

March 2022

# ON COURSE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## The (Joint) Canadian Golf Course Management Conference Goes Virtual

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Dirt on Soils

Designing for Less Staff






Safety First! Getting Ready for Spring!

CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL  
PUBLICATIONS AGREEMENT No. 40027105  
Postmaster: Please return undeliverable copies to  
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## Jason Hooper

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604.317.2476

## Chris Paterson

Southern Alberta & Kootenays  
chris.paterson@target-specialty.com  
403.540.0157

## Mark Scenna

Sales Manager, Canada  
mark.scenna@target-specialty.com • 416.458.2396

## Eric Gratopp

Northern Alberta  
eric.gratopp@target-specialty.com  
587.284.4744

## Gregor Kowalski

Vancouver Island  
gregor.kowalski@target-specialty.com  
250.686.3909

## Josh Seibel

Saskatchewan & Manitoba  
josh.seibel@target-specialty.com  
306.861.8296

## Perry Brazeau

Toronto / East  
perry.brazeau@target-specialty.com  
416.705.8006

## Colin Hindle

Ottawa & Eastern Ontario  
colin.hindle@target-specialty.com  
613.314.9711

## Jason MacRae

Quebec North & West  
jason.macrae@target-specialty.com  
514.712.8006

## Mitch Guy

Northern Ontario  
mitch.guy@target-specialty.com  
705.444.9010

## Joey Losito

Quebec South & East  
joseph.losito@target-specialty.com  
819.571.1677

## Craig McCutcheon

South-West Ontario  
craig.mccutcheon@target-specialty.com  
905.351.6544

## Chris Nelson

Toronto West / Niagara  
chris.nelson@target-specialty.com • 647.382.6868



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Ryan L. Scott,  
OGSA President.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I write my first message as your new President. It is a privilege, not only to volunteer as a board member of this terrific association but to be the President. It has been a rich and rewarding experience thus far, and I will work hard to do right by those that have led this association before me.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> we hosted our AGM via Zoom. Al Schwemler concluded his term as OGSA president, and is now our immediate Past President. Thank you, Al, for the past six years of service to our association, your involvement has been vital to its current status. I would also like to thank Mike Pellerin MS, AGS for his service and dedication to the association over the past 5 years.

I would like to welcome our newest Board of Director's, Paul Snider of Blue Mountain G&CC and Brad Hutchison from Warkworth GC. These two gentlemen are bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience with them, and I am looking forward to working with them both.

The past couple of years have been very trying for everyone, and it has certainly been challenging for the Board of Directors and the OGSA staff as we have had to make many difficult decisions and adjustments. The word "pivot" has been used ad nauseum and every time I hear it, all I see in my mind is Ross, Chandler, and Rachel trying to carry a sofa up a flight of stairs. We thank you for your patience and professionalism as we transition into our new normal.

I would like to recognize Courtney White, our Executive Manager, and the exceptional job she did this year in her inaugural year managing and modernizing our association; the future is bright, and we are in good hands with Courtney leading the way.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, the CGSA/OGSA announced the joint conference, originally set to be held in person at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Toronto, was going

to transition to a virtual platform. This decision was not an easy one to make but after much discussion with the conference committee members and with the health and safety of all our association members and delegates in mind, we felt a virtual conference was the most responsible and wisest alternative.

I hope that everyone that attended the Joint CGSA/OGSA conference at the beginning of March, enjoyed the education that was provided, and took home some knowledge you will be able to apply moving forward. I want to acknowledge the support of our sponsors, John Deere Canada, Syngenta Canada, Bayer Environmental Science, Target Specialty Products/QualiPro, Mobilicab, Brett Young, Toro (Turf Care Canada), Rain Bird and Pumps Plus and all of the suppliers who participated in the virtual tradeshow. Thank you. I for one, am really looking forward to seeing the many faces of our association in person over the course of the year as we are planning some new initiatives and events for all to enjoy, stay tuned.

Wishing you all a healthy spring and a successful 2022 growing season. ■



## Editor

Courtney White  
manager@ogsa.ca

## Publisher

Diane Davey  
diane@blenheim.ca

## Advertising & Administrative Manager

Diane Davey  
diane@blenheim.ca  
Tel: 289-337-4305

## Production & Design

Patrick Kilborn  
patrick@blenheim.ca

ONCourse is published four times a year  
(November / March / June / August)  
by Blenheim INK for:



## Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Guelph Turfgrass Institute  
G.M. Frost Building, University of Guelph  
364 College Ave E.  
Guelph ON, N1G 3B9

Tel: 519-767-3341  
Toll Free: 877-824-6472  
Email: admin@ogsa.ca  
[www.ogsa.ca](http://www.ogsa.ca)



## Published by Blenheim INK

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

[www.blenheim.ca](http://www.blenheim.ca)

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# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## THE CANADIAN Golf Course Management Conference

March 1 - 3 2022

Goes Virtual



"We're In This Together, Eh!"

### INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

ALMACK AGRONOMIC SERVICES INC.	16
AQUATROLS www.can.aquatrols.com	8
BANNERMAN www.sportsturfmagic.com	12, 25
BAYER es.bayer.ca	4
BELCHIM www.belchimturf.ca	21, 27
BRAEMAR BUILDING SYSTEMS www.braemarbuildings.com	14
BRETTYOUNG www.brettyoung.ca	19
ONTARIO SEED COMPANY www.oscturf.com	11
P.D. SOLUTIONS www.pdsolutions.ca	3
TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS www.target-specialty.com	2
TURF CARE PRODUCTS CANADA www.turfcare.ca	6, 28
ZANDER SOD CO. LIMITED www.zandersod.com	17

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MARCH 2022 | ONCourse 5

### Features

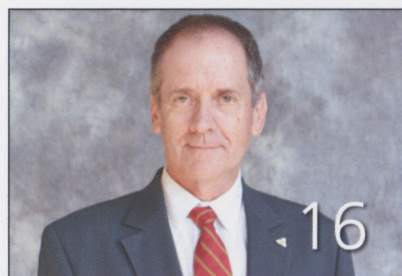
- 9 **GC Highlight & Member Profile**  
Evan Coakwell, Superintendent,  
Tyandaga Golf Course
- 13 **2022 Joint (Virtual) Canadian Golf  
Course Management Conference**
- 16 **William Sansom Distinguished Service  
Award: Rhod Trainor**
- 17 **Designing For Less Staff**
- 18 **The Dirt on Soils**
- 20 **Get Ready for Spring and a  
Safe Golf Season!**

### Regular Contributors

- 22 **Off the Fairway**
- 24 **Looking Back**
- 26 **Turf or Consequences**

### Departments

- 3 **President's Message**
- 6 **Editorial Message**
- 7 **What's New**
- 23 **Member Moments**  
Celebrating a 50 + Year Career  
Peter Barnett



16



9



23

### ON THE COVER

#TodayInOntario 2021 winning photo.  
Submitted by Aaron Hill, TPC Toronto at  
Osprey Valley.

### ONCOURSE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Marco China, Joel Johnston, Chris Lecour,  
Steve Rabski, Lisa Marie Pearce, Al Schwemler,  
Courtney White, Madeleine White



## EDITORIAL MESSAGE

This issue is always one of my favourites: the conference issue. I love seeing the photographs of our members inside the pages. Inside this issue, we celebrate the success of the conference, and recap a couple of the sessions for those who weren't able to attend. Although NO ONE was thrilled about the decision to move to a virtual conference event, we were really pleased to offer an education program this year and include an award ceremony recognizing William Sansom Award winner Rhod Trainor, OGSA editorial and social media award winners, scholarship recipients and our milestone recipients.

We also get a chance to recognize our sponsors for their support of association initiatives, and in a year where we had to *pivot* (sorry Ryan, one last time) from an in person event, the continued support was significant in helping the OGSA and CGSA deliver such a well-received event.

ONCourse committee members Lisa Marie Pearce and Joel Johnston give us a quick recap, highlighting key take-aways of various sessions from the conference including Thomas A. Nikolai's *The Dirt on Soil* and *Designing for Less Staff* with expert golf course architects Ian Andrew, Jeff Mingay, and Keith Cutten.

Lisa Marie Pearce (doing double duty this issue) shines the spotlight on superintendent, Evan Coakwell and his well-kept stomping grounds, Tyandaga Golf Course. She shares the history of the relationship between golf course and superintendent, highlighting Evan's unique qualities that make him the superintendent he is today. Peter Barnett has made the Member Moments pages celebrating his 50 years at Richmond Hill Golf Club.

In preparation of opening the courses in the spring, Bill Godkin provides us with a great safety check list, and Chris Cumming

highlights the lifespan of various flowers, symptoms that indicate aging, and how to prolong your garden's longevity.

Barry Endicott takes us back to 2017, and if you haven't eaten lunch yet, I would recommend grabbing a bite to eat before reading Doug Breen's article that WILL make your stomach grumble – don't say I didn't warn you.

With that, I extend a big thank you to the ONCourse committee for their incredible contributions to the publication we are so proud of. On behalf of all of us, we hope you enjoy the March issue! ■



Courtney White,  
Executive Manager, OGSA  
and ONCourse Editor.  
[manager@ogsa.ca](mailto:manager@ogsa.ca)

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# WHAT'S NEW

By Courtney White, Executive Manager, OGSA.

## SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION 2021, LAST BUT NOT LEAST....



Nov 1, OGSA Director Ian McQueen and Pete Sojak (Allturf) visit Oakdale G&CC to congratulate Patrick Greenman and crew for their contributions to the Ontario Men's Better-Ball Championship, Oct 18 2021.

## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The OGSA virtual AGM took place January 18, 2022. The Annual Report and financial statements were presented and approved. The reports are available on the OGSA website. The 2022 OGSA Board of Directors was elected as follows:



Ryan L. Scott, OGSA President, Oakville GC.



Owen Russell, Vice President, Markland Wood GC.



Ian McQueen, Secretary Treasurer, St. George's G&CC.



Al Schwemler, Immediate Past President.



Kevin Collier, Director, Riverbend GC.



Andrew Nieder, Director, Deerhurst Resort.



Sean Gunn, Director, The Cardinal Golf Group.



Paul Snider, Director, Blue Mountain G&CC.



Brad Hutchinson, Director, Warkworth GC.

## MARCH BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met in Guelph at the new GTI, for the first in person meeting in two years. The meeting spanned two days and it was an excellent opportunity for new directors to meet, network, and plan for the upcoming year.

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

We are updating our annual Membership Directory! Please visit your online profile to ensure that the information we have on file is correct and make any necessary changes **by April 15.**

## #TODAYINONTARIO

Are you as excited as we are for the 2022 Today in Ontario social media contest? It's now underway and we can't wait to see this year's life on the course, captured and tweeted by our members! Don't forget to use #TodayInOntario and tag @OntarioGSA. **Hint: Clever captions get you bonus points!**

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

### Submission Deadlines:

April 1: GC Duke Internship Award

April 4: Turfgrass Education Awards

April 15: Norm McCollum Scholarship

Turfgrass Short Course (Automatically awarded, no application required.)

Visit the [ogsa.ca](http://ogsa.ca), Scholarships & Awards page for more details.

## THE RBC CANADIAN OPEN

### Volunteers Needed - June 4<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>!

Full-week volunteers or Thursday to Sunday volunteers preferred. Receive an all-access pass to the RBC Canadian Open. Free swag and uniforms for the week. Great opportunity to network and be part of the return of professional golf to Canada.

Please contact Marco China at (416)-231-3393 ext. 248 or [MChina@stgeorges.org](mailto:MChina@stgeorges.org)



## WELCOME to Our New Members

<b>Dustin Thompson</b> Briars Golf Club	Class C	<b>Eric Greaves</b> Hockley Valley Resort	Class B	<b>Michael Maly</b> Galt Country Club	Class C
<b>Matthew Carriere</b> Markland Wood Golf Club	Class C	<b>Kyle Knight</b> The Oakdale Golf Club	Class C	<b>Jasmine Morning</b> Station Creek Golf Club	Class C
<b>Scott Tomaszewski</b> Markland Wood Golf Club	Class F	<b>John Lopes</b> Oakville Golf Club	Class F	<b>Kevin Alder</b> Credit Valley Golf and Country Club	Class F
<b>Matthew Viveiros</b> Markland Wood Golf Club	Class S	<b>Mike Shepherd</b> Angus Glen Golf Club	Class C	<b>David Sherlock</b> Simoro Golf Links	Class A
<b>Koree Wait</b> Donalda Club	Class F	<b>Austin Muongchanh</b> The Thornhill Club	Class C	<b>Bryan Hunter</b> Seven Lakes Championship Golf & Estates	Class B
<b>Makenna Best</b> Watson's Glen Golf Club	Class C	<b>Dan North</b> Angus Glen Golf Club	Class C	<b>Kyle Griffis</b> Cardinal Lakes Golf Course	Class B
<b>Scott Fries</b> Listowel Golf Club	Class F	<b>Tim Thurston</b> Ambassador Golf Club	Class F	<b>Heidi Cassidy</b> East Park Golf Club	Class A
<b>Hunter Broda</b> Maple Downs Golf & Country Clubs	Class F	<b>Michael Vincent</b> The Pulpit Club	Class D	<b>Troy Hoxey</b> Woodington Lake Golf Club	Class C
<b>Bryce Allan</b> Syngenta	Class E	<b>Ryan Stevenson</b> The Pulpit Club	Class D	<b>Arron Tough</b> St Mary's Golf & Country Club	Class C
<b>Chris Croft</b> Lebovic Golf Club	Class C	<b>Blaine Batchelar</b> BraeBen Golf Course	Class F	<b>Deni Terenzio</b> The Rock Golf Club	Class A
		<b>Duncan MacMillan</b> Angus Glen GC	Class C	<b>Josh Whalen</b> Loyalist Golf & Country Club	Class S
		<b>Robert Elliott</b> Sunningdale Golf & Country Club	Class C		

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## Tyandaga Golf Course

51265 Tyandaga Park Drive,  
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Sunrise from the 12<sup>th</sup> tee at Tyandaga GC.

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## Evan Coakwell

Superintendent, Tyandaga Golf Course

*By Lisa Marie Pearce, Second Assistant,  
Burlington Golf & Country Club. Photos provided  
by Evan Coakwell and Lisa Marie Pearce.*

### About the Course

Tyandaga Golf Course is located in the heart of Burlington, surrounded by the rugged beauty of the Niagara Escarpment. The course has a gentle nature but is deceptively challenging; from its varying elevation changes to the array of undulations on the greens, with putts breaking away from the escarpment. Bunkers are strategically situated along the fairways and greensides with a few ponds and a meandering stream that comes into play on several holes. Off-season activities include disc golf, tobogganing, cross country skiing, and hiking.

**Architect:** Robbie Robinson

**Type of Club:** Municipal/Public

**Number of Holes:** 18

**Number of Rounds Annually:** 35,000

**Amenities:** Chipping and Putting Greens, Short Iron Range for Members

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

1 year-round (Evan), 4 full time (seasonal),  
4 part-time (students)

**How many mechanics:**

1 Mechanic (9 months a year): Joe Ayotte

As Charles Dickens once said, "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour." Evan is a great example of this mindset. I had the pleasure of meeting Evan in 2015 when he hired me at Tyandaga and worked with him closely for some of the best years of my career thus far. He quickly took me under his wing, sharing his lust for life, love for music, and extensive knowledge of turf. As his young grasshopper, as he would call me, Evan helped expand my knowledge on how to grow and maintain a golf course and allowed me to be my true fun-loving self. Work was always something to look forward to. His best attribute, next to being a devoted husband and father, is his natural ability to get to know his staff and create a positive work environment that is productive and full of laughter. He truly lives by the mantra of finding time to laugh every day.



*Evan Coakwell, Superintendent,  
Tyandaga Golf Course.*

At the young age of 13, without his knowing, he started his career in turf when he opened his own lawn care service, managing basic maintenance of four homes in his Etobicoke neighbourhood. After that, he tackled a long list of jobs in customer service from your favourite movie rental store, various burger joints, and even dabbled in the car industry while trying to find his way. In 2003, his good friend, Mike Griffith was working



## In the Hot Seat

**Q:** Favourite Major?

**A:** The Masters

**Q:** Favourite Piece of Equipment?

**A:** Toro ProCore48

**Q:** Ultimate foursome?

**A:** My brother Chad, Chevy Chase, and John Daly

**Q:** Lowest round ever?

**A:** 77 at Bolton GC  
(now Caledon Woods)

**Q:** Favourite movie?

**A:** Amadeus

**Q:** Favourite meal?

**A:** My wife's homemade lasagna

**Q:** Favourite golf course?

**A:** Kapalua Golf – The Bay Course

**Q:** Favourite course designer?

**A:** (Bill) Coore and (Ben) Crenshaw

**Q:** Favourite band?

**A:** Led Zeppelin

at Seneca College and recommended that Evan look at their turf program. His love for the sport encouraged him to reach out to the coordinator, Ted Tom, who suggested he find a summer job working in the field to see if it was a good fit for him. "The very next day, I picked up the phone book and the first golf course I saw was Glen Abbey." Peter Kinch, the superintendent at the time, was thrilled to hear of his interest and hired him on the spot. "The first year on the course was overwhelming. I hadn't realized as a golfer all of the work that went into providing the conditions to play the game," Evan explains. "Like many newcomers, I got very familiar with the many bunkers and quickly learned I loved it...at the end of each workday I would always have the feeling of job satisfaction."

The Abbey is where Evan started to sprout into the grass grower and team leader he is today, working alongside many influential individuals that took him under his wing. In 2004, he obtained his pesticide license acting



*The 4<sup>th</sup> fairway at Tyandaga GC.*

as the course's Spray Technician and by 2006, was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. In his 10 years at Glen Abbey, Evan worked with three outstanding superintendents (Peter Kinch, Ryan Beauchamp, and Scott Bowman) and had the opportunity to be an essential part of the crew in preparing for and hosting three Canadian Opens (2004, 2008 & 2009). "It was invaluable having the opportunity to work with each of them as I gained a lot of support, valuable knowledge, and experience from all

three individuals. Kinch, for giving me the chance to start working on a golf course and starting off my love for turf maintenance. Beauchamp, who gave me the opportunity as Assistant Superintendent at Glen Abbey, I can't thank him enough for giving me the chance that jump-started my career. Finally, Bowman, who showed me a lot about the leadership of a crew and building a respectful and fun working environment that allows your team to efficiently produce great results."

## What You Need to Know

**Predominate grass type:** Poa/Bent

**Predominant soil type:** Clay

**Types of greens:** 16 Original Pushup, 2 rebuilt  
**USGA Course length:** 5900 yards

**Size of greens:** 3.2 acres **Size of tees:** 2.2 acres

**Size of fairways:** 16.3 acres

## Major Challenges

Drainage issues on a few greens and fairways. I have been battling moss on some greens the last 2 years. An old irrigation system, with manual quick-coupler irrigation on the fairways. A few tricky microclimates that get hot and humid in the summer. Lots of golfers on small greens with limited pin placements.

**"I've had the pleasure to work with Evan in the past at Glen Abbey GC. He is one of the most positive individuals I've ever met in the industry and a real joy to work with. Evan has the ability to make light out of any situation. You would often hear him singing to some classic 80's rock tune you forgot about but know and love. Evan is notorious for collaborating the best playlists and lighting up a room with his personality, and smile."**

**– Drew Robson, Golf Course Superintendent,  
Burlington Springs G&CC**





Sunrising at the 11<sup>th</sup> green at Tyandaga GC.

As soon as Evan's alarm goes off, he is checking the weather. Taking a close look at what the day is going to bring from wind and rain to heat and humidity. Then, he grabs his coffee while making his 45-minute commute to work. When he arrives, he has a quick chat with any early arrivals, usually about last night's game, then checks in with the mechanic, pulling out equipment and getting ready for the rest of the staff to arrive. When time allows, you will find him out for a quick course tour, making his way up to the 12<sup>th</sup> tee where the sunrises never disappoint. "It is always a great spot for reflection and inspiration and can provide a nice stress relief and invigorate my mind for the day ahead," he says. His job board and morning meeting is typically set up the day before, feeling prepared to take on the morning routine, allowing him to be a hands-on and

an integral part of the crew.

Giving credit where credit is due is another mantra Evan operates by; "You're only as good as your team." Treating each employee as an asset alleviates stress and helps him strive for mindfulness. Building and trusting in your team and allowing them to find their own stride, love for the property, and passion allows him to be the most optimal team leader, not always having the opportunity to have eyes on all tasks being carried out as he also needs to focus on the task at hand. "I have to get in the trenches every morning with the crew and complete my own tasks... having a good team can really help, if you let them." The appreciation he exudes when talking about past co-workers and present staff members is truly heartwarming.

Evan has expressed on many occasions how lucky he is to have the support he receives



Irrigation fix on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole at Tyandaga GC.

from his spouse Julie. "My wife has helped me to get where I am. I would not have been able to explore this career path without her support. She has always been very supportive, and over the years has allowed me to find my passion in golf, even with many long days of me being at work and her being home with the kids."

As Evan's family was growing, the opportunity to work closer to home was available to him when he was hired as a Lead Hand at Tyandaga in 2012 and quickly promoted to Superintendent by the end of the season. Taking this position came with its rewards and challenges, coming from a club that had a larger budget and staffing structure. Evan quickly remembered the great advice PGA Tour Agronomist, Harry Scheuman, had given him years back. "It is easy to want to try and do everything immediately,



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*Evan and family on a hike at Point Pelee.*



*18<sup>th</sup> green at Tyandaga GC.*

but it is important not to rush. Staffing and budget can affect how quickly you can implement and achieve your goals... don't do too much in your first year. Take the time to organize yourself and really get a handle on your new property, the history, members, greens committees, etc., so you don't end up regretting any decisions made hastily," Evan paraphrases. "Some improvements will take some time and more planning to be achieved but am happy to share that in my ten seasons at Tyandaga, yes not all of the items have been knocked off my wish list, it is an exciting time as a new ten-year improvement plan shall commence this 2022 season."

Something many of us turf managers struggle with is work/life balance; Evan is a great example of practicing this. He knows the importance of stepping away, recharging

the battery, and spending time with the people he cares for the most. Enjoying his free time with his wife of 16 years, Julie, and three children, Liam (16), Ava (14) and Owen (10), mainly hiking their favourite local spots or exploring new areas of Southern Ontario. You'll also find him portaging, canoeing, and stargazing in Algonquin Park's interior every summer. "I've been going there for over 20 years now and it is one of my favorite places to visit. Being shut off from everything for that time is rejuvenating," he says. He and his wife also like to travel to the Mayan Riviera & Maui. This coming spring, Evan and Julie will be taking their kids to explore the family-fun parks of Walt Disney World, a trip they have been dreaming up for years.

After getting to know Evan quite well, I was not surprised to hear that while attending

the University of Guelph Turf Managers Short Course in 2014, he was nominated by his fellow classmates and instructors to receive the honourable Jack Eggens Award. This man, that I am very lucky to call my friend, is someone I owe many thanks to. His sense of humor and keen eye are just a select few reasons why I have thrived as a turf manager to date. Always remember – people with a good sense of humor have a better sense of life. ■

"I have known Evan Coakwell for over ten years. We enjoyed a working relationship of Golf Course Technician and Superintendent for five seasons and still maintain a friendship. Over time, I have come to know him as an intelligent fun-loving and caring individual. On the golf course, he taught me many things. How to function and maintain a high-level product on a limited budget, how to repair irrigation, and how to motivate staff out of kindness and good humor. His many seasons at Glen Abbey have given him a breadth of experience and knowledge which he is always happy to share with those around him. I am certain that Tyandaga Golf Course would not be in the condition it is without him. I consider it an honour to call him a friend!"

– Adam Bedell, Golf Course Mechanic (20 years),  
currently Parts & Fleet Services Coordinator, City of Burlington



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The OGSA would like to thank our industry partners who generously supported the 2022 joint Canadian Golf Course Management Conference.

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# Annual OGSA (virtual) Awards



The OGSA & CGSA virtual awards, in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science, took place during The Canadian Golf Course Management Conference, which was held March 1-3, 2022. The award ceremonies took place over the course of the three day event. During the ceremonies, the OGSA was thrilled to acknowledge those who received awards during covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in the cancellation of the 2021 OGCMC and awards event. These recipients were acknowledged in the March 2021 issue of ONCourse! This year's award winners and milestone recipients are as follows.

## Milestone Membership Awards

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

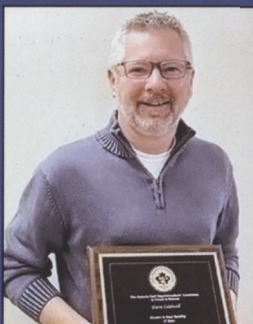
### 25 -Year Members



Jeff Allen, Rocky Crest Golf Club.



Jason Boyce, Smuggler's Glen Golf Course, OGSA past president.



Dave Caldwell, Vespria Hills Golf Club.



John Gravett, The Toronto Golf Club.



Michael Magwood, Niagara on the Lake Golf Club.

### 50 -Year Members



Martin Kopp, Brampton Golf Club.



Dan Wiechers, RiverEdge Golf Club.



Tom Simpson, retired.



Lamont Anderson, retired.



John Hutchinson, semi-retired, Warkworth Golf Course.

Unavailable for photo: DLF pickseed.





## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The OGSA remains committed to broadening knowledge through formal education channels and by exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members. We are thrilled to recognize our 2021 winners.



Jacob Martin, Deer Ridge Golf Club.



William Forsyth, Saugeen Golf Club.



Nicholas Hagg, Assistant Superintendent, Kawartha Golf & Country Club.



William Forsyth, Saugeen Golf Club.



Eric Andrejicka, Granite Golf Club.

### OGSA / Syngenta Professional Development Bursary



To recognize the leadership, commitment, and accomplishments of

Assistant Superintendent members of the OGSA.

In partnership with Syngenta, we are happy to present this year's recipients with a \$1,500 award for their outstanding essay submissions. Congratulations to Jacob Martin and William Forsyth!

### Turf Managers Short Course Award

Given to the student who achieves the highest marks and who is also currently employed at an Ontario golf course. 2021 recipient is Nicholas Hagg from Kawartha Golf and Country Club. Nicholas received an award of \$1,000 and a complimentary OGSA membership.

### OGSA / BrettYoung Turfgrass Education Awards



For students pursuing a career in turfgrass management and

enrolled in a fulltime post-secondary program. This award is judged on essay submissions as well as academic achievement.

In partnership with BrettYoung, the OGSA presented two \$1,500 awards to William Forsyth and Eric Andrejicka for their essay submissions.

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## OGSA HERITAGE AWARD

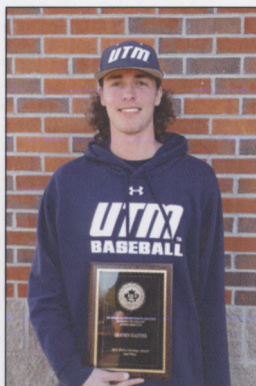
For children or grandchildren of OGSA members enrolled in college or university program unrelated to turfgrass. In 2021 and for the first time ever, we had a tie for second place and awarded three students with a cash prize of \$1,500 to help fund their higher education. Congratulations, students!



Sydney Ackermann, daughter of Superintendent Robert Ackermann, Weston G&CC.



Holly Lecour, daughter of Chris Lecour, Turf Sales Specialist, BASF Canada.



Grayden Stauffer, son of Superintendent Jeff Stauffer, Rosedale GC.

## OGSA EDITORIAL AWARDS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BAYER



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

### Barry Endicott Article of the Year



Winner of \$400. Redefining Assistant Superintendent, written by ONCourse committee member Joel Johnston, RiverBend Golf Community.

### Photo of the Year



Winner of \$400. "7th green", featured in the June issue, submitted by Deb Dale, London Hunt & CC.

## OGSA / BAYER SOCIAL MEDIA AWARDS

#TODAYINONTARIO @ONTARIOGSA

The OGSA, in partnership with Bayer, awarded three cash prizes to the top social media tweets from 2021 using #TodayInOntario and tagging @OntarioGSA with a photo of life on the golf course accompanied by a clever caption.

### 1st Place – Winner of \$400



Aaron Hill, TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley, for submitting "Showing your best on the 18th tee."

### 2nd Place – Winner of \$300



Curtis Hartley, Mississauga G&CC, for submitting "Fishing season for the eagle."

### 3rd Place – Winner of \$100



Ray Dlugokecki, Springfield G&CC, for submitting "Breakfast at Springfield!"



# William Sansom Distinguished Service Award Rhod Trainor

*By Madeleine White, Member  
Services & Special Projects, OGSA.*

In honour of William Sansom, our association's first president, the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the advancement of the golf course superintendents' profession in Ontario. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, must be held in the highest regard, and reflect credit upon our profession. It is with great pleasure that the OGSA congratulates accomplished superintendent, mentor, and friend, Rhod Trainor on being named the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award.

Rhod has been a member of the OGSA since 1983. He served on the OGSA's Board of Directors and was named president of the association in 1992. He has also been named Superintendent of the Year by CGSA. Over his tenured career, Rhod is a well-known spokesperson and role model in the golf turfgrass industry and to say that he is well-respected by his peers, employees, and industry affiliates – is an understatement.

A University of Guelph Turfgrass program graduate, Rhod worked at Wyldewood Golf and Country Club in Oakville, Chippewa Country Estates in Southampton, and St. Thomas Golf and Country Club before moving to Hamilton Golf and Country Club where he would stay for the remainder of his career.

Over his 45-years in turf management, Rhod has always sought all opportunities to learn everything there is to know, often collaborating with other superintendents. He finds equal value in educating others and has shared his expertise by educating young turf managers at the University of Guelph and Humber College.

As Cory Janzen shares, "In addition to being a great person and mentor, he has also had a great career. Multiple PGA Tour Events, 30 years at the same private club, Past President of the OGSA, CGSA Superintendent of the Year Award Recipient, and the list goes on. Most of us would consider our career successful



*Rhod Trainor recipient of the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award.*

if we achieved ONE of these milestones, let alone four of them. I could go on, but I honestly think that what he has achieved speaks for itself."

Keith Bartlett, shared in his nomination for Rhod, "There are many qualities that best describe him as a person most notably, Rhod is a person of integrity, honesty (brutally at times), empathy, humility, and loyalty. His accomplishments at Hamilton G&CC, and prior to that St. Thomas are well documented."

In 2019, not quite ready to retire, Rhod took on a new title as Project Manager where he tackled a complete 27-hole renovation of the Hamilton

G&CC. The West and South courses reopened for member/guest play in the summer/fall of 2021 and the East course will open in 2022. His work will be showcased on a national stage as the HGCC is once again scheduled to host the RBC Canadian Open in 2024.

Dean Baker said it best, "Rhod is a man of integrity. He is a dedicated soul, to his work, his family, and his friends. He faces any challenge head on. And does so with hard work, dedication and a strong sense of humour."

As his colleagues would agree, Rhod's career speaks for itself and it's our pleasure to honour him with this exceptional award. Congratulations Rhod. ■

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# Designing For Less Staff

**syngenta**

With Ian Andrew, Jeff Mingay, and Keith Cutten.

Conference education sessions were sponsored by Syngenta.

By Joel Johnston, Assistant Superintendent, RiverBend Golf Community.

Designing for less staff has come full circle. Architects and superintendents are currently focusing on ease of maintenance while improving golfer enjoyment at the same time.

Ian started the conversation by asking the following questions: What areas of maintenance are complicating our lives? In addition, what areas are the most difficult to mow? Reduced maintenance does not mean reducing the acreage we mow; it means increasing efficiency and looking for solutions without unwinding the existing architecture.

Keith described his method as holistic, looking at the entire maintenance operation. This approach not only helps identify specific problems and the amount of labour hours used on different tasks, but also to look for opportunities to improve golfer enjoyment. He emphasized the experience of seeing many clubs give them a unique opportunity to use their creative abilities to find practical solutions. Keith mentioned he believed this was a chance for clubs to define their direction and consolidate the vision. Andrew likes the idea of doing an audit for all tasks completed and how long it takes; this can establish hard proof of how much labour is spent in questionable areas.

Jeff proceeded to reference the research of early architecture, referencing A.V. Macan and his use of contour, slopes, and angles to create strategy opposed to bunkers and hazards. Noting MacKenzie's design of Augusta National only included 22 bunkers when it first opened, the resources for course construction and maintenance were far less, resulting in simple yet interesting and challenging design. Mingay mentioned that it's really about restoring logic and common sense, a departure from the extravagant and opulent work done in the 1980's that lacked intention and purpose.

Keith pivoted the conversation to the climate's influence on design. The group specifically referenced increased annual precipitation rates and the effects on bunker construction. Ian used the term "Disaster Maintenance" when speaking about washouts. Using grass-faced bunkers opposed to flashed sand gives you the opportunity to choose. Fly mowing grass faces is a choice, repairing washouts is forced. The time and resources used to maintain bunker could be used elsewhere. Ian used the line "focus on taking care of where the golfer is supposed to go, not where the golfer is not supposed to go," focus should be on the center line. He included fescue, questioning the increased popularity. "Initially we like to believe it is sustainable and requires less maintenance, but it turns out to be the opposite. Having a "playable" stand of fescue requires extensive effort."

Tree removal continues to be an important topic. Our industry is very familiar with the agronomical benefits of tree removal such as, airflow, sunlight, and root competition. Ian brought up a less obvious factor of the time wasted mowing around trees proceeded by



Ian Andrew, Ian Andrew Golf Course Design.



Jeff Mingay, Owner of Mingay Golf Course Design Ltd.



Keith Cutten, Partner of Whitman, Axland, and Cutten (WAC Golf).

inevitable and tedious line trimming, as well as increase inputs due to root completion, even mentioning the resources spent to repair mowers damaged by trees (as if we needed more reasons to recommend tree removal to our owners and boards).

The group next focused on some of the lessons we learned from golf during a pandemic. Jeff used the term "over decoration" when describing the use of benches, ball washers and rakes which prompted us all to examine the following: was golfer enjoyment sacrificed without the accessories? Did having five or six heights of cut seem important anymore? This means five or six mowers and operators. Is this a responsible use of resources? Excellent questions to ask of ourselves and the decision makers at our clubs.

Ultimately, the group agreed that the most important factor was communication. By actively collaborating and meeting philosophically, the superintendent and architect could do the most effective job possible setting standards and any possible need for change. Keith, in summary, says that the job of the architect was to push the envelope and help sell these logical and practical ideas of designing for less staff. ■

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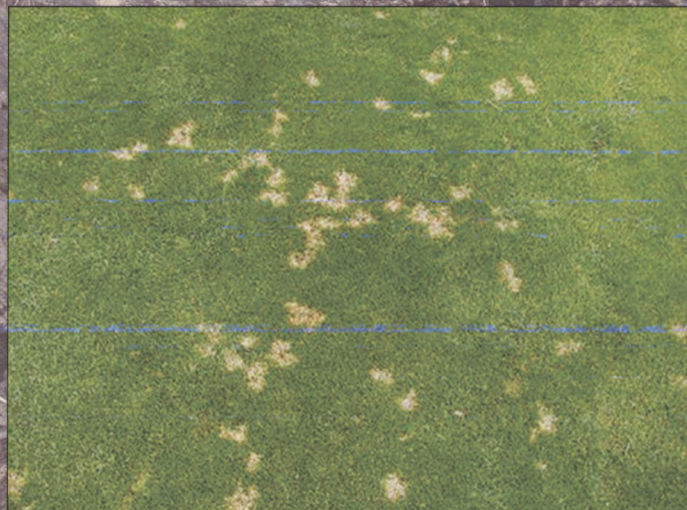
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# The Dirt on Soils

**syngenta**

with Thomas A. Nikolai, Ph.D. Conference education sessions were sponsored by Syngenta.



*Dollar spot on the lawn. Photo provided by Vish V., General Lawn Care.*

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

The 2022 conference offered many engaging topics. The Dirt on Soils presented by Thomas A. Nikola, Ph D., was certainly a highlight that provided us with a high-paced, passionate, and informative session. Dr. Nikolai, aka Dr. Green Speed, is a well-renowned specialist at Michigan State University in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences. He discovered that dollar spot and other turfgrass pests can be suppressed with lightweight rolling, which led to mowing/rolling frequency research that contributes to consistent green speeds, reduction in turfgrass stress, and economic savings. His research has also offered us the knowledge in mulching deciduous leaves onto turfgrass canopies resulting in minimized broad-leaf weed encroachment, the study of mechanical and cultural practices on golf course putting greens, along with many other useful tips we as turf managers use to maintain optimal turfgrass health. As we may be prone to just looking at the surface, the research provided by many influential scientists like Dr. Nikolai has heightened our knowledge on what is really going on below the surface.

As the session started, we were all reminded of the days sitting in our soils class at university or college and being exposed to, for maybe the first time, terminology that applies to the principles and operation of what makes up this now less mysterious underworld. He reminded us of what our primary nutrients are, why it's important to know the physical property and texture of our soils, his thoughts on aeration, and how beneficial rolling and a dialed-in irrigation program are.

---

The best management program  
in maintaining our turfgrass  
starts with the physical properties  
of our soils.

---

Many centuries ago, primary minerals were formed geologically from liquid molten magma. In the list of eight properties that make up 98 percent of our earth's crust, the main three are oxygen, silicon, and aluminum. Thomas gave us quite the history lesson before he reiterated how important it is to know your soil type and the physical property (measurement) of what you are working with. Do you have a push-up green consisting of parent material or a USGA green mainly consisting of coarse sand at the root zone? There are twelve textures but

are most commonly referred to as these three; sand, silt, or clay, and are determined by size. The problem is that it is hard to conceptualize the size difference between the three, so he has broken it down for us to understand more clearly. If you look at the size of sand in comparison to silt and clay. Sand is like a Ferris Wheel, silt would be a beach ball and clay, a golf ball. In this case, size matters. This allows for optimal particle density, bulk density, access to the soils' natural nutrients and what we spoon feed it, and available water and bacteria.

Thomas' research has evolved the knowledge of rolling our greens not just for putting performance (for the golfer) but for overall health (for the turf manager), which seamlessly go hand in hand. This topic was touched on many times throughout this talk. During a study, Thomas discovered that more dollar spot was present in the soil structure of a green that is 80 percent sand and 20 percent peat, compared to a green made up of 80 sand, 10 peat, and 10 soil. Why is this? The green with more soil can hold onto more moisture. Where we roll there is more compaction, more moisture, more bacteria, and less impact of fungal diseases. Dollar spot likes dry soils. His educated recommendation is to roll your greens at least every other day,



maximum twice a day. The same can be applied to fairways.

Not everyone loves a 'fungus.' Dr. Nikolai reminds us that fungi contribute to all the turfgrass disease. Bacteria, on the other hand, is our friend. Did you know that there are 2000-7000 pounds of bacteria within the first seven inches of our soil? "1-2.5 tons of something I can't see is amazing," exclaims Thom. These heterotrophs play key roles in the cycling of energy and nutrients and adapt to many different environments, manipulating soil health. He then touched on three types: Aerobes that require oxygen to survive, Anaerobes that cannot live in the presence of oxygen and Facultative Aerobes that prefer oxygen but can live without. The range in which bacteria thrive is very beneficial to the soil and are dependent on the available nutrients as well as the soil conditions. Does this mean we add more? Nikolai's response to that is "... it's too difficult to add enough due to environmental controls to make a difference in comparison to what is already living there, but if you are going to, 'spray at night and often.'"

Here in Canada, we all know winter has its ups and downs, even pros and cons. One pro we may not always consider is the innate freeze and thaw cycle that happens throughout the season that naturally releases compaction. So then why do we aerate? To decrease soil layering and thatch while increasing oxygen levels to the root zone, promoting longer roots and improving infiltration and much more. Nikolai does not seem to be the biggest fan of aeration and sees it "to relieve compaction sometimes but mostly promote higher weed populations." He believes frequent top-dressing and verticutting to be better practices due to the fact that again, dollar spot likes drier soils. He believes those large pores are more susceptible to fungal diseases. It seems as though it is all about balance and it is recommended that when you do aerate, to make sure you close up those pores as quickly as possible eliminating any fungal threats or damage to those lovable bacteria.

Over watering can be problematic. Soil becomes anaerobic, causing some bacteria inability to break down organic matter. Which makes inaugurating the perfect irrigation program that much more important and establishing the ability to stay between field capacity and wilting point. This window is referred to as plant available water, "...where we want to stay to make the most bang for our buck." This concept makes Thomas a huge fan of the advances in TDR technology. Yes, it measures volumetric moisture content, not plant available water, but most of us use this technology so we can eyeball when we are getting close to wilting point and when we syringe. In an irrigation study that pertains to the debate of light-infrequent vs. deep-infrequent watering, we go back to the aesthetics of the surface, the bottom line is that short grass does not require more water. However, it does require more frequent irrigation due to shorter roots. He then looked at European Chafer populations and discovered that in knowing your soils and how they hold water is the best data for disease control and can also be helpful for insect supremacy. The Chafer hates irrigated turf. Other findings are that wet conditions kill the Chinch bug and frequent irrigation will keep the grass growing in spite of damage from the May and June beetle.

In conclusion Dr. Nikolai reminded us that the best management program in maintaining our turfgrass starts with the physical properties of our soils. They directly influence the type of fertilizer to use, the residual impact of pesticides, the amount of irrigation to apply and how to be sustainable. ■



Thomas A. Nikolai, Ph.D.

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# Get Ready for Spring and a Safe Golf Season!

Written by and photos provided by Bill Godkin, CESafety.



Since 2006, CESafety has been working with golf courses across Ontario, Alberta, and beyond to identify and eliminate safety hazards that may otherwise result in a serious injury to a worker or a customer.

There are many types of safety precautions a superintendent should take before opening each spring and safety checks should happen frequently throughout the year. This monthly safety check list will give you a good place to start!

## Monthly Safety Checklist

FOR THE MONTH OF: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Inspect all fire protection equipment, extinguishers, exits, hoses and alarm systems, detectors and other emergency equipment. Make sure that all are in good working condition and that none are blocked.
- ☐ Are oily rags present and in the proper container?
- ☐ Have all flammable materials been properly stored in the flammable storage cabinet?
- ☐ Has this cabinet been inspected recently to ensure that materials are not in there that could cause combustion? I.E. Batteries, acids
- ☐ Are there any secondary chemical containers that require a WHMIS label or the label is missing information?
- ☐ Are all of the safety data sheets available and do they meet current standards?
- ☐ Have all chemicals been stored in their designated areas as per the chemical hazard training program?
- ☐ Are all breaker panels free of obstructions and nothing stored in front of or under them for a distance of one meter? Are the doors on the breaker panels closed and in good condition?
- ☐ Are all electrical cords, airlines and hydraulic hoses in good working order? Have inspection stickers been placed on them?
- ☐ Are there GFCI's in place and being used?
- ☐ Is housekeeping up to an acceptable standard?
- ☐ Are items stored so that they are not blocking pedestrian walkways?
- ☐ Are there any tripping hazards?
- ☐ Have all permanent aisles, passageways and storage areas been clearly marked?
- ☐ Are there any items stored higher than ground level that pose a potential danger to anyone if they fell?
- ☐ Have all brooms, mops and other items been properly secured so that they will not tip over and become a tripping hazard?
- ☐ Inspect the lock out board to make sure that all items are there.
- ☐ Look in the Personal Protective Equipment cabinet or storage area to see if it has all necessary PPE.
- ☐ Examine the first aid kit(s) to ensure all of the contents are there and that the logbook is up to date.
- ☐ Has WHMIS 2015 training been done for all employees?
- ☐ Inspect the eyewash stations and safety showers. Clean any chemicals, dirt or debris off of all areas of the eyewash stations and safety showers. Flush the lines to the eyewash stations and safety showers until the water is clear. (This must be done every week and recorded on a checklist.) Ensure that the eyewash bottles have been filled with liquid. Ensure that the eyewash stations are not blocked.
- ☐ Is the lift truck/powered equipment inspection sheet up to date?
- ☐ Have the training records of all employees, current and new, been updated?
- ☐ Have safety-training sessions for employees been scheduled?
- ☐ Has the safety committee had their required meeting and performed their inspection?
- ☐ Have the operating procedures of any task changed significant enough to require an updated job safety hazard analysis review?
- ☐ Is the Health and Safety policy due for review?
- ☐ Has a prestart up safety review been performed on any new equipment or buildings?
- ☐ Inspect all ladders to ensure that they are safe to use. Remove any ladders with cracks, signs of damage or if they are missing any non-slip grips on their feet. Secure all ladders when not in use.
- ☐ Has there been a safety mini-meeting this month?
- ☐ Have all of the employees' boards been updated?
- ☐ Has a meeting been held in the calendar year for all employees on workplace violence and harassment in the workplace?
- ☐ Have any new employees been trained in our policies on workplace violence, harassment and sexual harassment in the workplace?
- ☐ Have all workers signed their employee's agreement and the right to refuse to perform unsafe work document?
- ☐ Are all Supervisors aware of their responsibilities as a Supervisor, have they been trained to be a Supervisor and has this training been documented?
- ☐ Are there sufficient quantities of hand sanitizers, gloves, masks and training done to deal with COVID-19 protocols? Has this been documented? Are signs, plexiglass barriers, arrows on the floor to direct foot traffic in place?

### DISCLAIMER

This information has been compiled from a variety of sources believed to be reliable and to represent the best current opinion on the subject. However, neither CESafety nor its authors guarantee accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this publication, and neither CESafety nor its authors shall be responsible for any errors, omissions, or damages arising out of the use of this information. Additional safety measures may be required under particular circumstances. We strive to make our product as complete as possible. However, due to its "generic nature", CESafety assumes no liability for any industry specific information which may or may not be covered. All final, legal, and financial responsibility is assumed by the individual or organization which purchases this product. Other training may be required for certification (in certain fields) and in all cases "hands-on" job training is required. The information contained within this (these) document(s) are solely advisory, and should not be substituted for legal, financial or other professional advice. CESafety cannot be held responsible for actions taken without proper advice.





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# Division in the Garden



*Plant divide. Photo provided by Finegardening.com.*



*Ornamental grass with a halo. Photo provided by Chris Cumming.*

Something that took me years of experience to learn is that there is a natural lifespan for some plants. Obviously providing all the necessities for the healthiest life possible will increase the longevity and performance, but regardless of providing perfect locations, quality soils, optimum nutrition, and the right amount of water, there still comes a time when plants start to show their age and sometimes it's unexpectedly sooner than we may have thought.

As I write this article, there is so much talk of division amongst Canadians. The negative use of the word inspired me to write about plant division, hoping to give everyone a more positive use for the word.

Plants have a lifespan, some longer than others, and some show signs of aging even in perfect scenarios. When it comes to plants, we have two main types for simplicity's sake for this topic. We have woody shrubs, which range in size and perennials which includes ornamental grasses. Woody shrubs typically have a longer natural lifespan than perennials and show their age as they get older by slowed or reduced flower production, branch die back or rot, increased sucker growth from base or from higher up on older branches, and what's called haloing. Haloing is seen more often in shorter shrubs, 3' in height or less. Haloing is when there appears to be

no growth coming from the center of the plant, so you have a ring of growth coming from the outer portion of the crown of the plant and a circular bare appearance within the center of the shrub, hence it being called a halo. If the above-mentioned symptoms of old age are left unchecked or have been left unchecked for a long period, then it'll be time to consider replacement. However, it is possible to rejuvenate or prolong the lifespan when the signs of age start to show up. For your larger woody shrubs, pruning out older growth to allow younger growth to take its place will increase longevity. In some cases, a full shear back by 1/3 is required, and prune overgrown suckers from the base. I should add that pruning techniques are specific to the Shrub, so know what you're working with before hacking at it.

When it comes to Perennials, the halo is a sure sign that it has gotten old and may not be long for this world; ornamental grasses are especially notorious for this after a few years. However, there is a way to bring these tired, worn-out plants back to life. This task is called DIVIDING, also known as splitting. This can be done successfully to shrub species as well. Dividing is digging the plant up, using a sharp edger, spade, knife, or hand saw and splitting the plant into 2 or 4 pieces and replanting them separately. This removes the halo effect, causes the plant to produce new, younger

roots and gives you a couple additional plants to work with, discard, or even use the division to give as a gift to a friend for their garden. As I said, ornamental grasses are bad for the halo effect, Astilbe seem to get old fast and require splitting every couple of years. Once Hostas get older, they slow their flowering and start to thin out in the centre, something that also happens with Black Eyed Susan's, Echinacea, and Iris, to name a few. Some shrub species that start to halo as they get old are Hydrangea Arborescens, Hydrangea Macrophylla and Spirea species. Shrubs are a little more labour intensive to divide but can be done.

Some perennials are long lived and don't require much rejuvenation techniques at all. There are some who, over time, push themselves out of the soil or their crown raises which makes them weak and susceptible to crown damage. When you see this happening, dig it up and replant back at a proper depth with the crown flush with the soil level. Be kind, stay healthy, and get in your gardens at the earliest possibility. ■



*Chris Cumming CLP,  
Horticulturist  
Cell: 705-644-3994  
chriscumming@live.ca*



# Celebrating a 50 + Year Career Peter Barnett

**Superintendent at Richmond Hill Golf Course**

*By Nigel Rennie, Chief Integration Officer, Allturf Ltd.  
Photos provided by Peter Barnett.*

*"Some people plant a tree and see it mature, some build businesses, and others mentor youngsters, watching them grow into mature workers. I'm very fortunate to say that after 50 years with Richmond Hill, I've done all three and still get to watch the results of my labour every time I step out the front door and start my workday."*

Fifty-One years ago, it was 1971. The number one selling album was George Harrison's All Things Must Pass, disco was the hot dance craze, the Ford Mustang Mach 1 429 was the cool car to own, gold sold for \$40 an ounce; PC's, iPods and the Walkman didn't exist, and the Jacobsen Triplex Greens mower was just being introduced. 50 years seems like a long time, but it went by in flash for Peter Barnett, Superintendent of Richmond Hill Golf Club. For Peter, 1971 was also the first year he was hired as a golf maintenance worker. 50 years later, he is still going strong as superintendent at the same club!

Peter was introduced to golf early as the son of a Summit GC member and fortuitously lived next door to Uplands GC Manager, Reg Acomb. Peter chummed around with Reg's son Dennis, and the two started lugging bags up the steep hills of Uplands for a few coins a trip. This led to regular caddying stints around the area that included the Richmond Hill Golf Club. He gained a part-time job in the back shop of the 27-hole facility and soon his strong work ethic caught the attention of the course Superintendent George Darou. George recruited Pete to the greens staff, and before he knew it, was working the 7 days a week, 100 hours a week (when night watering was required), and no holidays' schedule. Barnett says, "it was nothing like the metered approach we have for our staff today. You worked hard, played hard, and caught a few winks of sleep when you could. It was a different time with different expectations, and we strived to exceed those expectations and hold onto our jobs."

Like many young turf workers, Peter quickly fell in love with the atmosphere and challenges of the golf industry. He worked a few years under the guidance of George while also learning the mechanics of swinging a club and trying desperately to sink a putt in his spare time. He had two loves: playing the game and managing the surface. He was hooked and knew his future path had been set. He enrolled in the Guelph Turf Short Course in the winter of '76 and the following year at Humber College. With education firmly in hand and a positive attitude towards mentoring under Darou, he was dealt a sad blow; George fell to a heart attack and passed away and Peter was prematurely dropped into the Superintendent role. It wasn't the plan he had envisioned but as was his nature, he rose to the situation with hard work and building relationships to help him in his new role.



Early on he met and started working with Dennis McCracken Golf Supplies. Dennis offered advice Peter could trust and started a close relationship that lasted over 30 years until Dennis retired. "I came to rely on and trust the advice from a few key people that ensured my success. Some things never change; the relationships and trust in the people I do business with enhances my success and makes my day-to-day life at work more enjoyable". "I had some fun visitors too; the highlight being an impromptu El Camino driving into the maintenance yard one day. Out sauntered Gord Witteveen with Eddie Shack; two legends in their respective fields, for a visit with some friendly advice and laughs; good memories."

Over the years, which turned to decades, Peter guided Richmond Hill through ownership changes, development of part, and eventually the building of a new 18-hole facility at the south end of town that opened in 1992. The move provided him with a house on the property where he raised his son and daughter as well as his beloved dogs which have included German Shepherds, a Bichon Frise, and recently, six Labrador Retrievers.

"I've been fortunate to work with some enthusiastic young workers who graduated to other jobs and still work in the industry. Phil Scully, Matt Dodson, Reg Langen, and recently, James Horvath, all spent time working under my tutelage and have blazed their own careers as they moved on. It's a feeling of a parent watching their kid succeed when I see our graduates move on," said Barnett. Last summer Peter was recognized by his employer and staff for 50 years of service. "It was an emotional and fun afternoon with mementos from the past decades presented to me, and kind words from my colleagues."

As Peter begins his 51<sup>st</sup> year with Richmond Hill, he welcomes a new turf manager working under his guidance this season and loosely contemplates what retirement might look like as he moves closer to the sunset of a very distinguished career. ■



# Five Years Ago, Today

### The 2017 OGSA Board of Directors



*The Board of Directors in 2017 was (L-R): Mark Prieur, Trafalgar G&CC; Mike Pellerin, Saugeen GC; Rod Speake, vice-president, Mill Run GC; Al Schwemler, The Toronto GC; Corey Janzen, president, Sally Ross, executive manager; Westmount G&CC; Jason Boyce, secretary-treasurer, Smugglers Glen GC; Andrew Lombardo, Wyndance GC; Tim Muys, Piper's Heath GC; Ryan Scott, Club at North Halton.*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Andrew Lombardo resigned from the board in February 2017 and Owen Russell, Markland Wood GC was appointed in his place.

Justin Parson retired from the ONCourse Committee as editor and Sally Ross and her staff has taken over as editor.

The OGSA said farewell to Natalie Andrusko and welcomed Courtney White who will be involved with ONCourse production and assisting in conference organization.

#### ON THE MOVE

Keith Bartlett left St. Georges Golf Club and joined Bayer Environmental Science and was replaced by Ian McQueen from Islington GC. Jeff Robertson moved to Sleepy Hollow Golf Club. Ben Ingram replaced John Anderson at Cobble Beach Golf Resort. Kevin Inglehart moved to Hawk Ridge G&GC. Dennis Gilchrist moved to Markham Green GC. Gregg O'Heron retired from the Peterborough G&CC and was replaced by Dan Brousseau. Marie Thorne retired from Syngenta Canada Inc.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

At the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference, held in Niagara Falls, OGSA 50-Year Member awards were presented to Pelino Scenna, Paul Dermott, and Roy French. OGSA 30-Year Member awards were presented to Paul Brown, Sarnia; Scott Dodson, Park CC; John Gall, Cherry Hill; Gary Hall, Six Foot Bay and Gord Thompson, Meadowbrook. OGSA

25-Year Member awards were presented to Kevin Broham, Merry-Hill; Mark Dawkins, Blue Springs; Joel Stevens, Sunningdale and Theo Versteegh, Mount Elgin. Associate members were honoured for their longtime OGSA membership. Braemar Building Systems (28 years), Douglas Wood Large Tree Services (35 years) and Hutcheson Sand and Mixes (27 years).

Richard Creed, retired from the Cutten Club, accepted the William Samson Award.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Moote, Robert Frederick (Bob) passed away in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year. Bob worked with Stanley Thomson and Robbie Robinson. After building 9 holes at Oakdale Golf and Country Club, he stayed on for 20 years. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium was started by Bob at Oakdale and later moved to the University of Guelph. He formed his own golf design company R. F. Moote and Associates with his brother Dave and later his son David.





Richard Creed (L) receives the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award from OGSA Immediate Past President Mark Prieur (R).



OGSA President Cory Janzen (L), presents a plaque to Host Superintendent Chris Andrejicka (R).



Tom Fischer (L) from Turf Care Products presents the George Darou trophy to John McLinden (R) of Ladies GC of Toronto.



Pro/Super Challenge 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – Superintendent Richard Butler (L) and Golf Professional Brent Goodman (R) of St. Andrew's East Golf Club.



Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament Winning Team (L-R): Superintendent Jay Sisko, Idylwyld G&GG; Superintendent Jeff Allen, Lake Joseph GC; Superintendent Mike Pellerin, Saugeen GC; and Superintendent Mark Kay, Stone Ridge GC.

Paul Brown, Sarnia Golf and Country Club passed away suddenly. In honour of Paul, the OGSA named the Assistants Tournament trophy The Paul Brown Memorial Trophy as Paul has mentored many assistants over the years.

Dr. Ken Carey passed away. He was a University of Guelph employee for 35 years, acting as research technician for the turf management program and lecturer for the Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management.

The OGSA sadly noted the passing of John Grightmire (member 58 years); Harold Myers (member 59 years); Derek Glass, King's Bay Golf Club; Stephen Verrall, Royal Ottawa Golf Club; Keith Walton, Grandview Golf Club and Kent McDonald (retired OSC).

## TOURNAMENTS

Can/Am Challenge was held at the Essex Golf and Country Club hosted by Chris Andrejicka. The US won the Can/Am Cup with USA 39.5/Canada 26.5.

Pro/Super Challenge was held at the Heathlands, Osprey Valley GC, hosted by Scott Brook. The winning team was from St. Andrews East, Richard Butler,

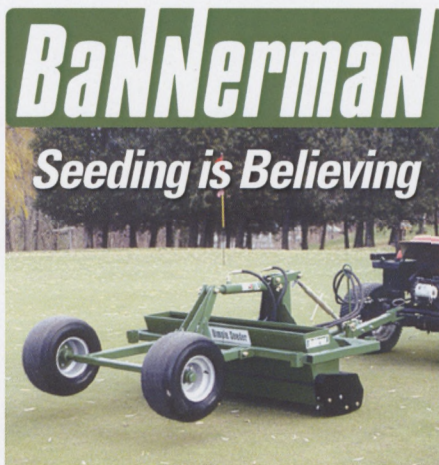
superintendent, and Brent Goodman, professional.

OGSA Alex McClumpha Memorial Tournament joined the GBGSA Year End Finale at Rocky Crest hosted by Jeremy Deer. The George Darou trophy, for superintendents over 50, went to John McLinden of Toronto Ladies. The winning team was Jay Sisko, Idylwyld; Jeff Allen, Lake Joseph; Mike Pellerin, Saugeen and Mark Kay, Stone Ridge.

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's annual fundraising golf tournament was held at the Devil's Pulpit Golf Club, hosted by Ken and Robert Wright. President Corey Janzen presented a \$20,000 check to OTRF President Sean Gunn. ■



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# Spring 2022 Food

*By Doug Breen, Superintendent,  
Golf North Properties.*

Today, I drove an hour out of my way to pick up some BBQ from a zoning nightmare of a restaurant, in a converted house in the middle of an Industrial Park. Someone told me that they had great pulled pork, and a brisket that would melt in your mouth. This is not an unusual act for me - I spend a lot of time on the road, and I know where to get the best hot dog in Ridgetown, the best Samosas in Wellington County, and the best panzerotti in the universe. I love food, but I particularly love food that nobody else knows about. I know who makes the best home-made coconut cream pie, the best butter tarts in Mennonite country, and where to find a Donaire at 4:00am in Halifax.

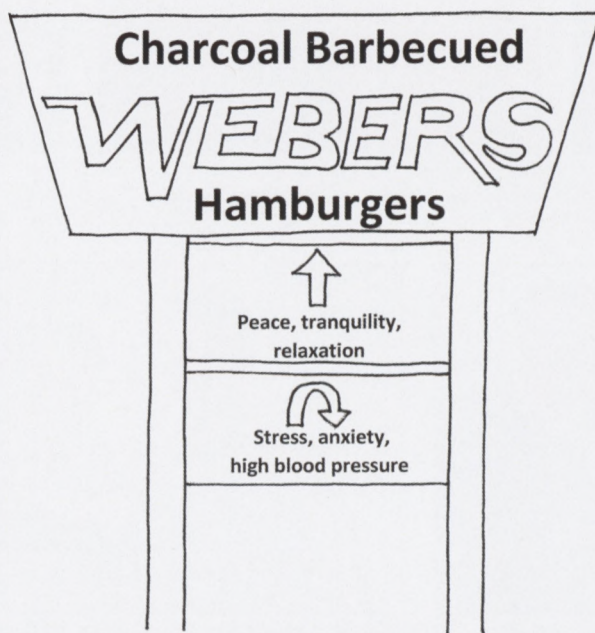
I have very few vices left in my life, but I cling to gluttony like a drowning man clings to a scrap of wood. Not gluttony precisely (although sometimes that's part of it) - it's about quality, not quantity. The mixing of flavours in an unusual way, in a restaurant that only exists in one place on earth, where the cook is likely the owner, and the waitstaff are likely family. If there are children doing their homework on a corner table after school, and their grandmother's recipe is somehow involved - I will absolutely, positively have dinner there.

I also love finding the kinds of places that look like they have no business being in business. There's a Mexican place in London, beside an abandoned feed mill, and attached to an autobody repair shop. The first time I saw it, I said, "If this place is open, it must be outstanding!"

It is.

Since 2015, I've been on a quest to find the best seafood chowder in Nova Scotia. Turns out it's served in a Styrofoam bowl and eaten with a plastic spoon, and it comes from a wooden shack on the edge of a sandy cliff near Neil's Harbour. All the best Chefs and fine China, from the Keltic Lodge to Digby Pines, can't compete with two middle aged women with a five-gallon pot. That makes me happy.

I navigate by restaurants both practically and for sustenance. If I'm telling you how to get someplace, it will include reference points which will be almost entirely food related. Stay on this road until you come to the Picard's store. Turn left and stay on that road until you pass Shaw's Ice Cream. Go south about ten minutes and turn right



**Sometimes a roadside restaurant, is so much more than just a roadside restaurant.**

at that restaurant in the converted barn. If I have multiple stops, I will plan my day such that I finish in the town where I want to eat. I've ranked all the breakfast joints within half an hour of every golf course where I've ever worked - and many that I've only played.

I started young. Being raised in the country, there was no such thing as a nearby restaurant, and I soon realized that if I was going to drive "into town" to get a meal, it needed to be worth the hassle. I do love MacDonald's, but a quarter pounder simply isn't worth an hour round-trip drive. By contrast, I was more than happy to drive twice that distance to eat fresh Lake Erie perch and watch the sunset on the beach.

One summer during university, I was on the road repairing farm equipment. I would watch the older guys negotiate which jobs they wanted to take, because they knew the location, quality, and menu of every diner and truck stop within 100 miles. I took notes.

Once I started working on golf courses, I learned that taking some shifts in the banquet hall was an excellent way to gain access to some incredible food. I was a student living away from home and standing in the back of the kitchen eating chicken cordon bleu like an apple was a pretty sweet deal. Because of the availability of food in various clubhouses, and my penchant for restaurants, I didn't eat a single meal in my house for the last three years before I got married - I didn't even own a fork.

Some people drink. Some people gamble. Some are philanderers and scallywags. I am in love with food. I love the taste of food. I love the social side of food. I love trying new foods. Most of all, I love finding those, hole in the wall, one of a kind, you've got to eat here restaurants.

I'm not a food snob mind you - I've spent years looking for the best hot dog (it's made by Lesters if you're wondering), and if you're looking for perogies in Calgary, I have suggestions. I've been fortunate to work in an industry which also values food, and I have collected friends who are always willing to try out a hot chicken joint in a questionable neighbourhood in Nashville, or a taco stand under a bridge.

Someone once said, "Imagine the drudgery of mealtimes, if food wasn't so wonderful." Thankfully, it is wonderful. And if anyone knows about an unusual place, let me know, and I will check it out immediately! Even if it's far away - I've been known to plan vacations around places I want to eat. ■



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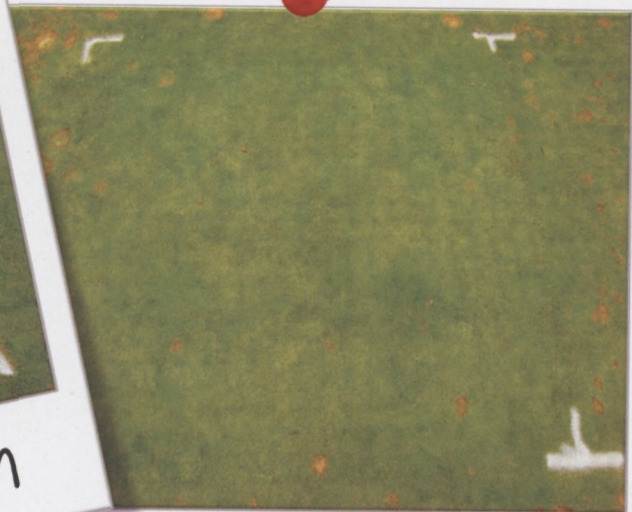
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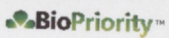
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