

"Green is Beautiful"

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

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"Next Meeting"

BAYVIEW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

HOST: JIM WYLLIE

DATE: TUESDAY,

OCTOBER 14th, 1980

MEETING: 10:00 a.m. **SERIALS**

OCT 2 1980

LUNCH: 11:00 a.m. **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

GOLF: 12:00 Noon

"SCRAMBLE GOLF"

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	BLAKE McMASTER - Brampton
	DAVID MOOTE - Scarborough
	RUSTY WARKMAN - Oshawa

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MEETINGS 1980

Date	Course	Host
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Dukes "Lawn 'Arama"	
Tuesday, September 16	Pro-Super - Lake St. George, Orillia, Ont.	
Thursday, September 18	C.G.S.A. - Fall Field Day	
Monday, September 29	Dalewood Golf Club (McClumpha Tournament)	Dan Ardley
Tuesday, October 14	Bayview Golf Club	Jim Wyllie
October 29-30	G.C.S.A.A. Seminar "Landscape I"	
November 15	Christmas Party, Lambton Golf & Country Club	
Tuesday, December 2	Aurora Highlands - Annual Meeting	Paul White

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Results of:

- 1) Pro-Superintendent
- 2) McClumpha Tournament
- 3) Bayview Golf Club

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RICHMOND HILL WINS PRESIDENT, GREENSCHAIRMAN, SUPERINTENDENT DAY

The 9th Annual President, Greenschairman, Superintendent Tournament was held Friday, July 25th at the Summit Golf Club.

As per usual the conditions were ideal, with the weather comfortably pleasant, except for those of us from relatively flat courses who were exhausted after climbing Summit's hilly terrain.

The course was in absolutely immaculate condition and lived up to its undaunted reputation of having exceedingly fast greens. Doug Hoskins and his crew deserve considerable praise for the fine golfing conditions they provide at the Summit.

The field was comprised of 40 teams from across the province. Unfortunately a dozen entries had to be turned away. There is talk of a plan to accommodate additional teams.

Many of us found the course extremely tight and difficult but obviously the team from Richmond Hill Golf Club led by Superintendent Peter Barnett found the course to their liking, scoring 109 points to place 1st in the event.

2nd - Dalewood - Dan Ardley Supt. - 106 points

3rd - Aurora - Allen Jones Supt. - 99 points

4th - Markland Woods - Bob Heron Supt. - 96 points

5th - Westmount - Hugh Kirkpatrick Supt. - 95 points

6th - Scarborough - David Moote Supt. - 94 points

7th - Oakdale - Paul Dermott - 92 points

8th - Idylwyld - David Jackson Supt. - 92 points

Hugh Kirkpatrick of Westmount had the low gross round of the day, shooting a fine 72.

Andy Bertonia was back for a second time as our after dinner speaker and again was delightful with his endless line of "humorous" stories and pertinent Turfgrass information.

Again many thanks to Doug Hoskins and to the Summit Golf Club and its members for hosting our Tournament.

In 1981, the President, Greenschairman, Superintendent Tournament will be held at the Scarborough Golf Club with David Moote the host Golf Superintendent.



Jack Harris, Knollwood Golf Club

1ST ANNUAL TURFGRASS RESEARCH FOUNDATION INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Friday, August 1, 1980 the First Invitational Tournament of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation was held at the National Golf Club in Woodbridge, Ontario. Ken Wright, Host Superintendent had his course in fine shape after 4" of rain in 2 days previous to the Tournament. Several guests from the U.S. and Canada attended, including Dr. Joe Vargas, Ned Brinkman, Jim Latham and Dean Switzer. Following golf, a barbecue steak dinner was held at the maintenance facility at the Board of Trade. Many thanks to Ken Wright and Gord Witteveen for making this day a success and also to Mr. Gil Bleckman and the National Golf Club for the use of their fine golf course. The Tournament raised \$2,800.00 for Turfgrass Research in Ontario. The results of the Tournament follows:

Low Gross:	Most Honest Golfer:
1st Bob Cherry 84	Jack Austin 137
2nd Jack Harris 85	
3rd Steve Miller 87	Longest Drive:
	Jack Todd
Low Net:	
1st Kimmo Salonen	Closest to Pin:
2nd Ken Nelson	Paul Dermott
3rd Mac Frost	

BILL BOWEN WINS AT WESTVIEW

On Tuesday, August 12, 1980, our monthly Meeting was held at Westview Golf Club. Our host Keith Nisbet, gave a short talk on the history of Westview, a fine 27-hole semi-private course north of Toronto. Then a discussion started on the Rules of Golf as Keith is the head of Golf Rules for the O.G.A. Following a lengthy discussion on rules, several Superintendents toured one of the finest conditioned golf courses in the area. The results of the day are:

Low Gross:	Low Net:
Bill Bowen 79	Bill Hynd 70
Hugh Kirkpatrick 79	Neil Acton 70
Ken Wright 80	Bernie McDonald 71
Dave Keith 80	Ron Wilczynski 73
Dan Ardley 81	John Stoughton 74
Kimmo Salonen 87	C. Endicott 74
Doug Nisbet 87	

A special thanks to Keith Nisbet for his fine hospitality and a "Great Golf Course".



L.-R. - Ken Nelson, Steve Miller, Bob Cherry, Ken Wright.



Group Picture



L.-R. - Jim Latham, Keith Nisbet, Jack Harris.



L.-R. - Paul Scenna, Dean Switzer,
Dr. Joe Vargas, Alan Beeney.



Paul Dermott Presents Prize to Bob Cherry.



Honest Golfer, Jack Austin.



Prize Winner, Mac Frost, O.G.A. Director.

GROOMING THE PUTTING SURFACE

By James T. Snow, Agronomist,
Northeastern Region

To most golfers, turf management involves little more than mowing, fertilizing, irrigating and occasional applications of chemicals to control various unidentified pests. The many details of a good turfgrass management program go unnoticed by most of us, and perhaps this is as it should be.

One of these details which golf superintendents concern themselves with is the grooming of the putting surface. Providing a smooth, true, fast surface involves much more than frequent mowing. Many little tricks of the trade are utilized to obtain the desired results.

To appreciate fully why some of these techniques are necessary and how they work, it is helpful to understand how the putting green grasses grow if they receive only minimum maintenance. Both bentgrass and bermudagrass, two of the most important grasses cultured for use on greens in this country, tend to produce prostrate-type growth when they receive a minimum program of regular mowing. If allowed to continue, this results in a textured, leafy appearance which is sometimes referred to as grain. Grain is the subject of lengthy arguments in many locker rooms, but there is little doubt that slow, bumpy, untrue greens are one of the consequences.

To combat this problem, techniques have evolved to force the prostrate-type growth to grow more upright. The results are comparable to putting on a shag rug versus putting on a tightly-knit, dense carpet, although the actual cutting height has much less to do with the difference than many people believe.

Perhaps the best place to begin a program of grooming the putting turf is with the greens mower itself. Some models have accessory brushes which can be mounted to the frame and project out in front of the mower as it moves across the green. These brushes are made of wire or thin metal strips and act to fluff up the turf, especially the prostrate-type growth, before it is mowed to produce a crisp, clean cut. Another accessory is the comb, which is mounted near the front roller on the mowing unit. It is simply a bar with metal teeth which project down into the turf and fluff it up before it is cut. Also, a special grooved roller,

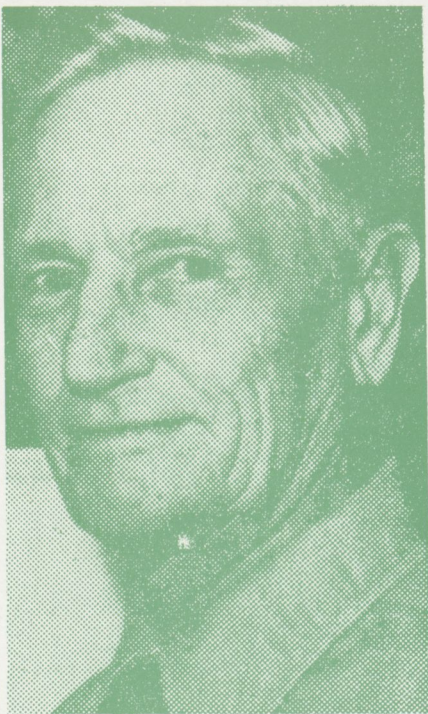
called the Wiele Roller, can be used instead of the traditional solid roller on the front of the mowing unit. This grooved roller tends less to mat the grass down before it is cut than the other. These three accessories are inexpensive and convenient to use. They function as part of the mowing machine and do not require an extra operation to achieve the desired results. However, sometimes other techniques also must be employed to combat successfully the buildup of grain on the greens.

An effective, easy method is to drag some type of mat across the turf surface before the green is mowed. This works on the same principle as the mower-mounted brushes, but good results are achieved usually much faster. The mats are made often of metal, but any convenient material may be used. In fact, utility brooms are used often to brush the greens before mowing.

Another very effective technique for grooming the turf is to vertical mow the greens. This is known also as verticutting the greens and involves the use of specialized mowing units with vertical cutting blades to cut down into the turf surface. They are similar to the units available to the homeowner from rental centers and are used for dethatching lawns. This technique is based on the principle that the vertical blades will cut through the thatch and remove the prostrate-type growth, to produce a smooth, true putting surface. The secret of this operation is to set the units very shallow, so that they just nick the surface of the turf. A good rule of thumb is that if you can see the grooves the machine is making, it is cutting too deeply. It is recommended that verticutting be done frequently, several times per month is possible, especially during the spring and fall when weather conditions are favorable. Verticutting greens is a very effective means of controlling the grain, but it requires the purchase of a separate machine or units which fit into the triplex putting green mower, and it takes extra time to perform the operation. However, the results would appear to justify the means.

Other factors must be considered for the development and control of grain on greens including cutting height and frequency, fertility programs, topdressing programs, the species or variety of grass involved, etc.

— From A Patch of Green, Feb. 1980.



TOM LEWIS ENDS 55-YEAR CAREER

Married — (Wife Doris)

1 Daughter — (Doreen)

Education — Lampton Mills

1st job — With Con Smythe - \$8.00 week

2nd job — Islington Golf Club - 1924

Moved to Lachute, was there until 1957

Kawartha — 1957 until present.

When Tom Lewis began his love affair with a golf course many years ago, the golfers were wearing plus fours and swinging hickory shafted clubs.

That was 55 years ago. He has spent all of his life since in the outdoors and doesn't regret a single day. Few of us can make such a statement about our lives and maybe that's why Tom, at 73, looks and acts much younger.

Lewis has gone into semi-retirement after serving as head greenskeeper at the Kawartha Golf and Country Club for the past 22 years. Newly-hired to replace Lewis is Fred Currah, who comes to Peterborough with impressive credentials from the Riverside course in Riverside, New Brunswick.

Rich Cavanaugh, president of the Kawartha men's section, pays Lewis high tribute. "Tom will definitely be a hard man to replace. He is absolutely fantastic on machinery and I know he'll be missed. However, we're still counting on seeing him as an advisor and in his new role as a part-time technician at the club."

Lewis is much too active to be satisfied accepting relegation to the rocking chair. He has agreed to remain in a consulting capacity and putting in a few hours each week making sure the equipment is kept finely tuned. Tom is considered something of a mechanical wizard with course machinery.

MANUALLY IN 1920's

One just didn't automatically become a greenskeeper by showing up at a golf course in those early days. "You had to serve a solid apprenticeship," says Tom. "And it was real tough in the 20's because everything had to be done manually, without the kind of automatic equipment we have today."

Lawn mowers had to be transported to every green by wheelbarrow, which meant only a few greens could be done each day. The greens were then cut and sprinkled by hand."

Lewis recalls those days fondly despite the handicaps. In fact, he doesn't think he'd do things much differently if he had his life to live over again.

If success is based on peace of mind, making friends and enjoying one's job to the fullest then Tom Lewis has to be one of the area's most successful senior citizens.

"Life in the outdoors, breathing clean air and doing something you like . . . there's nothing like it," exults Tom. It has helped keep him in good physical shape, too, as Tom hasn't weighed more than 130 to 140 pounds "all my life."

Lewis arrived at Kawartha from Islington in Toronto in 1957 and has spent 22 continuous years shaping and grooming the fine course off Clonsilla Ave. During that time Tom has initiated a lot of changes, including the planting of 7,000 to 8,000 trees just about every location, with the main concentration between the first and tenth holes.

Lewis carried out instructions from the club executive to the letter and the work was done so promptly, Cavanaugh points out "it was usually too late in case anyone changed his mind about the project."

NO MALE CHAUVINIST

And Tom certainly cannot be accused of being a male chauvinist. He is firmly convinced that females do a better job than men on course maintenance. Since 1972, Tom has put that belief into action around Kawartha, hiring two full-time girls and four other part-time university students each summer.

"Girls are generally more dependable, punctual and easier to get along with," says Tom. "Today's machinery easily puts the work involved well within a woman's physical ability, too."

Lewis is extremely proud of the excellent job the girls have accomplished in keeping Kawartha in trim but the admiration is mutual. Lewis is so well-thought of by his all-girl work force they recently showed their appreciation by taking him out to dinner.

Semi-retirement is not likely to keep Lewis too far away from his beloved Kawartha. He intends to play a lot more golf with the seniors this coming season because he'll have more leisure time and his competitors are forewarned. Don't let Tom talk you into giving up too many strokes.

Not only does he know every blade of grass at Kawartha but he plays a pretty fair country game. Just remember he won the seniors cup in the Ontario head greenskeeper's tournament played last summer at Gleneagles in Bolton.

Enjoy a happy retirement, Tom . . . you have earned a rest.

—From Scarborough Examiner

DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH SALESMEN

Salesmen are a necessary part of your business operation. They keep you informed of new products and serve as a personal contact between you and your suppliers. When a product you need is in short supply, a good relationship with your salesman can make the difference between getting your order and going without it.

Unfortunately, many superintendent/salesman contacts result in a lot of time and coffee being consumed with very little to show for it. Here are some ways you can organize your meetings with salesmen to save you both time and energy.

PREPARE FOR SALES CALLS by having some idea of what you will order. Study that firm's promotional literature and trade magazine advertisements to develop a list of questions about products which interest you.

MAKE YOUR SALESMAN UNDERSTAND that your time is valuable and that you have no intention of wasting it. Your regular salesman should understand that you will have nothing to do with a salesman who wastes your time and his. After all, he is there for your convenience.

TRAIN YOUR STAFF to separate the unimportant and unneeded items which salesmen are seeking to sell you from those products which could be of some value. Give someone on your staff the authority to turn down those which obviously have little value. Keep a list of your needs handy so that your staff can refer to it when a salesman calls.

MEET WITH SALESMEN in an area of your building where you are least likely to be interrupted. The few minutes each day you save by making your meetings more efficient will add up to a sizeable total by the end of the year.

DON'T BOTHER YOUR SALESMAN with matters over which they have no control. If you have a problem which they cannot solve, go directly to the company and use the time saved for more pressing matters.

It doesn't hurt to cement valuable relationships over an informal cup of coffee when you both have time to spare, but a hard look at the way you deal with salesmen can result in a considerable amount of time saved on everyone's part.

—From Fore-Front Nov. 1979.

SAFE LIFTING PREVENTS BACK PROBLEMS

Maybe it's happened to you. The box didn't look that heavy and it didn't have to be moved that far, so you decided to pick it up and carry it yourself instead of waiting for help or using a dolly. As you lifted it, you felt a sharp pain in the lower part of your back, a pain that stayed with you for weeks. Maybe it still gives you trouble.

According to the National Safety Council, approximately one out of every four occupational injuries and many more home injuries occur during the manual handling of materials. Many of these accidents result from improper lifting methods. Here is the recommended procedure for lifting heavy objects:

1. Part your feet so that one foot is alongside the object to be lifted and the other is behind.
2. Crouch close to the object and keep your back straight, as close to vertical as possible.

3. Tuck in your chin so that your spine remains straight through your neck and head.
4. Grasp the object firmly with both hands, using the palms as well as the fingers.
5. Tuck your arms and elbows close to your body as you draw the object toward you.
6. Position your body so that its weight is centered over your feet. Start the lift by pushing on your rear foot as you straighten and stand by using your leg muscles instead of your back.

Before you lift an object to move it, make sure your route is clear. If there are obstacles, move them first. If you will need help with doors, stairs or elevators, make sure someone will be there to lend a hand. Avoid twisting your body as you carry a heavy object, as this is a leading cause of back injuries. And even though it might be a little quicker to carry an object, a dolly or a rolling cart could save you time and trouble, not to mention considerable pain, in the long run.

—From Fore-Front.

SIX STEPS TO BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

"Communications is the lubricant for the work of an organization and fuel for the manager's positive relationships with an effective, satisfied crew," Ronald C. Frame, an Oklahoma City management consultant, states in *Managing Human Resources*, a new GCSAA management manual written especially for golf course superintendents. Frame gives six suggestions for improving your communications with your crew and others around you:

1. Think through what you wish to accomplish before you start: This is tactical, it is preparation and it helps eliminate surprises in the process. You know your ground before you approach it.
2. Determine the ways you will communicate: This is a process of selection. What will work best with the other party? How do you get his complete understanding without overdoing it? Will the telephone do? Do you need to see his face? Should it be written?
3. Appeal to the interests of the recipient: You want his attention, he wants to know how he will be affected. Get him involved personally and he will listen more effectively.
4. Give feedback on what others communicate to you: That is, "Now let me make sure I've got it. You are asking if . . . etc.," or "If I understand you correctly, you are saying . . . etc." Feedback is a checking, confirming process.
5. Get feedback on what you are communicating: The burden is on you to make yourself understood. Don't ask "Do you understand?" Ask instead, "Play back my instructions so I will know that I was clear in giving them," or "Give me your understanding of my instructions. I want to be sure I was understood."
6. Test the effectiveness of important communications before relying on them: If words go in one ear and out the other, use them as back-up for written instructions. If memos go into shirt pockets to be washed later, follow up with a telephone call. Ineffective communication is no communication at all and will tend to generate problems of attitudes, sorry work, and more difficult communications later.

—From Fore-Front.

REGIONALIZATION

During the past few years a few new Superintendents Associations have started throughout Ontario. This is due mainly because most of the O.G.S.A. meetings are centred around Toronto. The O.G.S.A. is an Ontario Association not a Toronto Association, therefore there is a need for Regionalization.

If Regionalization took place, the following would be required:

1. Representation by Regions
2. Equal representation of board members in each region
3. Bring By-Laws up to date

The O.G.S.A. Regionalization Committee has put together the following ideas. They have held several meetings and have met with various groups throughout Ontario.

The O.G.S.A. would be divided into four Regions:

1. South Western
2. Niagara Western
3. Central
4. Western

The board of directors would be represented by three directors from each area. These directors would comprise of: president, vice-president, secretary, etc. The president would

alternate each year to another region, each region would organize their own meetings. There would be three meetings a year held for the whole membership.

1. January Symposium
2. Galt Field Day
3. Annual Meeting

The January Symposium could be moved to a different region each year.

Each member of a region would pay dues with a portion of the dues going back to each region. The head office would remain the same location with each region using our secretary to send out mailings and notices.

The advantages of Regionalization are:

1. Increase membership as more people would have to become involved in each region.
2. Cut down in travelling time as monthly meetings would be held in your own region.
3. Better representation of Board of Directors throughout Ontario.
4. Better communications to members in each region.

The Regionalization Committee will discuss Regionalization at the next Annual Meeting.

Regionalization Committee – Dan Ardley, Bob Brewster, Blake McMaster, Thom Charters.

