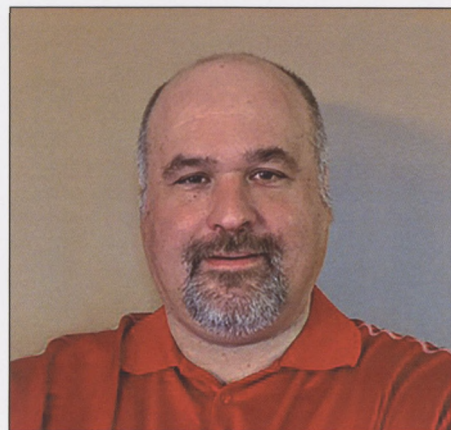
Number of Rounds Annually: 16,000

Number of staff year-round, seasonal?:
2 year-round, 30 seasonal)

How many mechanics, assistants:
Gord Mcglennan

There really isn't anything that Mark Kay can't do. Aside from being a golf course superintendent, Mark is also a near scratch golfer, an avid fisher and hunter, and at one point, was even a badminton superstar. Though you won't see him in a Dos Equis commercial, Mark Kay truly is one of the most interesting people I have had the pleasure of meeting.

Mark's journey began just like many others. His admiration for the outdoors and addiction to golf landed him a summer job at the ripe old age of 16 at The Onaping Golf & Beach Club, just a short drive from his hometown of Levack, Ontario. His experience as a farmhand made the job enjoyable as Mark was no stranger to hard work; so enjoyable, that upon finishing high school, Mark ventured off to Seneca College to study turf. He then brought his learnings from the program back to his home course where he earned the title of Superintendent at just 19 years of age. The



Mark Kay, Superintendent at Stone Ridge Golf Course.

9-hole course offered a lot of opportunity and room to grow. During his time there, Mark made several improvements to the course including drainage additions and taking part in some construction projects like the building of several tee decks.

In 1997, Mark made his way down south to get some private club experience and eventually took a position at Credit Valley Golf Club. His construction experience at Onaping was an asset to Credit Valley,

In the Hot Seat

Q: Favourite Major?

A: Masters

Q: Favourite Piece of Equipment?

A: Mini Excavator

Q: Ultimate foursome?

A: Fred Couples, Jack Nicklaus,
Bill Murray

Q: Lowest round ever and where?

A: 66 at Stone Ridge Golf Club

Q: Favourite movie?

A: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Q: Favourite meal?

A: Cabbage Rolls

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: Augusta National

Q: Favourite course designer?

A: Stanley Thompson

Q: Favourite band?

A: The Tragically Hip

as they were about to take on a major golf course renovation by appointing Mark as the construction foreman where he would have a go at some larger scale projects.

Shortly after, Mark took his skills to The Oaks of St. George where he would have the ability to showcase his construction knowledge as well as his mechanical aptitude. In 1999, he enrolled for the Short Course at Michigan State University to further his turf knowledge before making a quick pit stop at Millcroft Golf Course from 2000-2001.

By the end of 2001, Mark and his wife Marni had realized that it was time to head back up north. Being a teacher, Mark's wife moved to Sudbury, and he followed shortly after where he was reunited with the Northern Ontario lifestyle that he grew up knowing. Being an avid fisherman, it only made sense that Mark would find himself working at a fish farm for a short stint until the next opportunity in golf would come along, "I think I cleaned over 14,000 fish during my time there. There was a time when I could clean two fish a minute," he recalls.

With luck on his side, Mark received a phone call from a close friend about a soon-to-be available job as a Golf Course Superintendent in Elliot Lake, the midway



(L-R) Dr. Wayne Arnold, Brian Cardy, Mark Kay, Dr. Chris Prescott (P.O.E) checking one off the bucket list at St. Andrews GC.

point between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. He was familiar with Elliot Lake, having played several junior golf events at the local 9-hole. Hesitant at first, he decided to throw his hat in the ring. Mark recalls the interview, "it had changed drastically about

halfway through. At first, I was applying for a Superintendent position at a 9-hole course, but halfway through the people interviewing me had expressed that they were also looking for a person that would be capable of building an entirely new 18-hole championship golf

What You Need to Know

Predominate grass type: Pencross greens and tee

Predominant soil type: Sand

Types of greens: USGA

Course length: 6800 yards

Size of greens: 3.4 acres

Size of tees: 2.8 acres

Size of fairways: 21 Acres

Major Challenges

Keep the grass alive through the winters.

"Mark has spent a great deal of time creating networking opportunities for superintendents in Northern Ontario. He has volunteered his time running the Northern Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association, providing northern Superintendents with golf, social, and educational events. Mark's very passionate about growing the game of golf and takes interest in helping junior golfers develop their skills. He is a very hands-on Superintendent, turning wrenches, fixing pipe, and running equipment. Mark's an excellent resource for fellow colleagues and I can't imagine him working in any other profession. I'm pretty sure he was born to be on a golf course."

— Mike Pellerin, Superintendent, Saugeen Golf Club



Mark Kay's catch of the day.



Mark Kay's first drive at St. Andrews GC.

course." The position at the course would essentially serve as a year-long interview to determine if Mark would be the right candidate to take on the eventual build of the Ted Baker Designed 18-hole Championship Course, known today as Stone Ridge Golf Course. "I remember starting in 2003; all the greens were dead and the equipment all needed serious attention." Mark remembers having to call in a special favor from a local friend because "the irrigation pump was just

a diesel pump that eventually broke during a drought, so I needed a pump, and it turned out that my friend had a fire truck, so I hooked it up to our irrigation system and it worked!"

Mark had absolutely fallen in love with golf course construction over the years and this opportunity would serve as the ultimate test to put his previous golf course construction experience to good work. After a successful year, he eventually got hired as the superintendent of the new 18-hole course

in preparation for the construction, which started in 2004.

Elliot Lake was intended to be a five-year plan for Mark. Fast forward to 2022 and he can still be found managing the grounds at Stone Ridge. He lives happily with his wife Marni and his daughters Mya and Andrea. "We love Elliot Lake; it is our home! We have made many friends and I can't believe that I get to live the life that I live." If Mark is not working on the golf course, he is most likely

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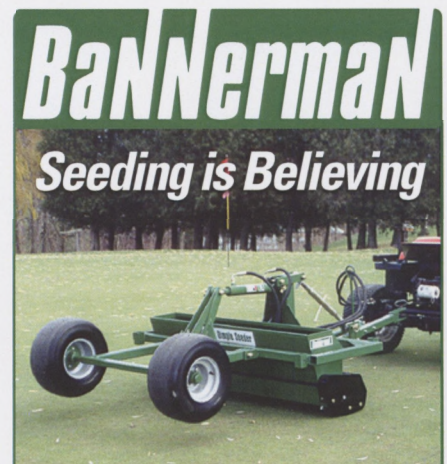
Hole 18, Stone Ridge GC.

playing golf, and a good game of golf at that! Being a golfer himself helps Mark connect with his membership and communicate his ideas for improvements on the course. His membership knows that he is a great player and Mark jokes that they are very hesitant to bring forth what most of us would consider “concerns” about the golf course playability. “Being a player has really allowed me to build many relationships at Stone Ridge, I’d be lying if I said I didn’t get asked to play quite often with members.” Mark is also a golf coach after hours and is proud of his ability to share his knowledge with other players, especially the juniors. Mark claims “the game of golf has brought me so much in my life and I’m happy I can pass on some of my knowledge and experiences.”

Outside of the golf world, fishing is a hobby that Mark is, for a lack of better words, obsessed with, and is definitely one of the things he missed most about Northern Ontario. “I went from having to plan my fishing trips 2 months in advance to being able to be on the lake within 15 minutes of leaving work.” It is clear that fishing provides an oasis and an escape from Mark’s work life. He is also an avid hunter during the shoulder seasons and loves to hunt anything from turkey, deer and moose.

Hunting and fishing have become an important part of Mark’s social life as well. It has been a way to get out with friends, escape the troubles of work, and just relax. He enjoys getting together annually with his close turf friends for their ice fishing trip during the winter. “I am fortunate that I am a very social person, I cannot contribute any of my success to just one person, but rather to the groups of friends I have made over the years. We talk about things we have done that worked and things that didn’t work, and I think we are all better for it. Nothing is off the table when it comes to sharing stories and knowledge.”

There is no question that Mark loves his job and before he thinks about retirement, there is still a lot that he would like to accomplish on the course, like the new irrigation system going in this year. One thing is very clear though, when Mark thinks about what the future looks like for Stone Ridge. “I want people to know that Elliot Lake is an incredible place to live. It has everything from golf courses and ski hills to plenty of wilderness to hunt and fish. It is the ultimate destination for a true lover of the outdoors.” Mark’s level of care will always be visible at Stone Ridge, and when the time comes, he only hopes that the next person will share the same love and care that he has. ■



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100 Years in the Making

Celebrating Ontario's Golf Club Centennials



Golf in 1922. Photo provided by The City of Toronto Archives.

By Lisa Marie Pearce, Second Assistant, Burlington Golf and Country Club.

The game that we all know and love is said to date back to the 12th century; it became most commonly known to derive from Scotland in the 15th; and North Americans started swinging their sticks in the 17th. Still, it was not until the 19th century that golf became firmly established. Many Ontario golf clubs are a perfect example of this as they prepare to celebrate a monumental milestone, 100 years of operation! Let's take a look back in history together, with new advancements, as these clubs swing into their centennial this 2022 golf season.

BRIARS GOLF CLUB

The Briars Club in Jackson's Point, on the shores of Lake Simcoe, came to fruition during a turning point in Canadian Architect Stanley Thompson's career in 1922. This 'Best Kept Secret' North of Toronto originally had nine holes and in 1972, another nine were seamlessly integrated by Robbie Robinson and his subtle charms. This club has been described as alluring due to its location and relaxed feel while creating a challenge for all golf levels on its narrow fairways and small, undulating greens; it also makes for a walker-friendly course. In Thompson tradition, there are many flanking bunkers flashed into the hillsides and holes that bend in both directions, although they are not long, they do require accuracy. 6273 yards from the tips, the Briars' beauty is extremely walker friendly and offers many amenities to its small capped membership base.

Scottish Club Professional, I.F. Dalgeish (Dal), an important figure in their history, ran the show in the Pro Shop from 1920's to his retirement in 1965 with minimal help from junior members. From lessons, tee-time bookings, repairing clubs, to Club Secretary and Treasurer, Dal spent seven days a week making this club what it



Briars Golf Club.

is today: a well-rounded, membership pleasing, golf and social club. The greens crew consisted of the Head Greenskeeper and three other men during the 1930s. They had one tractor that maintained the tees, fairways, and aprons, and two heavy greens-mowers to cut the greens, which took a full day's work to mow. The rough was cut with scythes once a month from June to August, and a horse-drawn cart would take away raked-up hay. A workday was long and hard because all watering of greens was done manually in the evenings.

During the 1930s, its membership consisted of mostly cottage-goers and very few local residents due to a by-law that restricted any person living within 25 miles of the club. During this time, the annual fee for senior golfers was \$35, nominees were \$10, and juniors were \$5 with no initiation fee. In the late 1960s, the club decided to start selling shares at \$25 a piece.



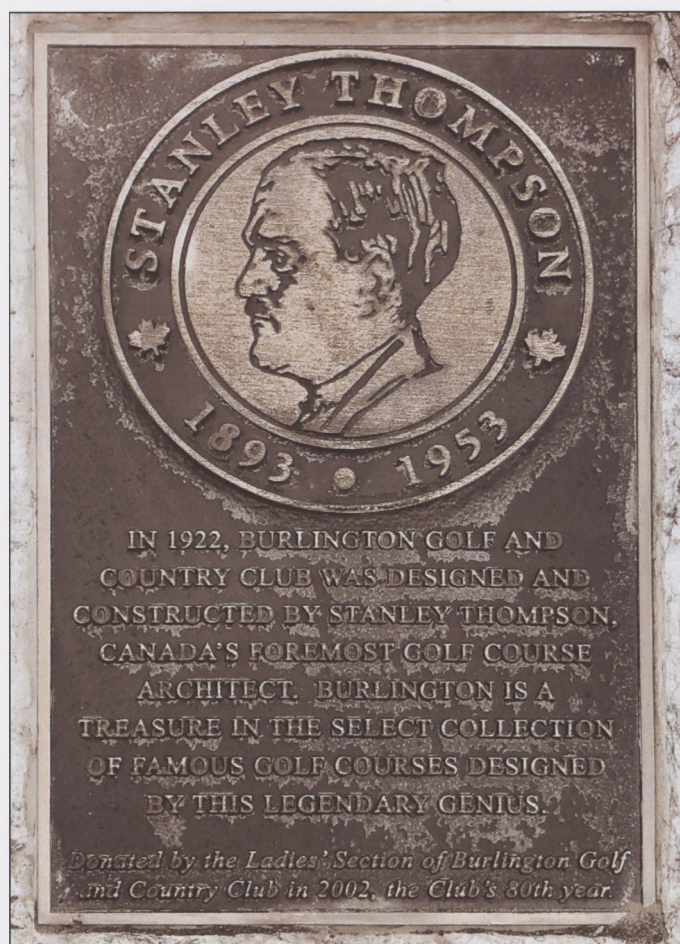
Aerial view of Burlington G&CC. Photo provided by Lisa Marie Pearce.

BURLINGTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Burlington Golf & Country Club is in the North Shore watershed of Hamilton Harbour in the southwest end of a Lake Ontario bordering city, Burlington. At a 70 Par, BGCC's modest length of 6553 yards stretches across an aesthetically pleasing playing field with views of the Bay throughout. Placing 95th on Score Golf's Top 100 Canadian Golf Courses, BGCC started off like many clubs – a dream. Twelve men from the Burlington and Hamilton area purchased a total of 140 acres; they formed the original Board of Directors and registered the club on January 23, 1922. They started selling shares for \$250 and soon brought in North America's leading golf course architect, Stanley Thompson for the design. The first nine holes were completed under the leadership of Stanley's brother, Nicol Thompson, while the second nine was completed with guidance from Andy Anderson, who also became the club's first head golf professional. In 1924, a clubhouse was built at the total cost of \$10,000.

From 1932-1942, every green and tee was rebuilt under the direction of Frank Locke who lengthened several holes and reconstructed bunkers that were filled with sand hauled in from the Burlington beach shoreline. Although this club has a true Thompson feel, the course its members play today is also within the prowess of Locke. By 1959, Burlington was officially the place that provided the opportunity not only to golf, but to curl and socialize too. The nearby train tracks and water access made the club easily reachable by many modes of transportation.

Throughout the years, there have been many subtle changes to this prepossessing course. Most recently, toward the end of the 2019 season, ground was broken (again) during the installation of a new irrigation system. In addition the fifth green was rebuilt in 2020, replicating the previous green while creating a dog leg left from the fairway, adding 45 yards to the hole. The sixth tee decks were reconfigured, tripling the area to 6600 square feet over its four separate boxes. The green on six was also rebuilt, doubling its size and eliminating one of three bunkers. The renovation also included a complete overhaul from tee to green of the 17th hole, famous for spanning along the Hamilton Harbour shoreline. The 17th green is perfectly elevated starting at the approach and is now the biggest green found at Burlington, measuring



Stanley Thompson plaque at Burlington G&CC. Photo provided by Lisa Marie Pearce.

7000 sq ft. These improvements were all designed with the expertise of Canadian golf course architect Doug Carrick, who apprenticed under Robbie Robinson, Stanley Thompson's adherent. The 2022 season and 100th year at the club will see a few small advancements to the playing field as they are currently resurfacing with some minor reshaping of 23 bunkers and adding the last of the few new forward decks incorporated during construction.

CEDAR BRAE GOLF CLUB

Originally named Cedarbrook Golf and Country Club, Cedar Brae is a private club located in the scenic Rouge Valley of the North-East area of Toronto. From its inception in 1922, Stanley Thompson, alongside his disciple Robbie Robinson, designed the layout built on about 160 acres of farmland; a full 18 holes totaling 6675 yards to date. This course is known for its impeccable conditions, mature trees, and natural tranquility with its proximity to Rouge National Urban Park. Cedar Brae is also known for their large, slick putting surfaces that require an adept putting touch as well as a carefully thought-out layout with picturesque fairways that run parallel with the Rouge River. This Club has attracted major tour events over the years such as GAO and Provincial Championships' qualifiers and has even hosted an LPGA event.

The 1930s is when Cedar Brae really made headway for itself. In 1935, select representatives of the membership formed a company and bought the assets of the Country Club for \$30,000. That company, Cedar Brae Limited, then set up a private golf club organization (Cedar Brae Recreation Club) that leased the course property to the new club for \$8,000 annually, making the membership fee for seniors \$50 per year. During the war years, the club hosted and entertained many men in the service and raised money for war charities. In 1954, the golf club property was sold to developers and a new property was acquired for a country club golf course in the immediate area. Golf Leaseholds Limited, a company formed by Art Bamford, George Frost, and Mac Frost, built a new Cedar Brae golf course, located



Cedar Brae (formerly Cedar Brook) Past Presidents (L-R): Isaac Ilsley, 1926-1927, George R. McDougall, 1924-1925, George E. Edmonds, 1928, and Arthur E. King, 1929. Taken from volume 15 of Canadian Golfer. Photo provided by Golf Canada.

just west of the present property.

In 1962, the golf course membership for a senior was \$235. That year, Mac Frost traded for the 156 acres of land just east of the Golf Club known as The Valley. Construction of the new golf course was completed in 1969. In 1970, the golf membership undertook the purchase of the new course and the existing clubhouse. Subsequently, they became the owners and named it The Toronto Golf Course. Under the new ownership, operation and control was passed to a Board of Directors elected by the general golf membership, who then changed the name back to Cedar Brae Golf Club.

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Cedar Brae clubhouse. Photo provided by Cedar Brae GC.



Highland CC, view of the 10th hole.



Cherry Hill Club clubhouse from the 8th hole. Photo provided by Jeremy Krueger.

CHERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

Rated 43rd on Score Golf's Top 100 Canadian Golf Courses in 2020, Cherry Hill spans just over 7000 yards in the charming town of Ridgeway.

In 1922, a group of nine gentlemen from Buffalo, New York, who owned summer homes on Lake Erie's Canadian shoreline, had the vision to create an unsurpassed private club in Canada to eliminate the long horse-drawn travel back across the border to play their beloved game. They purchased two farms – one was called Cherry Hill Farms – and started breaking ground alongside architect Walter S. Travis and first stockholder William E. Harries at about \$52,246.

Although this course has seen some construction over the years, Travis' design has maintained its original strategy and vision and now provides six sets of tee boxes with the 2019 addition of intermediate and forward tees and strategic bunkers.

Can you imagine not having to book a tee time? This club operates on the 'first come, first serve' motto. Members need only check in with the starter who then gives them a number; a system that has served the club well. Cherry Hill is exceptionally family oriented and even offers a Family Membership! Once the primary shareholder has paid their dues, their spouse and dependents are also considered members at no extra cost with few restrictions.

HIGHLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Highland Country Club is a secret worth exploring. Tucked in the heart of London, this golf, curling, and social club offers a stunning view of the city with a kindred sense of intimacy amongst its mature trees and secluded surroundings. It was a busy year for Stanley Thompson in 1922 as he also had his hands busy with the designing of this 100-year-old, member owned, private club; a short yet challenging course that stretches just over 6500 yards with traditionally small well-bunkered greens that mostly slope back the front. Some say that accuracy off the tee is most important to set up the best approach shot onto the demanding greens. Pro tip: don't be long with your approaches as you will be left with an almost impossible pitch and single putt.

Although Highland Country Club has a reputation for preserving its history and protecting its original green surfaces, some significant changes have happened over the years to individual holes and the order in which they are played. The first and second holes as well as holes 12-18 are the same today as they were a century ago, but the remaining holes were changed in the early 2000s to accommodate a practice facility. Most recently, Highlands underwent a full redesign of its bunkers and tees with Golf Course Architect Ian Andrew in 2005.

Fun Fact: Highland Country Club hosted the memorable 1957 Ontario Amateur. This event was strictly a match play, and zero total stroke play scores were ever recorded – interesting!



The Timmins Golf Course, established by the Hollinger Mine seen in this photo, 1922, later renamed Hollinger Golf Club in '74. Photo provided by the Hollinger GC.



View of the clubhouse from across the pond at Hollinger GC. Photo provided by Taylor Dupuis.

HOLLINGER GOLF CLUB

Northern Ontario's one and only full bentgrass, 18-hole championship golf course is located in Timmins. The Hollinger Golf Club, as we know it today, was professionally designed by John Robinson and constructed by the Glen Campbell Golf Course Design Company in 1922. Originally, The Timmins Golf Club was established by the Hollinger Mine Company to encourage miners to live in the small quaint town. Once the mine closed, the membership purchased the club and was renamed Hollinger Golf Club in 1974. After expanding from the original nine in 2001, the

Hollinger closed those holes and sold some land back to the mining company due to mining subsidence issues in 2007.

Currently, this par 72 plays just over 6500 yards from the back decks and features two unique nine-hole courses referred to as The Highlands and The Lakelands. Offering stunning elevated views, The Highlands course winds through the Canadian Shield, while The Lakelands cuts through the valleys where multiple ponds and streams come into play.

Hollinger Golf Club takes much pride in their practice facility; with an advanced, double-ended driving range, an undulated putting green, a chipping area, and a large practice bunker, it accommodates players of various abilities.

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IDYLWYLDE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Known for being eco-friendly, family-oriented, and a tremendous support to the community, Idylwyld Golf and Country Club is perfectly nestled in the heart of Sudbury. Encompassing Lake Nepahwin, which comes into play on a few holes, you can not dispute the beauty of this centenary, parkland-style golf course.

George Cummings, aka 'Mr. Golf' to most Canadian golfers over a century ago, was the architect for the initial nine. Sadly, less of a household name and often forgotten about as a pioneer in early golf course development. Cummings was also the venerated head professional at The Toronto Golf Club from 1900 to 1950. Rumour has it that Cummings was possibly the man who guided household name, Stanley Thompson, on how to route and build a golf course.

The second nine was designed by Howard Watson who also worked closely with Thompson since 1950 as his early work mainly consisted of course design in the Caribbean.

Carrying just over 6600 yards from the tips, this par 72 golf club is also known for its vast amenities. From a fully serviced turf driving range and a newly renovated practice area (2016) to a private beach and dock for pre and post round enjoyment, to winter activities like snow shoeing and urban pole walking.

LOOKOUT POINT COUNTRY CLUB LTD.

Consistently ranked in the Top 100 Canadian Golf Courses by Score Golf, Lookout Point took the 78th spot on 2020's list. Perfectly placed on top of the Niagara Escarpment, this course resides in Fonthill which is easily accessible from anywhere in the golden horseshoe and is also known for having the best opening hole in Ontario. Heretofore named Observatory Hill, LPCC was the second of only two golf courses in Canada laid out by Australian-American amateur golfer and architect, Walter J. Travis. Once 106 acres of farmland were purchased, Travis wrote this note to the Board, dated April 5th, 1921: "I can visualize with a prophetic eye, the whole course in a finished state... and I am quite sure it will be one which we will be immensely proud of."

In 1919, a group of Welland businessmen decided to establish a course in the area with the vision that it would serve as a sporting mecca for both amateurs and golfing pros across the continent. In the early stages, the course consisted of four holes that encircled the clubhouse, which formerly stood at the now 16th tee. In spite of the fact that the original goal was to build nine holes, the Board of Directors decided to expand the build, doubling the membership from 150 to 300 shareholders and increasing the projected capital expenditures to \$100,000 in 1928 with only the best interests of the club in mind. With perfectly carved fairways, calculated sand trap placements, and meticulously manicured greens, LPCC has truly stood the test of time.

Lookout Point (Fonthill) is also the home to the only Canadian inducted to both the Ontario and the World Golf Hall of Fame; Marlene Stewart-Streit. Starting out as a caddy and then quickly taken under PGA Hall-of-Famer Gordon McInnis Sr. and former club Assistant Pro (1938), Marlene, age 19, won her first British Women's Amateur title. During her career, she has won 30 national and international amateur championships; 24 in Canada, four in the United States, one in the United Kingdom,



Film crew of Associated Screen News at the 1935 General Brock Open held at Lookout Point CC. Photo provided by Golf Canada.



Aerial view of the clubhouse at Lookout Point CC. Photo provided by Aldo Bortolon.

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Golf legend Byron Nelson, forever linked with The Thornhill Club. Photo provided by The City of Toronto Archives.

and one in Australia. Most recently, she took her third win at the USGA Senior Championship. Marlene is undoubtedly an iconic trailblazer for young females who play the game.

The club plans to host their monumental celebration of its centennial on June 3, 2022, precisely 100 years to the date of the club officially opening their doors in 1922. On this date, the Legacy Team will also unveil the complete history in an illustrated Centennial Book that they have been compiling for the last few years.

OAKWOOD RESORT

Formally Oakwood Inn and Country Club, this property can be found just steps away from Lake Huron in the twee beach town of Grand Bend. As Lake Huron offers some of the province's best sunsets, Oakwood provides you with the complete summer getaway feeling. This historic site has undergone much advancement throughout the years and it all started in 1917 when farmland was purchased by Clayton Walker and imaginations ran wild. Ground was broken in 1919 and the first building that was ever constructed still stands on the property to date. People traveled near and far on horse and buggy in the 1920's to enjoy the original nine holes, designed by Fred Walker. The resort offered 18 holes by 1932, expanding the course across the Bluewater Highway that leads you into town.

This resort has taken pride in being family owned and operated for much of its existence. The Ivey family purchased and managed

the resort from 1974 -1980 until they sold it to the current owners, David and Valorie Scatcherd and family in 1981. The Scatcherd's started expanding on the property to raise its capital and put the money back into the resort where the improvements never go unnoticed by guests.

In 2018, the owners of Oakwood sold the land across the Highway to developers when they decided to go back to its origins of the original nine Walker built 100 years ago. Described as family-friendly, great for new golfers, and nostalgic for those that have built memories in the past, this lovely course is 1515 yards long. The perfect afternoon round can be played in between soaking up some rays and shopping local. Oakwood offers 123 rooms for rent from cottages, lodges, and motel style spaces spotted throughout the grounds. This property also includes Dave's Pub & Grill, the Oak Dining Room - built in 1930, an indoor swimming pool, hot-tubs, tennis courts, and the Lakeside Spa. By taking a short walk down a private drive, guests can access the resort's private beach.

THE THORNHILL CLUB

This Stanley Thompson masterpiece can be found off the longest street in Canada, Yonge Street, in Thornhill. Rolling across a majestic natural landscape, Thornhill offers 27 holes in total for golfers. The Championship 18-hole course sprawls 6666 yards from the blacks with a 71 par. The 9-hole Valley course is the perfect 1417 yards, scoring a 31 par. The Thornhill Club was



Entrance to the Thornhill Club. Photo provided by The City of Toronto Archives.



Eighteenth hole, green to tee at The Thornhill Club. Photo provided by Greg McFarlane.

established as a golf club in 1922 and became an all season club when the curling rink opened in 1963. Other amenities include golf practice areas, a full fitness facility, outdoor tennis courts, a pool, and a charming clubhouse.

Thornhill's history comes with some sizable events, names, and classic stories. Hosting the Canadian Open in 1945 brought in some big-name competition like Sam Snead, Claude Harmon, and Canadian Stan Leonard. Thornhill's second club professional, Arthur Hulbert, and his successor, the legendary Joe Noble whom the second hole on the championship course is named after. Thornhill is also the home of 2019's Ontario Golf Hall of Fame inductee, Judith Kyrinis.

The most memorable moment happened on the second hole; Byron Nelson topped his tee shot into the river below. Nelson had just won his tenth PGA tournament, moved to Canada, to compete in the North. Believe it or not, after taking a drop, he hit his third shot back into the river. Needing to make up strokes and 135 yards, Nelson grabbed his club and took his fourth shot out of the water and onto the green, landing just ten feet from the pin. Making what could have been a triple bogey a success story. Nelson was able to hang on to finish with a score of 280, the only PGA Tour tournament he won at even par up until that time. This was his 11th straight victory and a record that has not been matched since.

Thornhill will host another high-profile event during its centennial year - the 2022 Canadian Men's Mid-Amateur Championship, this August. The winner of this event will be invited to play in the 2023 Canadian Open at Oakdale Golf and Country Club in North York.

Today, the 18-hole course retains the classic design and features of a Thompson composition. With the illusion of distance, dramatic variations of hole length and fairway width, strategic bunkering, intricate mounding, elevated tees, and subtly breaking greens.

Don't miss Doug Breen's nod to Uplands Golf and Ski Club's 100th year anniversary in this issue's Turf or Consequences. Is your club celebrating its 100th year? Send us a note and we will include it in the next issue of ONCourse! ■

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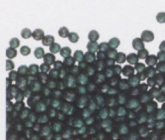
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Maintenance for Playability



Hand raking a bunker. Photo provided by St. Andrews Links Blog.

By Joel Johnston, Superintendent, West Haven Golf & Country Club.

A term we see a lot lately on social media and job posting boards is **PLAYABILITY**. What does playability mean and how can we define it? The dictionary definition of playability is “The quality or condition of the surface on which sports are played.” Ultimately, our job is customer service; we are more successful by understanding the standards and expectations that fit our membership. We often have two schools of thought within our memberships: the ones who care about playability, taking the game of golf and shot making seriously, or the ones who like to see bright green, park-like conditions. Therefore, as turf managers we must choose a direction, which often involves the decision of balancing playing conditions with aesthetics.

To understand the word playability better, I wanted to get a tour player’s perspective. I reached out to PGA Tour member Roger Sloan to ask him a few questions. Sloan is a proud Canadian, born in Calgary, Alberta, and grew up in Merritt, British Columbia. He turned professional in 2009 and played on the Canadian Tour for three years, winning once in 2011. He won his first Web.com title in July 2014 at the Nova Scotia Open allowing him to earn his PGA Tour card.

Joel: What course conditions are players on tour looking for?

Roger: The best tour stops always have firm and fast greens. Most have fast greens; the best ones are also firm. This combination makes players think about how they want to approach the green, especially out of the rough.

Joel: What is something better players are prone to notice about a course’s playability, opposed to a higher handicap?

Roger: Consistency. We are looking for each green to react the same way to pitches and approach shots. To take this one-step further, we ideally want consistency day to day. Higher handicaps may not notice consistency but they would benefit from it.

Joel: What, if anything, do you think is misunderstood about playability by average golfers?

Roger: I think hazard maintenance. I am a fan of raw bunker maintenance. As much as I am a fan of firm, fast and consistent greens and fairways, pliability should be a reward for good golf shots. Rough and bunkers should require less maintenance and inputs allowing you folks (turf managers) to focus on the centerline.

Consistency in playing conditions was an interesting point Sloan mentioned that I had not thought of when exploring playability. The process of gathering data including clipping collection, stimp measurements, and firmness readings has been spoken about at great length. It is worth asking though, are we converting this data into increased playability and consistency? By having 18 greens playing similarly, we can increase the enjoyment for our golfers. Set-up of the golf course can also contribute to the feeling of consistency. Setting the golf course where there are an equal amount of birdie and bogey opportunities throughout a round can make the game feel “fair” while keep players entertained and engaged.

I think we would all agree with Sloan’s comments regarding hazards. Hazard maintenance is an opportunity to educate members on resource allocation. We can document the amount of hours spent



West Haven G&CC. Photo provided by West Haven G&CC.

maintaining “hazards” and make the case that this time and effort could be used better on key areas of the property. This may require some communication regarding the original intent of bunker, to penalize players for errant shots. Many of the frequently performed bunker maintenance tasks such as trimming edges, hand raking, and fixing washouts are labor intensive and costly. Altering expectations about how bunkers are to be maintained can help a golf course achieve the same level of playability with fewer resources. Some clubs may even have the opportunity to do selective bunker removal. Many bunkers are only penalizing for higher handicappers. Removal can increase enjoyment, simultaneously reducing hazard maintenance.

The most important take-away from my conversation with Roger was the preference for firm and fast conditions. It got me thinking, are low handicappers and tour players the only people who benefit from firm and fast conditions? Could these playing conditions increase playability for all golfers? We could ask our memberships and ourselves, “would you rather have an extra 15 to 20 yards on your drive or hit the fairway and stop in 5 yards or less?” I think we could all agree, whether you’re a junior just learning the game or a senior who has been playing for many years, squeezing an extra few yards out of a drive will make the game more enjoyable for all. For some, firm and fast may not be a choice. Installation of drainage may be required to achieve these conditions. Achieving firmness allows for a variety of shot options and creativity.

Playability is not the only benefit of firm and fast conditions. We are all aware that maintenance of green, lush conditions requires more inputs: water, fertilizer, pesticides, and mowing. Many clubs do not have the resources to achieve both goals. Thus, either aesthetics or playability are often sacrificed for the other. As turf managers, we have the opportunity to communicate the playability, agronomic, and fiscal benefits of choosing firm and fast. Ultimately, this is a great opportunity to increase enjoyment and keep people playing our great game for longer. ■

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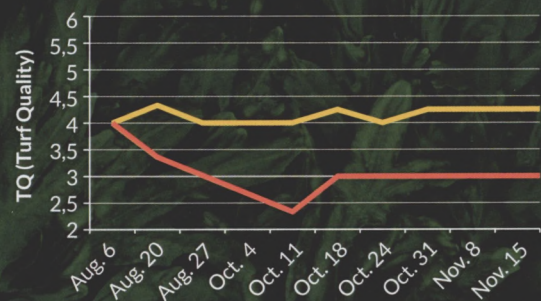


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TOGETHER WE TURF

The Rising Cost of the Game of Golf

By Chris Lecour, Senior Turf Sales Rep., BASF

Special thanks to Jason Ireton, Sales Manager for Plant Products Inc., Cory Janzen, Superintendent at Westmount G&CC, and David DeCorso, Superintendent at Victoria Park East GC for their contributions to this article.

During the pandemic, golf courses saw a surge in popularity of the game not seen since the Tiger Woods boom that began in the late '90s. Wait lists to join private golf clubs became commonplace again and public courses felt little pressure to discount rounds as tee sheets were easy to fill. Unfortunately, the global economy began to ramp up the demand for raw materials, fuel, labour, and the ability to move goods which put a crimp in golf's new boom.

Fuel prices rose in late 2020, just as vaccines became available and the economy slowly inched towards normalcy. Rising global natural gas prices prompted a sharp spike in urea pricing last fall that continues to affect fertilizer prices this spring. Seed pricing has been greatly affected this season from production issues in 2021 and an increase in homeowner demand for seed during the pandemic. The global economy chugging back to life has created supply chain problems for equipment and course accessory manufacturers. In the end, shipping all these essential products to turf managers has been impacted by truck and driver shortages and most recently, skyrocketing fuel prices.

Jason Ireton shares the pain his customers are feeling this spring. Securing raw materials, forecasting product demand, and scheduling production can always be trying even in the best of years, but planning for 2022 provided some unique challenges. "Making sure product was available, forecasted, purchased, and produced for the upcoming season was priority number one," says Ireton. "Forecasting was a big challenge. Will our customers use less to make their budget fit for their property? Will customers drop to a lower quality of product to help offset the increase in cost? These decisions play a major factor in forecasting, planning, and purchasing."

Fertilizer raw material pricing fluctuates throughout the year in relatively small increments, usually imperceptible to the purchaser. With the rise of raw material prices, fertilizer distributors may have delayed bulk material purchases. "When customers and fertilizer distributors wait until the spring in hopes of price decreases to place orders or POs with manufacturing plants and blenders, this has caused production problems like raw material shortages, scheduling challenges and long production delays," explains Ireton. He then describes multiple issues that compound the problem; "If this is not bad enough, other unforeseen challenges then came into play such as a truck strike and lack of trucks, causing freight to increase again. In addition to the above challenges came the war, reduced raw material exports, and increased gas price increases."

Private golf clubs are not immune from the effects of today's inflation, price hikes, and labour and supply chain issues. Cory Janzen,

Superintendent at Westmount G&CC, says that while they have been able to adapt their daily schedules and operating budgets as required, the club still has certain member expectations that they strive to achieve. Janzen states, "we anticipated some of the costs and adjusted our budgets but have had to absorb others and try to find savings elsewhere. As a private club, we don't want to compromise the conditioning of the course so some of the extra costs get passed on to the members."

Janzen considers the club fortunate, given the current difficulty many clubs have had filling open positions. "We've been very lucky to be in a position where more people apply than we need to hire, so we have choices. Having said that, we've had to take a hard look at our rates of pay to make sure we're competitive in our local job market. We've had more trouble finding Assistants and Mechanics than other staff." Despite the club's ability to attract quality seasonal employees, Westmount remains a very busy private club. The added pressure to accommodate the increase in member play, particularly in late summer and fall when the sun is lower on the horizon and recovery can be hindered, places additional strain on the maintenance department's budget.

If there is a turf manager out there who appreciates the balance between revenue and expenses while maintaining golfer expectations and maximizing guest rounds every day, it is David DeCorso, GM and Superintendent at Victoria Park East and Victoria Park Valley GC. "We've increased both our membership rates and green fees; however, rates were determined well before some of the increases we're seeing now came into effect. We've eliminated a lot of the discounting which benefits the entire golf industry. We haven't had too many tournaments since Covid, and it'll be interesting to see how this year works with more." DeCorso explains his hesitancy to book full-field tournaments at each course on the same day; "we ordered 70 new golf carts in November and may not see them until August or September and there aren't any used ones available." They could share carts between courses, but on a double tournament day, there won't be enough to go around.

All these variables have led DeCorso, along with most turf managers, to adjust practices, operations, and budgets as required across all departments; for instance, they carried on with topdressing and aeration to avoid increase in organic matter levels and skipped dormant nitrogen application on fairways, last fall. He explains that because of the lack of resumes they usually count on from UoG students, they have had to make operational adjustments in areas like hours of food and beverage operations, table service, and offering cooler bags in lieu of drink cart operators. "We have also let our members know that bunker maintenance will not return to normal post covid simply due to labour shortage and labour expense," he says.

While the social and economic repercussions of Covid-19 will continue to present challenges to all of us for the foreseeable future, there's no doubt the golf industry will continue to adapt and thrive just as it has for the last two seasons. ■

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Managing Accent Fescues

Scarifying with a de-thatching rake.

Written by Al Schwemler, OGSA Immediate Past President. Photos provided by Bill Green.

When golfers hear the term “fescues,” most will envision the gently oscillating, golden brown, golf ball swallowing, menacing knee-deep, penal grasses located beyond the cut roughs. Turf managers know that there are many varieties of “fescues” that are utilized on greens, tee decks, fairways, and all levels of roughs. This article will focus on management strategies for the longer, golden brown, deep roughs that will be referred to as “Accent Fescues.”

Canadian golf course architect, Christine Fraser, has worked on numerous links golf projects in the UK, while apprenticing with third generation English golf architect, Dr. Martin Hawtree. When asked her thoughts on accent fescues on golf courses, she replied:

“Golf architects strive for variety in design to keep the golfer interested and challenged. Fescue is a wonderful tool architects often use to promote a vision of diverse palates of texture, pattern, boundaries, and hues. A peripheral fescue swath will direct the eye of the golfer toward the target, creating a striking frame for the hole. We can only hope for enough breeze that the grasses begin to sway, and the audible effect creates a most subtle integration of landscape and golfer.”

The management and maintenance practices discussed in this article are a compilation of techniques employed by Bill Green, Golf Course and Grounds Superintendent at Cutten Fields in Guelph, Colin Young, Director of Golf Course Operations at Beacon Hall Golf Club in Aurora, and past experiences shared by me, Al Schwemler, retired Superintendent. The ultimate goal of all three turf managers is to have “thin and wispy fescues that are playable and easy to find one’s golf ball.”

Establishment

The vast majority of accent fescues were established by seed, with some minor sodding. The predominant varieties included a blend of Hard and Sheep fescue at Beacon Hall Golf Club (20 plus hectares) and a blend of Hard, Sheep, Blue, and Chewings fescues at Cutten Fields (16 plus hectares). Seeding rates varied from 14.7 – 18.4 kg/ha (80 – 100 lbs/acre). Low seeding rates enabled a thin and wispy stand of turf from the start of accent fescue development.

Once established, accent fescues are not intentionally irrigated or fertilized to aid in maintaining thin and wispy accents. Sandy and well drained soils are the preferred growing medium.

Mowing Regimes

Beacon Hall

- Accent fescues are mowed in October with a flail mower crop chopper
- Clippings are collected into a trailer via the crop chopper chute
- Fescues are then scarified with a de-thatcher turf rake to assist in thinning out accents
- Areas that become thick during the season are mowed for playability

Cutten Fields

- Fescues are mowed 3 – 4 times in the spring at regular rough height, left to grow from June–October/November, then mowed again.
- Accents are mowed with flail mowers, an all-terrain traction unit with a tough cut deck, and trimmers.
- Following the fall mow, accents are scarified with a de-thatcher rake and clipping piles picked up with a skid steer grapple.
- Areas that have become thick, impact playability and mowing efficiency, and lead to traffic issues, have been mowed back to regular rough height.

Weed and Pest Management

Accent fescues are thin and wispy in nature so there are many open voids for weed invasion. Both properties treat with pre and post emergent weed control products. Applications are made in the spring prior to allowing the fescues to grow and again after the fall mowing if conditions are conducive to herbicide uptake. Once the fescues start growing and seed head production begins, backpack sprayers, handheld spray guns, and hand picking attain weed control. Both clubs monitor for chinch bugs, sod webworm, and grubs. Areas that have a history of insect damage/activity are typically treated preventatively.

Other Cultural Practices

Over-seeding/renovating excessively thin areas is a standard practice. These areas may have experienced insect damage, weed, or native grass infestations that have been eradicated or succumbed to long periods of drought. Owning or having access to a small hydro-seeder is one of the easiest ways to re-establish weak areas. Aggressive verti-cutting can assist in significantly thinning out dense stands.

Common Challenges of Accent Fescue Management

Accent fescues are a living entity and are very dynamic in nature. Climate patterns can play a major role on how they will perform each year. Maintaining a consistent sward of accent fescues can be challenging. Once you allow them to start growing for the season, there is not much you can do other than manual weed control. Entering these areas with any type of equipment post seedhead production will leave permanent scars/tracking for the remainder of the season.



Accent fescues at Cutten Fields.



Thin and wispy accent fescues.

Common Challenges of Accent Fescue Management

1. Maintaining thin and wispy fescues:

- Thick fescues lead to more lost balls, slower play, and golfer dissatisfaction.
- Wet seasons and poorly drained soils are conducive to producing thick and unplayable fescues.
- Irrigation drift may cause thicker fescues in areas most adjacent to play.
- Fescue plants/seedheads can be knocked over during severely rainy weather with little chance of rebounding, impacting playability.
- Scarifying is key to keeping accent fescues thin and wispy.
- Accent fescues cannot be thinned out mid-season via mowing and scarifying without sacrificing the visual appeal and intended look (seedhead production will not be repeated).

2. Native grasses and weed infestations:

- Weeds can proliferate within the voids created by scarifying.
- Native grasses are difficult to control due to lack of registered herbicides.
- Excessive drought stunts fescue growth, reducing the ability to naturally compete with weeds.
- Using boom sprayers is not recommended due to tracking.
- Hand picking weeds is very labor intensive.

3. Topography:

- Steep slopes and undulating terrain can impact equipment access for managing weeds, mowing, clipping removal, and scarifying.
- Organic matter build up will eventually lead to a dense turf stand.

4. Cart and pull/speed cart traffic:

- Golfers will drive power carts and take walking devices through accent fescues, leaving a lasting and unsightly trampled look.

5. Seedhead variability:

- Production varies depending on climatic and soil (moisture and compaction) conditions.

6. Labor and equipment costs:

- Managing accent fescues requires specialty equipment and dedicated labor.
- Mowing and debris removal takes three-five weeks to complete.
- Operating costs ranged from \$15,000 to \$50,000+ per year.

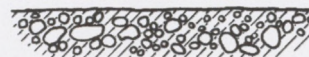
7. Managing expectations:

- Golfers' views and preferences will vary based on all aspects of accent fescues mentioned above.
- There will always be a love/hate relationship with accent fescues.

Accent fescues have a place in golf course landscape given proper growing conditions and architectural vision. They shouldn't be confused with "naturalized or no mow zones," as accent fescues do require a reasonable amount of maintenance and specialized equipment. There are many challenges to maintaining aesthetically pleasing and playable accent fescues on a consistent basis. By utilizing the management techniques and understanding the challenges outlined in this document, producing, and maintaining accent fescues can be successful. Accent fescues are not for everyone, however the visual impacts are stunning, they add challenge to the game, and ultimately compliment the design intentions of the golf course architect. ■

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Written by and photos provided by Taylor Cairns, Equipment Manager at London Hunt Club.

Hello all and welcome, it's time for some Shop Feng Shui. Some may take this literal and some figurative, though I hope it creates some thoughts at the very least. Having been to a fair number of maintenance facilities over the years has allowed many of us to really get a feel for what we are looking for in our shop atmosphere. Each space is different and the people working in it bring various perspectives. Taking the time to do a good walk through and an in-depth assessment will allow you to really get a good feel for the space and the flow within your facility.

One of the main elements you are looking for is flow. How do we, the mechanics and superintendents, work around the shop? Is our toolbox in the best spot? Workbenches, office space, parts rooms – are they set up for optimal flow? How is it impacting your day to day? Even go a step further; an important consideration is how your staff interact with the shop as well. Is the space just a walk through or will it be used as a workspace at some point? If it is just a walk through for staff, the use of safety lines on the floor can guide staff to their workspaces in a safe manner. If it transitions into a workspace, are collapsible tables or benches needed? Are you using the wall space efficiently? Here at the London Hunt Club, we are fortunate to have a great space that is being used well. It took some time, but we have found subtle ways to enhance our space. Repurposing pegboards into our new bedknife rack beside our grinding area will reduce walk time and searching for the correct knife. Moving already in-use

cabinets and shelving has changed our use of space and allowed for the introduction of a tire changer (manual unit, for now). We also opened the roll up door between workspaces. This allows us to know who's in the shop and can affect which jobs can be done. Typically, if the floor is busy, we won't fire up the welder, at least not without fair warning. This can also be beneficial for safety reasons as we will know someone is within shouting distance in case of an emergency. We have taken this mindset into our equipment area as well. We changed how our equipment is parked and organized our cold storage area, giving us a flow for the equipment coming and going from the building. This makes the equipment more accessible for service times. A bonus is that we created a lot more space where before we were wondering how to get it all packed in. Our current set up may change again as the season rolls on.

This practice will help do two things. First, freshen up the space and create new energies through a variety of ways; the limit is up to you. It could be a full shop renovation to simply painting the walls, epoxy coating the floors, or creating zones to have workspaces. These zones will offer a visual aid to staff that this is a work zone and to be aware. It could also be as simple as moving cabinets. Are you using wall space adequately? There are many organizing tips and tricks to be found through google searches and reddit threads. It just takes time to find the right fit for your lay out. Be sure to have a plan and start small – Rome wasn't built in a day. This will also reduce the anxiety to new surroundings and methods that some people may have. Second, it will allow you to see your true inventory. We all have



those areas of the facility that seems to just accumulate like a vortex. Purging and sorting these vortex areas will provide extra storage or workspaces and a reduction of redundant items. Maybe there are filters and parts of by-gone equipment that are just taking up space and gathering dust. Use this as an opportunity to see if other operations nearby may use them. If not, pitch it, it won't do you any good taking up space! It can be difficult to purge but be diligent and do some research to see if those items can be used on any of your current fleet.

There are a variety of ways to affect positive change in our facilities. Sometimes it can just be complacency as that is the way things have always been done. It can be a really positive experience to engage staff while doing these things as well. There are plenty of rain days and frost delays to get your staff to help. This can give them a sense of ownership for the facility and give them a level of pride. It can also be invigorating for staff to come back from the winter and find a revamped and tidy space. Doing small tasks as mentioned can lead to potential investment from ownership, if they see us taking the initiative and being proactive about how we have our facilities set up. It may not happen at first but keep at it and don't be dismayed. Reach out to your neighbors and see what they are doing as it may be beneficial for you and your operation. It can be scary getting into the depths of our shops, however the satisfaction you and others will get from a fresh and organized space will create an energy that can transfer through the whole department. As we enter early spring go for a walk-through of your shop and find your flow and pick one thing that may give your facility better Feng Shui. ■

Growing From Seed



Every spring, I find myself uncontrollably excited to start growing. There is another gardener in my house who shares the same eagerness to put soil in flats and get some seeds started. The seed box and flats come out and soil starts to fly as soon as there's a hint of warmer weather.

A few things I've learned along the way: it is easy to go overboard on planting seeds in the spring and not every seedling that sprouts needs to get transplanted into the bed or planter; it's OK to sacrifice a few in the name of proper spacing.

When starting plants from seed, really pay attention to the germination requirements, and germination rates or percentages. Do some research on the plants you want to germinate. When purchasing seeds, be sure to read the packages for planting depth instructions, timing of planting, required temperature, and whether there are special stratification or scarification requirements. Stratification is a process of pre-treating seeds in order to simulate natural conditions that seeds would experience in the soil over winter. For example, some seeds need to be put in the freezer for a certain amount of time; some need to be soaked for a period; some need both; some need to be put in the fridge before sowing. Scarifying is the process of weakening the seedcoat by nicking with a knife, using extremely hot water, or through chemical processes. Seed bed soils should be researched as well, not every seed likes the standard potting soil; some prefer a little sandier mix whereas some like to be a little wetter.

Not everything germinates at the same time or even grows at the same pace, once germinated. Some plants are best sown directly into the garden. In the vegetable world for example, that would apply to root vegetables like beets and carrots, and others like lettuces, cucumbers, and squash. These vegetables don't love to be transplanted and germinate so fast that there's no real advantage to start planting them early, indoors. It's always good to slightly over sow to ensure a good population and then thin accordingly shortly after germination.

Timing of sowing and light levels are extremely important. If you sow too early, you run the risk of the seedlings becoming very stretched as they reach for light, should they be grown indoors for too long. They can become floppy and be at risk of damage or being misshaped. If your sow timing is bang on, you can still run the risk of stretch issues and unhealthy seedlings if you have in adequate light levels.

Moisture and airflow are two other very important factors. It doesn't take long for a seed bed to dry out and it doesn't take long for seedlings to wilt. Maintaining consistent moisture is important for the germination process as well, never let the soil dry out during germination. Air movement is important for two reasons; one, it helps prevent disease like Damp-off that affects seedlings, and two, it helps to strengthen seedlings. Having a fan running to move air around the seedlings is an easy way to get air movement.

People often think that growing from seed is a cheaper way to go versus buying a

mature plant. Yes, seeds are certainly cheaper. However, they require a lot of time, attention, and resources to develop into a mature plant. There is also a higher risk of failure, meaning all that time and effort is gone versus just going to a garden centre and spending \$15-\$20 on a 1-gallon plant ready for transplant. I'm referring mainly to Perennials. Don't get me wrong, it is fun and a great experience to grow a plant from seed but if you are not properly set up for and committed to the long haul with perennials from seed, and you are doing it purely for cost savings, I will tell you it will be false economy. On the other hand, if you have the space, the ability to provide proper conditions, the time, and the know how, it can be great way to cost effectively generate plant material.

Even cheaper than buying seeds? You can collect them yourself in the fall. Cut the flower heads off that appear to have gone to seed, few to no petals left, and browning. Remove the seeds from the flower head and place on wax paper or some other flat clean surface to dry for a week. Clean the seeds by removing husks or any other debris and place in a paper bag or envelope. Store the seeds in a dry location, any moisture may cause them to germinate, rot, or develop mold. ■



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10 Years Ago, Today



Summer Scramble Foursome (L-R): Chris Andrejicka, OGSAA Past President & Superintendent at Essex G&CC, Kevin Doyle, GCSAA, Dennis Piccolo, St. Catherine's G&CC, and Gary Morris, Turf Care.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors for 2012 were: **Doug Breen** (pres), Brookfield; **Chris Andrejicka** (past pres), Essex; **Rob Gatto** (vice), King's Forest; **Phil Scully** (sec), Granite Club; **Corey Janzen**, Westmount; **David Kuypers**, Cutten Fields; **John McLinden**, Toronto Ladies; **Mark Prieur**, Trafalgar; **Rod Speake**, Mill Run; **Chad Vibert**, Mad River; and **Scott White**, Donalda. **Sally Ross** was the executive manager.

ON THE MOVE

Tangle Creek Golf Club hired **Michael McDevit** and **Chris Emerton** moved on to Oak Bay Golf & Country Club. **Greg Florence** is the new superintendent at Eagle Ridge Golf Club and **Trevor Morvay** went to Sawmill Creek Golf Club. At London Hunt and Country Club, **Bob Pattinson** retired, and they hired assistant **Deb Dale**. **Kerry Whale** moved from Plant Products to AllTurf.

TOURNAMENTS

The Pro/Super Challenge tournament was in May at the Georgian Bay Club in Collingwood hosted by **Bert McFadden**. The winning team was from Batteaux Creek, **Paul Mickalko** and **Jim Rennie**.

The Presidents' Day Tournament was in July at The Granite Club, hosted by **Phil Scully**. The winning team was from Islington, **Ian McQueen**, followed by the Granite Club,

Phil Scully, and in third place Weston, **Robert Ackermann**.

In August, the Summer Scramble was held at Springfield Golf and Country Club, hosted by **Ray Dlugokecki**. The flight A winners were **Jamie Spencer**, Westminster Trails; **Mark Trudell**, Mount Elgin; **Mark Durand**, Ontario Seed; and **Scott Gardner**, Echo Valley. The flight B winners were **John McLinden**, Toronto Ladies; **Mike Jennings**, Maple Downs; **Scott Heron**, Toronto Hunt; and **Scott Knox**, Syngenta.

The Sixth Annual Seniors Tournament was hosted by **Nick Amsen** with **Alan Beeneey**, **Doug Suter**, **Rae Murray**, **Paul White** and **Pelino Scenna** volunteering. The low gross winners were **Colin Nisbet**, Westview (72), **Thom Charters**, Coppinwood (78), **Dave Stevens**, Beaverbrook (80), **Bruce Dodson**, Heritage Hills (82) and **John Hughes**, Heritage Hills (82).

The Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament was held at the Scarboro Golf & Country Club hosted by **Bill Gilkes**. **Thom Charters**, Coppinwood, won the George Darou Trophy for superintendents over 50 and low gross honours went to **Vesselin Gueorguiev**, Royal Ontario.

The 2012 Ontario Turf Research Foundation Tournament was held at the Magna Golf Club, hosted by **Wayne Wrath**, raising \$40,000 for turfgrass research.



G.M. Frost Research & Information Centre in 2012.

IN MEMORY

Jack Austin, Canadian Irrigation Consultants and **Darren Schuett**, Skyway Lawn Equipment, passed away.

MILESTONES

Art Oswald, Grandview, and **Jerry Richard**, Craigowan, were recognized as 25 Year members.

The following clubs celebrated their 100th anniversary:

Guelph Country Club, **Gary Grosicki**, Sarnia Golf and Curling Club, **Paul Brown**, Scarboro Golf and Country Club, **Bill Gilkes** and Summit Golf and Country Club, **Philip Brown**.

The following clubs celebrated their 50th anniversary:

Glen Eagle Golf Club, **Michael McCarthy**, Puslinch Lake Golf Club, **Jim Moore** and Summerheights Golf Links, **Rory MacLennan**.

The Guelph Turfgrass Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary. At the Research Field Day, many of the founders were recognized for their contributions to the development of the facility.

AWARDS

The late **Gordon Witteveen** was inducted into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

Retired superintendent/past president



Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament Host Superintendent Bill Gilkes, Assistant Superintendent Lesley Thomas, and their greens crew, Scarboro G&CC.



Research Field Day.



Doug Breen (L) presents to Host Superintendent Phil Scully (R) from Granite GC.



OGSA President Doug Breen presents the William Sansom Trophy to the winning team from Islington GC.



Sixth Annual OGSA Seniors' Tournament.

Pelino Scenna was the winner of this year's John B. Steele Award by the CGSA.

Ken Wright, Devil's Pulpit, was awarded the Score Golf Award for Superintendent of the Year from the CGSA.

Congratulations to G. C. Duke Equipment which was awarded "North American Dealer of the Year" at the GCSAA show in Las Vegas.

Andrew Hardy, Pheasant Run, was recognized by the GCSAA/Golf Digest in the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards. ■



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Summer 2022

Knowing Your Roots

By Doug Breen, Superintendent,
Golf North Properties.

My father was a huge fan of history. Like many of his generation, his formal education was limited by the demands of a working farm and the ailing health of his father. However, he was extremely well read, and spent a great deal of time thinking while he worked alone. He was a true barnyard philosopher, engineer, and historian. As a result, I've been to every local museum, fort, pioneer village, and giant goose statue in Ontario. To this day, I can't pass a blue historic plaque without stopping to read it, much to the chagrin of my family.

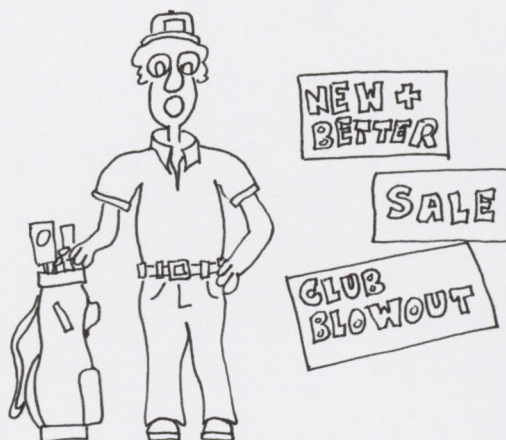
And I love it.

He believed that you couldn't truly understand "Why people do what they do, until you understand why they did what they did." From a very young age, I was taught to look at a place and ask, *why did they settle here? Why is this town bigger than that town? Why is this University here? When did they start playing baseball?* So, when it came time to research the marking of the 100th anniversary of one of our courses – I was more than happy to take on the challenge. What I didn't expect, was that I would end up taking a deep dive down the rabbit hole of the golf boom of the roaring twenties, the sociology of golf over the past century, and to literally step back in time with the Golf Historical Society of Canada.

World Hickory Golf Day was a cold, rainy spring day in Ontario. I had contacted Golf Historical Society of Canada to see if they'd be willing to set up a display of antique clubs at the 100th anniversary of Uplands Golf & Ski Club. They graciously accepted; and in turn, invited me to try to play a round with a set of clubs that were also 100 years old. As a cool mist fell from an overcast sky, they handed me a small bag of six clubs, with names like brassies, spoons, mashies, and niblicks. Each had a wooden hickory shaft, and each was hand built in the 1920's. When I expressed my concern that I might break one, the assembled golfers laughed heartily, "They've lasted 100 years, you're not that strong."

The next several hours yielded a surprisingly competent round on my part; but more importantly, a re-telling of the history of golf equipment, courses, and people – by those qualified and eager to impart such information to an even more eager listener. The time flew past. First of all, the clubs are absolutely beautiful. Individually crafted pieces of industrial art, each with its own history. Second, it was surprising to see just how much the ball would pop off the antique technology. I actually scored reasonably well. My first thought was that playing golf with old equipment would be like doing surgery with tools from a museum – kind of nostalgic, but not a very good idea. I was wrong.

We spoke of the North American golf boom of the 1920's, and



My clubs are like most things about me.
Too old to be fashionable, but too new to
be "retro".

how Uplands was certainly part of that. Soldiers were introduced to the game, while serving in Europe during the First World War. When they returned with a ravenous appetite for the pastime, every town worth its salt was 'laying out some links.' Architects like Stanley Thompson were opening a dozen courses per year. Somewhere around the 6th hole, it occurred to me that producing clubs individually must have been very expensive, so I asked my host what a set of clubs would have cost a WW1 veteran. The answer surprised me. It turns out that each club would have cost approximately the same as two weeks wages for an average Canadian worker at the time. So, a set of eight clubs was worth four month's salary. Now the Birks diamond people tell

me that I should have spent that much on an engagement ring – I didn't. But I don't know that I would have spent that much on golf clubs either! It's not hard to see why golf was seen as a 'rich man' sport at the time. A golf ball was worth a week's salary – that would make a person go looking in the woods. Until golf's governing bodies put a limit on club quantities in a bag – it wasn't uncommon for caddies to be slogging around more than thirty of them, primarily as an outward demonstration of wealth.

It wasn't until the mass production of golf clubs in the 1960's that golf truly became a game for the general public. With more affordable equipment, not to mention the popularity of televised golf on the weekends – an even bigger golf boom occurred some 50 years later. By the 1980's, when I started playing, golf had truly become accessible. By the time my kids started playing, I could get them a set of clubs for the price of a pair of skates, and a junior membership was less than the cost of house-league hockey.

There will be a number of Ontario clubs celebrating their 100th over the next decade or so, and I encourage you to look into the history of your course. Not just the locations of old tees, green sites, and routings (although that's fascinating in its own right) – but the stories about the characters who played there. Several people have told me that when Toronto was a bastion of the Temperance movement – golf courses were one of the few places where one could purchase a drink on a Sunday. It was illegal, of course, but if the Police Chief was a member... Several people told me about the day that Uplands ran out of beer, so a member landed his Cessna on the 14th fairway, place two cases on the green, and took off again. Every person who I've talked to has a similar story about a match, or a guest, or a tournament, or a hole in one, or 'The time that somebody did something.'

The history of golf in Ontario is a long and interesting one. Thanks to the influence of my father, I look forward to learning more about it – and maybe this weekend, we can all make a memory of our own. ■

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