

# "Green is Beautiful"

## Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

54 HEARNshaw CRESCENT — ETOBICOKE, ONTARIO M9C 3M4 — TELEPHONE 622-9929



SEPTEMBER 1978



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*We all like to believe at this time, that we made the right choices and the right decisions.*

*Each year we are faced with new problems; and this makes it more of a challenge.*

*Communicating with our fellow superintendent helps us all grow and we all benefit.*

*Paul Scenna,  
President.*

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### — O.G.S.A. EXECUTIVE FOR 1978 —

President, Paul Scenna . . . . . (519) 623-3292  
Vice-President, Stuart Mills . . . . . (416) 270-0716  
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Roster, Bob Brewster . . . . . (416) 676-9777  
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Nominating Chairman, Al Beeney  
Executive Newsletter Editor, W. Hynd 239-9630  
Social Committee, Stuart Mills  
Turf Research Chairman,  
Paul Dermott . . . . . (416) 247-9281  
Welfare — East, Rusty Waskman  
West, Ken Nelson  
Central, W. Hynd





Host Paul Scenna, Pro Albert Southgate and Len Goldsen, Greens Section Director, R.C.G.A.



Jack Eggers addressing some of the large group at Turf Plots.



Dr. Jack Eggers, University of Guelph, accepting \$1,000 cheque from P. Dermott, to be used in Turf Research.



Patrick Harold receiving O.G.A. Award from Keith Nesbit. Patrick has accepted the appointment of Assistant Superintendent at Brampton Golf Club.

## PRESIDENT - GREENSCHAIRMAN - SUPERINTENDENT TOURNAMENT

On July 28th the Hamilton Golf Club hosted the O.G.S.A. premier event of the season. This is by far one of our most popular events and over fifty entries were received. The forty teams in attendance enjoyed a fine golf course prepared for us and great hospitality from the Hamilton Club staff. Our sincere thanks go out to Mr. S. Mills and the Club Executive for a fine day.

### WINNERS:

1st Markland Woods G.C. Harry Ritson, Pres.  
Frank Pope, G.C.  
Bob Heron, S.

2nd Mississauga G.C.

Ken Howie, Pres.  
Bob Mason, G.C.  
Paul Dodson, S.

3rd Thornhill G.C.

Jerry De Gras, Pres.  
J. Waddis, G.C.  
D. Gourley, S.

4th Oakville G.C.

A. W. Baillie, Pres.  
Ross Hutchinson, G.C.  
George Garner, S.

5th Galt G.C.

Bill Lewis, Pres.  
Paul Domainczuk, G.C.  
Paul Scenna, S.

There was a three-way tie for 1st place.



## REFLECTIONS ON PREPARING FOR THE LADIES' PETER JACKSON CLASSIC

**Host - Superintendent Bill Hynd**

Spring and early summer in the golf course business is full of optimism and hope of an early start. In reality though, golf courses don't shape up much earlier than 15th June in the Toronto area, what with Poa seeding on fairways, dandelions in profusion and maple trees casting their seeds and flower on the grass, the reluctant healing of winter injury, you can only do your best.

I was asked to rake traps by hand during the event and also volunteered to mow greens and tees by walking behind single-unit greensmowers, sounds routine.

We have come a long way in recent years with triplex greensmowers and motorized sand rakes, in which 2 men can now mow 18 greens and rake all traps in a four hour period. Now then, leave this beautiful equipment in the maintenance building and set your 50% inexperienced crew loose with rakes and single-unit greensmowers on a training session. This exercise proves two things - the regular experienced staff are very good indeed and secondly it takes a great deal of patience and time to train a new man and your efforts may be fruitless.

Mechanically, single-unit greensmowers require much more attention and adjustment than triplex mowers. The vision of minor breakdowns in the far corners of the golf course is a frustrating one and proves beyond doubt the labour-saving and mechanical soundness of the triplex mower.

The vast army of C.B.C., Bell Canada, Hydro and scaffolding crews who converge on the golf course prior to the event is likely to be a test in labour relations. You try to train a man to work independantly and show initiative while (what would appear) much loafing around is going on, it's another world.

It was a pleasure hosting this tournament for the 2nd time in three years. For by being good golfers the ladies are pleasing to watch. JoAnne Carner, the winner, gave everyone a treat the final day with a record 64 - we followed her all the way, her long irons and putting were astounding.

### THE CANADIAN OPEN

**GLEN ABBEY GOLF CLUB - June 21-24, 1978**

**Host Superintendent: Dennis Pellre**

Visited Glen Abbey for the final day's play, Bruce Lietzke held the lead and didn't fold as the established stars, Nicklaus and Trevino, failed to mount a sustained charge on a golf course which had some of the toughest pin placements you could ever wish to see.

Host Superintendent, Dennis Pellre, was ready for a few days fishing after the event and we arranged a golf game July 18th and discussed a few details of the course maintenance schedule. Dennis relates that the greens were mowed to 1/8 twice daily and were lightly watered at night as required. The greens were on the hungry side, no excess growth, allowing a uniform, steady pace throughout the day. Bed knives on his greenmowers incidentally were ground down to allow the 1/8 inch close cut and only lasted one week.

As players teed off from both nines, Dennis recruited an army of 18 school boys to rake all the traps ahead of play, his regular crew consists of 20 men.

The golf outing was a pleasant jaunt and Dennis and I are pleased to report that we broke one hundred. You have to be impressed with this golf course. The greens, although small, with severe swales offer excellent flat pin placement for the bold shot. The well sculptured sand traps, however, are cut close to the green surface and gobble up the wayward shot - very demanding.

From a scenic point of view the greens are reminiscent of Jack Nicklaus' play on the famous courses throughout the golfing world. Certainly the No. 13 green is similar to the famous No. 17 road hole at St. Andrews (although turned the other way around). The mounding surrounding the greens, besides offering vantage points to spectators also has the effect of the spacious barren look of linksland golf courses.

Dennis says that a meeting is scheduled for Golf Superintendents some time in October, don't miss this one, you will love it.

### THE WESTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB LTD.

**Host Superintendent: Robert Brewster**

It was a great pleasure to host the Ontario Amateur. I was amazed at my staff. They all seemed to get really enthusiastic about the tournament. One day during the morning, every staff member was sitting ready to start work 20 minutes before 6 a.m. Previous to the tournament we had spent six weeks on new construction laying 7,000 yards of sod, rebuilding creek-lines, building a new tee and laying 5,000 feet of french drains.

We also are having an automatic irrigation system being installed. It has been a very busy year.

At tournament time we were invaded by chinchbugs. We had to spray the whole course and 54 gallons later we had solved our problems.

### MONTHLY MEETING AUGUST 16th, 1978 AT BOARD OF TRADE COUNTRY CLUB

The August Meeting of the O.G.S.A. was held at the Board of Trade Country Club in Woodbridge with Gordon Wittieveen hosting. As might be expected the course was in excellent condition.

The first group off the tee was greeted by rain as they approached the first green. They proceeded to the halfway house for a coffee which lasted close to an hour (as did the rain). There upon the skies cleared and a great day of golfing and fellowship followed.

On the golfing side of things, Mr. Bill Bowen, as is his custom, was low gross with a 74. Using the "casual handicap" system, Mr. Hugh Loomas grabbed low net honours.

Other low gross winners were:

Bill Glashen - 77

Barry Endicott - 78

Low net winners were:

Hugh Kirkpatrick - 69

Tom Kiddey - 69

After golf the sixty-four competitors and an additional twenty other guests gathered at the Board of Trade Turf Care Centre for barbequed steak, corn on the cob, and some liquid refreshment.

The theme of the day was "America Day" and a number of guests from U.S.A. were in attendance, including: Dr. Jim Watson, Toro; Ted Smith, Smithco; Ned Brinkman, Jacobsen; Bob Moore, Aquagrow; Jim Latham, Milorganite; Andy Berton, Cleary Co.; a foursome from Western New York State headed by Norman Leising and Mel Lucas, a Director of the G.C.S.A.A. who gave a demonstration of the new speed stick, developed by U.S.G.A. to measure the putting speed of greens.

This event was a pleasant break from a hectic golf season and provided those Superintendents in attendance with a good opportunity to discuss, in a "relaxed atmosphere", the challenges of this year.

Pictures on Page 6



## HOW TO COMMUNICATE

Communicating with the people around you is important, but getting your message across and understanding what others are saying probably happens less often than you'd like.

What's the key to good communication? It's nothing more—or less—than saying what you mean and then letting the other guy have an opportunity to do the same. Honesty and directness, while sometimes ruffling a few feathers, have the virtue of leading to real contact between people, and that's the way to tackle a problem head-on.

Think about these points the next time you have to communicate with a co-worker.

When you're talking:

\*Don't speak in the abstract. Instead of saying, "I wish a little more work was getting done around here," try, "I don't think you're getting enough work done".

\*Avoid talking about what ought to be. Don't say, "We really should have finished that maintenance by now". Instead, "I am concerned that we are behind on our maintenance schedule", is more honest—and a lot easier for someone else to understand.

\*Don't say something that contradicts the way you really feel. Keeping a smile on your face when you're mad only makes it harder for you to communicate and for others to understand you.

\*Don't use words like "you", "we" or "one" when you mean I. "I think", "I need", "I want", is a lot more likely to get your message across.

The other side of the coin is giving the person you're communicating with his chance to tell you what he really means. Here are a few ways to help him communicate with you:

\*Stop talking! It seems obvious, but you can't find out what he has to say if you don't listen—and you can't do that when you're talking.

\*Empathize with him. Try to put yourself in his place—imagine what he must feel like and what his perspective on the situation must be.

\*If you don't understand, ask questions. If you want more information or an example, ask! It shows the person that you've been listening and that you're interested in what he has to say. But don't ask embarrassing questions or ones designed to make him look bad.

\*Look at the other person and concentrate on what he is saying. Focus your mind on what he is trying to say to you. Look at him. His face, eyes and hands are clues to what his message really is.

\*Don't rush him. Give him time to say what he wants to say. Don't interrupt.

Communication doesn't need to be a problem. Honesty, directness and a real desire to listen are the most important parts.

## BUDGET YOUR TIME — DELEGATE

Most people are familiar with the concepts of budgeting their money and spending it in ways that give them maximum benefit. But too many "money-smart" people are spendthrifts with their time.

One of the prime offenders is the manager who believes he must be personally involved in every aspect of his operation. This person has forgotten that a good manager is one who has trained his staff so well that he could walk out of his office at any time and be assured that routine decisions will be taken care of as well as if he were present. The superintendent who

understands this and who has trained his staff to take care of the day-to-day mechanics of running a golf course is the one who has time and energy to devote to trouble shooting and long-range planning.

The key to effective delegation of routine decisions is to make it clear to your employees just how well informed you want to be about the actions they take on responsibilities you have given them.

How much independence you give a particular person should depend on the skill and experience he has. The ultimate in delegation is to allow him to make decisions and act on them without informing you.

Another form of delegation is to ask a staff member who has brought a problem to your attention to explore various ways of solving the problem, evaluate the alternatives, make a decision, and tell you what he has decided. You will then have a chance to discuss the situation in more detail if necessary. This is an excellent way to assess an employee's ability to make good decisions.

Effective delegation lets you win in two ways. You save your valuable time by not getting involved in minor decisions others can handle, and you also take an important step in training your staff. This on-the-job training increases an employee's value to your organization and contributes to good morale and teamwork.

Be aware, though, that no matter how good your system is, mistakes will occur from time to time. The test of a good delegation system is how the situation is handled. On one hand, don't ignore the problem and hope it won't reoccur. But don't make such a fuss over it that a potentially valuable employee loses all confidence in his ability to make good judgements. Use this opportunity to initiate a discussion about what the proper actions would have been and why.

## TRAINING ASSISTANTS DEMANDS SKILL

Developing an assistant is one of the challenging jobs an administrator can have. When the trainee takes over a top-level position he probably will adhere to the good business practices learned on the job.

Developing an assistant is hard work, requiring careful attention to details and explanations while yielding an enormous amount of confidence in and responsibility to the trainee. Here are a few items that may help in attempting to develop an assistant:

**Give him the facts:** Only by being informed about his responsibilities and authorities can an assistant get a clear picture of what he is to do and how he should do it. A job description should be developed to give a trainee some guidelines. Personally introduce the assistant to those with whom he will be working.

**Smooth his path:** Request employees who work with your assistant to cooperate with him. Inform everyone of the duties he will be performing—then impress upon him the importance of earning the respect and confidence of these employees.

**Share knowledge:** You must keep the assistant informed of your plans, your progress and your reasons for making each move. If you expect him to do a good job, you must share your knowledge with your assistant. Warn him of problem areas and see that he learns the ins and outs of working with the people working for you.

Neglecting to provide background information keeps the assistant in the dark and prevents him from performing to the best of his ability as well as makes him look bad in the eyes of those with whom he must work.



## GALT FIELD DAY — June 8th, 1978

### Hosts: Paul Scenna and University of Guelph

Due to the popularity of this day it was arranged to have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start for the 86 golf participants. Good weather prevailed as usual, and when the trees and water took their toll on this interesting golf course, the following players came out on top:

	Low Gross	Low Net	
Superintendents:	Wm. Bowen 76	Shorty Jenkins 63	
	Wm. Glashan 77	Weston Kaster 68	
	Jack Fairhurst 78	Bernie McDonald 68	
	Graham Shouldice 78	Gord Putney 68	
Assoc.:			
	Doug Heron 77	Ron Craig 68	
		Rod Hermitage 71	
Assistants:			
	Dave Gourlay, Jr. 75	Doug Rothwell 64	
Guests:			
	Bob Labett 74	Angelo Longo 66	
	Rick Fified 75	Ray Wellman 69	

The golf course as usual was in good shape, thanks to Paul and also a thank you to Bill Bowen for making the draw.

The afternoon was spent visiting the Turf Plots at the Cambridge Research Station, Research Faculty - J. L. Eggens, B. A. Reiger; Research Technician - N. E. McCollum, R. F. Glover.

Papers were presented on the following:

1. Thatch control on Penncross Putting Greens.
2. Overseeding in an Annual Bluegrass Sward.
3. Dollar Spot Control Trials 1977-78.
4. Snow Mold Trials 1977-78.
5. Helminthosporium Trial 1978.
6. Pre-emergent Crabgrass Control 1978.

### DOLLAR SPOT CONTROL TRIALS, CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH 1977-78

A chemical control trial was again conducted on bentgrass turf infested with a benomyl-resistant strain of the Dollar Spot Fungus, *Sclerotinia homeocarpa*. Treatments were applied on August 3 when symptoms of disease were beginning to appear and disease readings were taken at two-week intervals. Table 1 gives a summary of results from readings made August 19.

Table 1. Percent Dollar Spot 2 weeks after treatment with fungicides.

Fungicide	Dosage oz/1000 ft <sup>2</sup>	Percent Disease	Percent Control
RP 26019 WP	2.0	0	100
Tersan 1991 + DPX 4424	1 + 1	0	100
DPX 4424 WP	2.0	0	100
DPX 4424 WP	1.0	0	100
Baymeb 6447 WP	2.0	0	100
F8272 (RP 26019 granular)	1.0	0.8	85
RP 26019 WP	0.5	0.8	85
RP 26019 WP	1.0	0.8	85
Tersan 1991 + RP 26019	1 + 1	1.6	71
Proturf BSF	—	3.9	29
Cad WP	1.0	3.9	29
Mersil WP	1.0	4.7	15
F8272 (RP 26019 granular)	0.5	4.7	15
Check (no treatment)	—	5.5	—
Tersan 1991 + Mersil	1 + 1	10.1	—
PMAS	2.0	10.1	—
Tersan 1991 WP	1.0	10.9	—
Proturf Systemic	1.0	15.6	—
Easeout WP	1.0	18.8	—

#### Conclusions:

1. Wettable powders containing experimental fungicides RP 26019, DPX 4424 and Baymeb 6447 gave adequate to excellent

control of disease at all dosages tested. RP 26019 in the granular form gave excellent control at 1 oz. but unsatisfactory at 0.5 oz. dosage.

2. Cad and Mersil at 1 oz. did not give satisfactory control. Mersil at 2 oz. gave excellent control in 1976. Presumably the 1 oz. dosage is too low.

3. Fungicides containing benomyl or thiophanate methyl appeared to enhance rather than control disease.

### TRAINING ASSISTANTS DEMANDS SKILL (Cont'd)

**Add responsibility gradually:** Let the assistant get a feel for his job. Then gradually give him additional small doses of responsibility. By working in this fashion he will gradually absorb additional knowledge and pick up those qualities that make a manager competent.

**Hold a loose rein:** An assistant who is constantly being checked on gets the feeling he is not trusted and this retards his growth as a manager. Let loose and give your assistant a free rein—let him make decisions and learn by his mistakes. You don't want a trainee to lose his initiative; but keeping him under your finger can snuff out any spark or flame of initiative.

**Give him authority:** Give your assistant a task and tell him to get the job done and to come to you only if he sees problems or something is out of line. Encourage him to bring one or more suggested solutions to any problems he may bring to you. Instead of giving him answers to problems, guide him to making the correct decision.

**Remember that you are in control:** Delegate responsibility and authority but remember that you are in control. Check regularly on assignments given to your assistant. Avoid checking details; emphasize the overall job. Everyone does a job differently. If your assistant produces results but does it in a different manner than you, don't nag him about his methods.

Reprinted in part from A Patch of Green, July 1976.

### PLAYING GOLF IS GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS

Should a golf course superintendent play golf himself? Many golf course owners and directors believe that having a superintendent who doesn't understand the game is something like having a mechanic who doesn't drive, work on your car.

Seeing the course as the golfers do and good public relations are the biggest advantages to playing golf for a golf superintendent. When it's time to explain to an unhappy member why his favorite nine is closed or why an aerified green looks the way it does, your credibility is much better if you can explain what you're doing and why in golfer's terms. Don't give a player a reason to walk away muttering, "But he doesn't even play the game!"

Playing golf with members also offers you a way to let them get to know you. While playing, you can discuss the course's condition, answer questions and tell them about your plans in a friendly, low-key manner.

You may even want to suggest to your employees that they learn to play golf, if they don't know how already. When employees understand the importance of the fine points of golf course housekeeping, good bunker maintenance, for example, the quality of their work is likely to improve.

It isn't important that they play well. Your club's pro may be willing to give a few group lessons and a friendly handicap competition now and then among your employees, will encourage them to learn.

Finally, playing golf yourself is a most enjoyable way to conduct an inspection of your course from a golfer's perspective and note small changes that could be made to improve your facility.



## 1978 EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION AND SHOW — August 30, 1978

Submitted by Stuart G. Mills, C.G.C.S.

The 1978 version of the O.G.S.A. Equipment Show was better in some respects and downright discouraging in other ways.

The suppliers turned up with the "greatest show on turf" that we have seen in an outdoor display. More pieces of equipment to be seen than ever before, more exhibitors than last year and a bigger program was provided.

Steaks began coming off the grill at 1200 hours sharp and just as the last two were cooking a shower settled in while we

sat eating in the cleared out shed, kindly provided by Norm McCollum and The University of Guelph.

The elimination draw proved to be excellent - very suspenseful as each ticket was drawn and torn up until each 14th draw a \$25.00 winner emerged. The final grand prize narrowed down to two (2) people who opted to go for "One take all or nothing" The winner emerged a very surprised Dennis McCracken, who in fact won back in spades his voluntary donation to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation.

The day was a total letdown to the organizers and the participants by the lack of attendance. You GUYS ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

### THE CANADIAN GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION'S 30th ANNUAL CANADIAN TURFGRASS SHOW

MARCH 4th TO 7th, 1979

CHATEAU HALIFAX, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

*Any Further Information Required on this Conference  
can be Obtained by Contacting The  
CGSA Office at the Address Below.*

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association  
Association Canadienne des Surintendants de Golf  
698 Weston Road, Suite 32, Toronto, Ontario M6N 3R3  
Telephone (416) 767-2550



Left to Right: Mel Lucas (G.C.S.A.A. Director)  
Gord Vitteveen (Host)  
Paul Scenna  
Testing the New Stimpmeter.



Left to Right: Mel Lucas, Andy Bertoni,  
Dr. Jim Watson.



## HONORARY MEMBER

We are pleased to announce that Clay Switzer, Dean of O.A.C., has been made an Honorary Member of the Ontario Golf Superintendent's Association.

Clay was in attendance at the recent President, Greens Chairman, Superintendent's Day at Ancaster Golf Club, July 28th, and it was evident that he was thrilled at this recognition.

# GCSAA Seminars

If you are interested in attending these seminars, please fill in the coupon below and return it to: GCSAA, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kan. 66044.

### Management II: Leadership, Motivation and Employee Relations

Instructor: Ron Frame, management training consultant, Oklahoma City

Members: \$80 , Nonmembers: \$115

*Improve your abilities as a leader and manager by exploring the philosophy of management; how to train, motivate and evaluate employees; and how to delegate authority and responsibility.*

Oct. 18-19, 1978 — Baltimore, Md.

Oct. 25-26, 1978 — Minneapolis, Minn.

Nov. 8-9, 1978 — East Lansing, Mich.

Nov. 14-15, 1978 — Hyannis, Mass.

Dec. 6-7, 1978 — Biloxi, Miss.

### Landscape I: Principles of Landscape

Instructors: Dr. Charles M. Sacamano, professor and extension specialist in landscape horticulture, University of Arizona, Tucson  
William R. Nelson Jr., professor and extension landscape architect, University of Illinois, Urbana

Members: \$90 Nonmembers: \$125

*Achieve the landscape effects you want on your course by understanding landscape techniques, design principles and the specialized needs of surrounding terrain.*

Nov. 1-2, 1978 — Indianapolis, Ind.

Nov. 9-10, 1978 — Tucson, Ariz.

### 1979 Preconference Seminars

Feb. 3-4, Atlanta, Ga. (Registration forms will be available in October.)

Landscape I

Management II

Nutrition I

Pesticide III (Insects)

Pesticide IV (Weeds)

Irrigation I

Turf Disease Identification

Please send me more information about the seminar indicated:

☐ Management II. City \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Landscape I. City \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



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AL BEENEY  
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## FALL PROJECT — DRAINAGE

### By John Smith, Superintendent Wyldeewood Golf Club

Wyldeewood like many of your courses, suffered from a heavy clay soil and very poor drainage.

This problem was compounded by the fact that our terrain is generally flat thereby reducing the effect of surface runoff.

It seemed numerous wet areas were the order of the day more times than not.

It was this condition which made it virtually impossible to cut some fairways not only in early spring and the rainy season but also occasionally following a heavy rain in mid-summer. These low spots increased the incidence of low temperature winter kill. Also during the summer, grass in these areas would be wiped out due to the suffocating qualities of a water cover.

With all these hindrances it's not hard to see why proper drainage plays such a vital role in proper turf management.

Good drainage at Wyldeewood came to be of the utmost importance. In the spring of 1976 we embarked on an extensive drainage program which would see us install some 4 miles of new French drains. 3½ miles are now completed with only a ½ mile to go. In no time at all results were readily visible and most gratifying.

At this present time all low, and or, formerly wet areas are completely drained within one hour of a torrential down pour - providing the deluge doesn't last for 2 weeks.

We are able to move tractors, sprayers, etc. out on the course at a much earlier date in the spring.

Next year all killed out areas will be completely re-covered, hopefully never to return.

This fall while a number of courses suffered the effects of the heavy and frequent rains, we continued on with our cutting and other projects as before.

For Wyldeewood the treatment completely killed the disease of improper drainage.

Unlike an irrigation system, one of drainage is not financially prohibitive and can be done sectionally as time, labour and money permits.

When planning our course of action, I went the route of perforated flexdrain as opposed to the age old clay tile.

There were a number of reasons for my choice, the 2 main ones of which were the cost and the ease of handling.

Flexdrain when purchased from Daymond in Mississauga can be obtained at 17 cents per foot in quantities of 5,000 ft. or better - 20 cents per foot from 2,500 to 5,000 ft. and 23 cents per foot when less than 2,500 ft. are purchased.

On the other hand, clay tiles purchased in our area run at a flat price of 27 cents per foot.

Flexdrain comes in 250 foot rolls weighing 70 lbs. You can imagine the difference between rolling out 250 feet of pipe in one fell swoop as compared to laying a foot at a time and covering the joint with tar paper or some other material. The pipe can quickly be cut to length by means of a pocket knife.

Tees, caps and couplings for flexdrain now come in a style that quickly and easily snap onto the pipe.

Based on a 4" trench having a mean depth of 16" I was able to work out a per foot price of 22 cents which covered the cost of pipe, and gravel, at \$4.30 per yard.

As we began the actual installation of the drains we derived a system whereby time could be saved and the job made easier. The more pipe we laid the more proficient we became and the rate of progress increased.

When laying out the path of drains we didn't use a transit as many of you might have.

By using contours of the land to our advantage we were able to maintain a good fall through all parts of the golf course. Most trenchers can be made to reach a depth of 3 ft. thereby enabling one to cut through any high spots.

When cutting a trench 16" deep you can get sufficient drainage even if there is a 14" rise in elevation somewhere along the line.

A French drain can work in two ways, not only does it allow water to quickly course through its trench but also dissipates water through its walls to the surrounding soil.

Prior to trenching we plotted the path of the drains and marked them with marking paint as well as marking the location of irrigation lines to avoid any unnecessary breakage. Heaven knows I have enough of those already.

Where possible we utilized existing tile lines and cut into them wherever feasible.

To speed the clean up process we placed as many as seven 5/8" thick sheets of plywood alongside the course we were to follow. A Davis trencher throws the majority of the dirt out to one side of the trench. The dirt on this side fell on the plywood and manpower permitting the plywood was lifted and tipped into the box of a hydraulic trailer.

This sheet of plywood was then advanced to the head of the line.

This process was paralleled by one man cleaning out the trench with a shovel cut down to a width of 4" and another man cleaning up the other side of the trench with an aluminum scoop shovel.

The actual trenching was followed closely by the laying of the pipe. Whenever there was a 15 ft. or shorter lateral from the main drain it was left void of pipe and filled with straight gravel.

The next step and the most tedious was the backfilling. Using ¾ round, washed gravel the trenches were filled and packed to ground level. Gravel any smaller, plugs too easily thereby impeding the flow of water.

Backfilling was not always, but usually completed before leaving for the day. There is nothing worse than hand digging trenches that have caved in overnight!!

With a few minor modifications our push button hydraulic trailer was our biggest asset when it came to backfilling the drains.

One man walked behind the trailer and controlled the flow of gravel through a chute by raising or lowering the trailer box and by the use of a control gate in the chute.

We found the easiest method for our application was to back the tractor and trailer along the trench. The tractor driver would look over his shoulder and maintain a speed which would fill the trench the proper level.

Within one growing season the grass from both sides of the trench will grow across the gravel thereby obscuring it from the most perceiving eye. However, before this happens the trench will probably need topping up at least once to compensate for the settling of the gravel.

## ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

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