



Green is Beautiful

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

P.O. BOX 203, ISLINGTON, ONT. M9A 4X2

WINTER 88/89

TELEPHONE: (416) 233-8388





ONTARIO GOLF SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1988

PRESIDENT

NEIL ACTON CGCS

Brooklea Golf & Country Club
P.O. Box 1342
Penetang, Ontario L0K 1P0
Phone: Bus. (705) 526-4484
Res. (705) 549-2323

VICE PRESIDENT

GORDON NIMMO CGCS

Sarnia Golf & Curling Club
500 Errol Rd. W.
Sarnia, Ontario N7V 1X7
Phone: Bus. (519) 336-0667
Res. (519) 332-1521

PAST PRESIDENT

THOM CHARTERS

Weston Golf & Country Club
50 St. Phillips Road
Weston, Ontario M9P 2N6
Phone: Bus. (416) 241-5551
Res. (416) 233-8388

DIRECTORS

Editor

ROD TRAINOR CGCS

St. Thomas Golf & C.C.
P.O. Box 62
St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 3T5
Phone: Bus. (519) 631-2447
Res. (519) 631-4798

Membership

GREG O'HERON

Peterborough Golf & C.C.
Box 251
Peterborough, Ont. K9J 6Y8
Phone: Bus. (705) 743-5010
Res. (705) 652-6020

Golf and Meetings

TED ELLIS

Greenwood Golf Club
2212 London Rd.
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7H2
Phone: Bus. (519) 542-2212
Res. (519) 542-8201

BRUCE BURGER

Galt C.C.
P.O. Box 534
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5W1
Phone: Bus. (519) 621-7020
Res. (519) 621-1138

Roster

JOHN TAYLOR

Twenty Valley G.C.
107 Ontario St.
St. Catharines, Ontario
Phone: Bus. (416) 562-4333
Res. (416) 682-3516

Entertainment & By-Laws

SCOTT DODSON

Summit Golf & C.C.
P.O. Box 420
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 4Y6
Phone: Bus. (416) 884-5234
Res. (416) 544-6803

Treasurer

ED FARNSWORTH

Deerhurst Inn Golf & C.C.
R.R. #4
Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0
Phone: Bus. (705) 789-5543
Res. (705) 789-8282

Secretary & Symposium Chairman

MARK HAGEN

Wyldeewood Golf Club
R.R. #1
Hornby, Ontario L0P 1E0
Phone: Bus. (416) 878-4848
Res. (416) 845-3183

Public Relations & Communications

DAVE W. GOURLAY (Jr.)

Beacon Hall Golf Club
R.R. #2
Aurora, Ontario L4G 3G8
Phone: Bus. (416) 773-3841 (3843,3844)
Res. (416) 852-9609



COVER PHOTO CREDIT
NANCY PIERCE, TORONTO GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ROD TRAINOR CGCS

OFFICE SECRETARY

CINDI CHARTERS (416) 233-8388

From the Editor

With things winding down outdoors and operations moving indoors time is available to reflect on the past season. Plans are made for next year as to where changes can be made to improve our operations to provide better conditions. Budgets and equipment purchases are based on these thoughts. Superintendents are spending more time in their offices clearing up paperwork or planning or perhaps just avoiding the cold weather.

Whatever it is there is more time available. The common excuse I get when searching for material to print in this publication is "I've been too busy" or "I just haven't had time". Well, now is the time. Sit down and write up a description on that project you did this past season or describe that new renovation procedure you were successful with this year. It doesn't need to be typed — jet get it in to me.

Green is Beautiful is a newsletter for the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association and should contain some Ontario content. If I were the CBC I would be in big trouble getting my native content. It's a good thing I receive an abundance of outside newsletters and a regular supply of news releases from the GCSAA or I would have nothing to write about.

Referring back on articles about public relations and image, one of the things they say is blow your own horn because nobody else will. What better chance than through this newsletter. What better way to make a name for yourself or get exposure for yourself than through an article in *Green is Beautiful*. If I have learned anything through writing this newsletter it is that not much time is required to put a decent size article down on paper and the rewards are there for a long time afterwards.

I look forward to continuing as your newsletter editor for the upcoming season and hope you have enjoyed what you have been reading. Have a great off season and see you all at the seminars and such.

Rod Trainor, CGCS

On The Move

Neil Acton CGCS leaves Brooklea Golf and CC to take over the position of Director of Golf Course Operations at Deer Creek Golf and Country Estates. Neil's assistant **Marlon Geisler** will take over the superintendent's duties at Brooklea.

Richard Ziegel is leaving Burlington Springs GC to take the Superintendent's job at Deerfield Golf Club.

From the President

The 1988 golf season will long be remembered for its severity and indiscriminate problems. Rampant disease, water crises and intense heat tested the expertise of even the most seasoned superintendent. Some of our personal and technical liabilities became obvious this season and now is the time to improve upon those liabilities. All of the Superintendents Associations offer a myriad of educational opportunities for personal and professional improvement — utilize them!

I see another problem looming on the horizon. The booming economy has created labour shortages in every business sector and golf is no exception. Coupled with a tremendous proliferation of new golf facilities, the labour force is at a premium. Golf courses will be forced to offer wages and benefits competitive with the marketplace as a whole and not just the golf industry, as in the past. The wise superintendent will be improving his human resource skills and searching for unique ways to both attract and retain golf course personnel.

I am looking forward to the opportunity of serving as your President in 1989. We are in a tremendous industry with unlimited potential. Let's prosper together — participate!

Neil Acton, CGCS

New Members

	Class
Vince Dermott, Markland Woods GC	B
George W. Allison, Western Trent GC	B
J. David Brooke, Scotch Settlement GC	B
Nancy Pierce, Toronto GC	F
Jack Little, Dalewood G & CC	F
C.K. (Chuck) Williams, Kelp Products International	E
Dale Leggett, Jack Vincelli Inc.	E

Annette Anderson
Turf Extension Specialist
Plant Industry Branch

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Hort. Science Dept.
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1
Telephone (519) 824-4120, Ext. 2597



Politics, Religion and Winter Play on Greens

by James T. Snow

Director, Northeastern Region, USGA Green Section

It is common knowledge that three topics are simply too controversial for polite conversation, and should never be brought up at social functions: politics, religion, and winter play on greens. Not familiar with the last? If not, then you apparently haven't spent much time at northern golf courses during late fall and early winter.

Few subjects raise such an emotional response from golf course superintendents and golfers alike. Golfers can become irate at actions restricting their access to regular greens during late fall, winter, and early spring, while superintendents are just as unyielding in their view that play should be kept off the greens at those times.

Who's right?

As with most topics of this nature, qualifications have to be tacked on to any firm answer. It is safe to say, however, that winter play can only harm the greens, and in many instances it has a significantly negative impact on the health and playability of the turf during the following golf season.

Repercussions of Winter Play

It is not hard to understand why many golfers are sometimes skeptical about claims concerning the negative effects of winter play, because to them the turf on greens that have been played throughout the winter usually appears the same as the turf on greens that have been closed. The effects of winter traffic, however, need not be obvious and dramatic to have significant and long-lasting repercussions.

Direct wear injury — Thinning of the turf due to direct wear injury is an obvious and important result of winter traffic. Unlike during the growing season, when the turf is able to regenerate new leaves and stems to replace injured tissue daily, winter wear

ther completely halts turf growth; the grass is continually thinned throughout the winter in direct proportion to the amount of traffic. This thinning of the turf canopy can, and often does, encourage the establishment of such weeds as *Poa annua*, crabgrass, goosegrass, moss, algae, pearlwort, spurge, and other weed pests during the spring and summer. True enough, weeds can indeed be a problem on greens that aren't subjected to winter play, but winter traffic causes them to be just that much more abundant and difficult to control.

Soil compaction — Soil compaction is a more subtle and perhaps more important consequence of winter traffic. Because of the cold winter temperatures and the lack of active turf growth, the loss of excess soil moisture through evaporation and transpiration is greatly reduced. In addition, frozen sub-surface soils may completely block the movement of excess moisture through the soil profile. During the summer, a very heavy rainfall often creates soil conditions that warrant closing the course for a day or two until the excess moisture is eliminated by way of evaporation, transpiration, and downward percolation through the soil profile. Because these moisture losses are often non-functional during the winter, saturated soil conditions can persist for weeks or longer. Yet the golfers who can appreciate the need to close the course during the summer are sometimes completely unsympathetic to the same conditions and concerns during the winter.

The effects of soil compaction on the health and playability of the turf are insidious at any time, but because wet soils are especially prone to compaction, the likelihood of traffic causing the collapse of good soil structure is of constant concern during the winter. As soil particles are compacted and pushed closer and closer together, the pore space that facilitates drainage and root growth during the summer is gradually lost. As the season finally commences, golfers often complain that these compacted greens are hard. From an agronomic standpoint, turf begins the season in a weakened state, predisposed to a host of summer problems. In addition to the potential for weed encroachment, the turf on greens played during winter tends to wilt more readily during hot weather, and often is more susceptible to a wide array of primary and secondary disease organisms.

Effects on playability — With the loss of turf density from direct wear injury and the loss of turf vigor caused by soil compaction, greens played during winter tend to be hard, slow, and bumpy, and they are slower to develop during the spring, compared to greens that are not subjected to winter traffic. Footprinting is often a problem, and golfers tend to complain about the lack of trueness even after several topdressings in the spring. Finally, the effects of compaction on the health of the turf can last to a certain extent for much of the season, making it difficult or impossible to keep the greens as closely cut and intensively groomed as some golfers might desire.

Many winter golfers have heard these arguments before and have dismissed them as being the ravings of overprotective golf course superintendents and turfgrass scientists. A favorite response is, "I pay plenty to play golf at this club, and I'm going to use the regular greens during the winter. That's why we pay the superintendent — to fix up the greens in time for spring. Besides, the Let-'Em-Play-Anytime Golf Course down the street lets them play through the winter, and they don't lose any grass during the summer. Anyway, we only have a few groups that play much during the winter. How much damage can we do?"

Factors to Consider

On the surface, these comments seem quite valid; after all, everything is a matter of degree. But many factors should be taken into account in developing a logical policy on winter play.

Anticipated traffic — If a single round of golf were played on the course during the winter, most would agree that the poten-



HUTCHESON
SAND AND MIXES

- We are proud to be supplying the Ontario Golf Course Industry with:

**Non calcareous, low PH
Hutcheson Silica:**
Topdressing Sand and Mixes
Construction Sand and Mixes
High Organic Humus Peat
Bunker Sands

- Our products comply with Industry specifications and have been met with overwhelming approval by biologists, architects and superintendents.

TRY US!

8 West Street South, Box 937
Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0
Telephone: (705) 789-5108 or (705) 789-4551

tial for serious damage would be nil. Same for ten rounds? How about 100, 500 or 1,000? If the weather is mild and there is little snow, how many more rounds will it add? Where do you draw the line?

Soil type — Winter golfers argue that sand-based greens drain well and don't compact, making them very suitable for winter play at any time. While it is true that sand-based greens don't suffer from compaction to the extent that older soil-based greens might, it is also true that direct-wear injury is likely to be more severe on sand greens. Turf density can be greatly compromised, and weed encroachment can be a real concern. It is also true that most golf courses in the North do not have good sand-based greens. Obviously, courses with older soil-based greens are especially vulnerable to both types of winter injury.

Specific weather conditions — Though traffic on dormant turf will indeed cause some injury, the weather and soil conditions at the time of play will dictate the type and extent of the damage. Traffic on dry, unfrozen soil will cause the least damage, but this condition is rare during the winter. Frozen soil can cause significant wear injury but little soil compaction. Play on wet, unfrozen soil can result in significant soil compaction but less wear injury. Play on a thawing soil (wet on the surface, frozen below) can result in severe soil compaction and wear injury, and should be avoided. Finally, frosted turf is extremely susceptible to direct injury, and play should never be allowed.

Grass species — Do you have bentgrass greens and want to keep them? Then don't allow winter play. Thinned turf and compacted soil is just what *Poa annua* is looking for in the spring.

Cultural maintenance programs — Winter golfers argue that a good golf course superintendent should be able to fix the damage done during the winter by aerifying, topdressing, overseeding, fertilizing, and irrigation during the early spring. If weed encroachment is a problem, then he should apply herbicides to kill the weeds, and pre-emergent herbicides to prevent the crabgrass and goosegrass from developing. However, 1) it would be a rare case where intensive spring work would completely compensate for the wear injury and soil compaction resulting from winter play, 2) chemicals applied to control crabgrass and other weeds have a negative effect on the root growth and the overall health of the turf during the summer, 3) golfers despise the intensive aerification and topdressing required during the early spring, since most of them return after a winter layoff and find their greens ripped up and in poor playing condition for weeks or more, and 4) all of the work to renovate the greens takes more money for labor and materials and comes at the expense of other spring course preparation activities.

History of winter injury — The effects of winter play can exacerbate the injury from other types of winter problems, including dessication, winter diseases, and low-temperature kill (ice damage). Winter play, therefore, should be avoided if the course regularly suffers from other forms of winter injury.

Previous weed problems — Courses that have previously experienced and are concerned about weed problems such as crabgrass, goosegrass, spurge, moss, algae, and *Poa annua* would do themselves a favor by avoiding winter play on the regular greens.

Recent stress problems — Winter play is best not allowed on greens that have experienced the loss of turf or extreme weakness during the previous year or years caused by heat stress, secondary disease problems such as anthracnose or summer patch, nematodes or other summer stress problems. Greens like these probably would suffer even greater problems if they were burdened with the vigor-inhibiting effects of winter play.

Trees — Greens close to large trees that suffer from shade, air circulation problems, and tree root competition should not be forced to endure the complicating effects of winter play. Compared to turf growing in clear areas, greens growing in locations like these usually respond very slowly in the spring, and they tend to be weak during the summer. Many greens on the older, mature courses in the North can be grouped in this category.



Hahn Multi-Pro 418 Spray System

- New 18 h.p. Kohler Magnum Engine
- New flip-up seat for easy access to engine
- New extra smooth mechanical clutch

Exclusive

For a FREE DEMONSTRATION
call Bruce Calhoun or George
Bannerman at: 416-247-7875

Golf Courses
Sports
Fields

Parks and
Commercial
Landscaping

Bannerman

Equipment for professional turf maintenance

Standards for play — One of the most important questions to ask in contemplating whether or not to use the regular greens in winter concerns what the golfers want from the greens during the regular season. If they want top-quality turf from spring through fall, involving very close, frequent mowing, double mowing, frequent verticutting, lean fertilization, minimal irrigation, or other stress-inducing practices, then it is best to avoid winter play. If the golfers don't mind higher cutting heights, slower speeds, and greater inconsistency, then winter golf was made for them. Some bias in that statement? Perhaps, but too many golfers want to trample their dormant greens during the winter months and then enjoy U.S. Open conditions from April through November. There are still some things money can't buy.

Some Alternatives

Given that this article won't end the use of the regular greens during winter on all golf courses, a look at some of the alternatives might prove useful in establishing a winter policy.

● Use temporary greens. Many golf courses avoid winter injury by establishing temporary greens on the fairway approach area to the existing greens. Often these areas are aerified and topdressed several times during the fall, and the cutting height is lowered to produce a reasonable putting surface for the winter. Sure it's more fun to hit to the regular greens, but isn't it worth sacrificing a little bit during the winter to keep the greens in good condition for spring, summer and fall? The best policy is to close the greens when growth ceases in the fall, and open them in the spring only when growth resumes and the soil has dried enough to resist compaction.

● Design a winter course. This should be especially appealing to the addicts who simply can't get enough. Many clubs play their course backwards, going from green to tee, using the tee as a target or establishing a temporary green at the tee end of the fairway. Others use their imaginations and design holes in a cross-country style, crossing roughs and water hazards that might rarely

(cont'd on page 6)

be seen or appreciated when golfers play the regular course. Temporary greens can be established on existing fairways or roughs, near fairway bunkers, water hazards, or groupings of trees. The possibilities are limitless.

- Establish temporary green, but use them only when conditions are not appropriate for using the regular greens. This is a bad policy, because conditions can go from fair to terrible in just a few hours. For example, greens that are frozen in the morning can thaw as temperatures rise during the day. If play is allowed on the regular greens in the morning, at what point should it switch to temporary greens? Who will decide? Will golfers already on the course be notified of the change? Obviously, the logistics of this policy are difficult, and the likelihood of damage to the greens is great.

- Use the regular greens during the winter, but close the course on days when the potential for damage is great. This policy has the same flaws as the one above. In some ways it's even worse, because the days when the greens should be closed, when temperatures rise above freezing and the putting surfaces become thawed, are the same days that most winter golfers want to be on the course. Superintendents can come under great pressure from club officials to keep the course open, despite their great misgivings, and sometimes they are simply overruled.

- Play the greens throughout the winter, regardless of the conditions. Because the alternatives require difficult decisions and complicated logistics, many golf courses opt for this worst-choice policy. For the reasons we've outlined, these golf courses are just asking for problems.

- Close the course for the winter. From the standpoint of having the greens, tees, and fairways in the best possible condition for spring, this is certainly the best policy. There is no doubt that winter play on the tees and fairways can thin the turf and compact the soil just as it can on the greens. However, golfers don't putt on the tees and fairways during the summer, and most don't mind some cultivation and overseeding on these areas during the spring. Nevertheless, many courses establish temporary tees for the winter, or sacrifice small portions of the regular tees for winter use if play is expected to be moderate or heavy. If the club decides to keep the course open, whether or not the regular greens are used, golfers should be asked to wear shoes without spikes or cleats whenever possible, and riding carts should be restricted to paths, if they're allowed at all.

Winter play can do an inordinate amount of damage to the health and playability of the greens in relation to the number of rounds. Every golf course considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting their playability for a significant period of the regular season by allowing a relatively small percentage of the club's golfers to use them at that time. In the view of most golf course superintendents, turfgrass scientists, and agronomists, it is not. Unfortunately, even the considered opinion of the experts is unlikely to separate winter play from politics and religion as a topic of controversy among golfers.

Reprinted from USGA Green Section
November/December 1987



London Ford Equipment Sales Ltd.

Highway 22 & Hyde Park Road
Box 118, Hyde Park, Ontario N0M 1Z0
Bus: 519-472-2610 Res: 519-471-8677

LARRY ANNAERT
Marketing Representative

Sales and Service
Ford Lawn & Garden Tractors
Small Diesel 13 H.P. to 30 H.P.
Large AG. Tractors 30 to 183 H.P.

BROUWER TURF
NEW HOLLAND
SKID STEERLOADER

In Praise of The National

Editor's Note:

The following was clipped from the latest SCORE Magazine. It's refreshing to see a superintendent get recognition from other than his peers.

Dear Score:

When The National was recognized in 1982 by Golf Digest in the Top 100 Greatest Courses in the World, and in 1986 when GOLF Magazine ranked us for the first time, and placed us 77th in the world, I thought I had reached the pinnacle. It was nothing compared to the emotion I feel now that SCORE Magazine has ranked us No. 1 in Canada. However, I do feel there was a glaring omission in not recognizing our greens superintendent, Ken Wright, and his vital contributions during the nine years he has been at The National ... Since Ken's arrival at The National for the 1980 season, he has created a healthier and healthier course. The fact that we had a manual irrigation system through all those years and maintained the course so that you could putt on the fairways is nothing short of miraculous. We have always opened for play with summer rules and have never played a temporary green! ... By my standards, Ken Wright is far and away the best manager of a golf course that you could possibly find. There is no question that your ranking of The National is a tribute to his professionalism . . .

Gil Blechman
Founder, The National Golf Club
Woodbridge, Ont.



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



RAE MURRAY & PETER BUCKLEY
TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES
PROFESSIONAL TURF PRODUCTS

CHIPMAN
A Business Unit of C-I-L Inc.
400 JONES ROAD
STONE CREEK, ONTARIO
L8G 3Z1

TELEPHONE
(416) 1-800-263-2136
(705) (519) (613)
1-800-263-8353

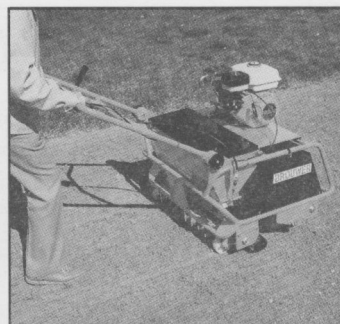
All in a day's work...



1. 3, 5 or 7 Gang Tractor Mount Mowers



2. Turf Rollers 130, 224 & 235



3. 24 in. Seeder/Over Seeder



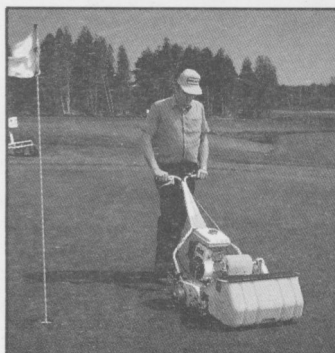
4. Sod Cutter MK.2™



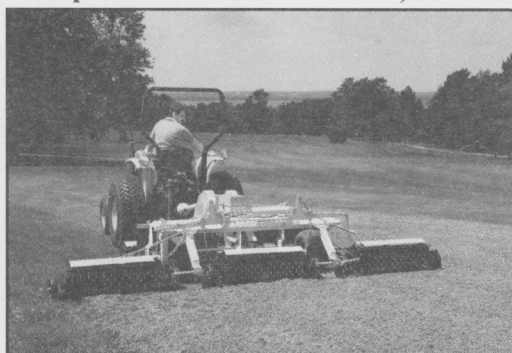
5. Triplex 376-A



6. 3, 5 or 7 Gang Hyd. or Manual Lift P.T.O. Mowers



7. Brouwer Greens Mower



8. 5 Gang Vertical Mower



9. Large Capacity Brouwer-Vac™

for the Brouwer turf maintenance team.

The team to make easy work of your turf maintenance program. For golf courses, school boards, municipalities, highway parks and recreation departments, airfields and landscapers, there is a Brouwer product for you.

Brouwer builds rugged dependability and superior quality into every product, and that means value - not only when you buy but also in the "second to none" after sales service that will

keep your machinery down-time low, and you happy to have Brouwer on your side. Check the products above, from the rugged, economical tractor mount mowers with unbeatable 4-WD traction and the high capacity Brouwer Vac to the turf renovating team of the Sod Cutter MK2 and one of those turf rollers, no matter, the Brouwer team can fit the bill ... and your budget.

For a live or Video demonstration of Brouwer products contact your area Brouwer dealer...TODAY

BROUWER™
TURF EQUIPMENT LIMITED
An Outboard Marine Corporation Company

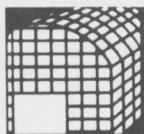
7320 Haggerty Rd./Canton, MI. 48187 Telephone (313) 459-3700

Woodbine Avenue/Keswick, Ontario, Canada L4P 3E9 Telex 065-24161 Telephone: (416) 476-4311

SHEMIN IRRIGATION



With a complete inventory of irrigation supplies at wholesale prices.



GREENHOUSE
Countless varieties of
Foliage Plants in wide
range of material size.
Flowering and foliage
hanging baskets, Annuals
and Flowering Seasonal
Plants.



HARDWARE
Fertilizers, Chemicals, Ball
Carts, and a complete
range of professional
Landscape Tools.

**LANDSCAPE
SUPPLIES**
Decorative Stones and
Gravel, Pressure Treated
Timbers, Mulches (bagged
and bulk), Peat Moss and
Vinyl Edging.



NURSERY STOCK
The most complete
selection of potted and
container grown nursery
material including Broad-
leaves and Conifers,
Ornamental Trees, Shade
Trees, Flowering Shrubs,
Perennials and Ground
Cover.



(416) 875-4545
(Toronto) (416) 858-2299
1-800-263-4111

RAIN BIRD

R.R. #4, Milton
Ontario L9T 2X8
(Fifth Line South of Steeles)

Grooming Reel Guide

by Helmut Ullrich, The Toro Company

1. Introduction

As you know, grooming is an old technique, but the "groomer" is relatively new. It is associated with the golfer's desire for faster, truer and healthier greens. There has been much discussion among superintendents, and articles have been written in trade publications concerning the actual benefits this tool provides. Because this management practice is so new, there has been little, if any, scientific research conducted to determine the long-term effects of grooming. It is difficult, therefore, to make precise recommendations on the use of a grooming reel. This is further complicated by the many variables which play a major role in achieving desired results. Some of the variables which must be considered are:

- General condition of the green
- Variety of grass on the green
- Season of the year
- The turf-management program
- Variation in traffic
- Stress periods, especially heat and humidity

All of these vary from golf course to golf course, and usually from green to green on the same course. The use of the grooming reel, therefore, requires a thorough understanding of agronomic aspects of the turf on the green which, in turn, determines the depth of setting and the frequency of use. It is recommended strongly that the superintendents experiment SLOWLY to achieve best results.

- Grooming, in essence, removes more leaf area.
- Grooming provides some of the same benefits as verti-cutting. The main difference is that the cutting blades are spaced closer than on traditional verti-cutters, and the grooming reel is used more frequently.

- The more frequent use removes more grass and helps to control thatch build-up, especially during periods of maximum growth. For this reason, care must be exercised during periods when grass growth is reduced, for whatever reason.

- Grooming, in addition to routine turf management techniques, like aerification and topdressing, may permit one to raise the mowing height without sacrificing green speed.

- By maintaining a higher cutting height, the effective rooting depth of the turfgrass is increased and the grass is in a more healthy state. Also, it is better able to withstand wear, as well as environmental stress.

2. What a Grooming Reel Does Not Do

- Grooming is not verti-cutting in the traditional sense; it is for the use above soil level. It is similar to light verti-cutting. It provides for a frequent cutting of those elements that contribute to grain.

- Grooming has the potential to replace verti-cutting, depending on the overall management program.

- Verti-cutting will continue to be used for deeper penetration to the soil, for renovation purposes or preparation of overseeding.

- Grooming does not necessarily achieve, in all cases, increased ball speed. Ball speed is dependent on other factors, i.e., height of cut, frequency of cut, the number of daily mowings, health of turf, grass variety, etc. Some of these factors may make a bigger impact on ball roll than grooming itself.

- Grooming can cause adverse effects, if used too frequently at aggressive settings (especially during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or traffic).

3. Grooming Reel Adjustments

A word of advice on grooming reel adjustment procedures. When adjusting a grooming reel, the following steps are recommended for optimal results:

First: Set the desired height of cut.

Second: Set one grooming reel in raise/disengage position. Set one flush with the rollers and set one 1/32-inch above the height of cut.

Third: Make several passes, preferably over the practice green or nursery, before using the unit on a regular green.

Fourth: Judge the amount of grass in the basket of number one, two and three, and readjust accordingly.

Fifth: Visually inspect the results and decide which setting to use for the best job. Make further adjustments if necessary.

Sixth: Set all grooming reels to the same desired depth.

CAUTION: A 1/32-inch depth setting can make a very substantial impact on grass removal and, more importantly, on the severity of grooming.

The user must be aware that the groomer may cause adverse effects if used frequently at an aggressive setting. This is especially true during environmental stress periods, i.e., heat, high humidity or heavy traffic.

In summary, the grooming reel may be the best tool available to the superintendent for managing the greens precisely and in accordance with the desire of the golfer. However, timing, frequency of use and depth of setting must be managed properly!

CREDIT: HOLE NOTES, Minn. GCSA, Aug. 1988

The Ultimate Super's Vehicle

Author: Col. Klink

How many times have you been out on the golf course during your morning check and not had the tool you needed? This tool could just be a pliers or even a screwdriver. Here at Guerrila Golf and Country Club we have devised the ultimate vehicle for these maneuvers on the course. Any vehicle will do but we prefer the ones based on golf carts. I'll list each alteration and give an explanation.

1) 60 hp snowmobile engine to replace 12 hp for added acceleration and power to carry around #2.

2) 60" steel pipe wrench — strapped to front cowl to keep front end down and necessary to fix half inch valves in the clubhouse. You'll never get a call back, plus you get a neat calendar from the Rigid Company.

3) 6,000 volt generator run off engine — necessary to operate every known electrical tool made, but primarily to run your video recorder and 25 inch color monitor used when producing training films and oil company commercials.

4) A mechanic's chest with a complete set of metric and SAE tools. This comes in handy when your son or daughter drives their bike on the golf course and needs the handle bars and chain tightened.

5) Air compressor — also run off cart engine, an absolute must when the club president's wife's Rolls Royce has a low tire in the parking lot.

6) Every known air tool made, not really necessary but if you have the air compressor, why not.

7) Two way communications system, preferably FM but CB is ok and the skips you get on CB from all over the country are entertaining.

8) 12 high intensity quartz halogen headlights, six facing forward, two on each side and two facing back. Very useful for melting frost on the greens but primarily used when making greens mower commercial during the dusk and dawn.

9) One rack to carry your beryllium headed graphite shafted square grooved irons, Titanium shafted, metal headed fairway woods, a Tommy Armour 945 driver with the original pitted shaft and your kids plastic putter because it works.

10) A cellular phone with 100 number memory containing all suppliers business and home numbers along with the ex-wife's number because you've spent so much time on your machine you forgot to tell her you went to Palm Springs to film a seed commercial.



NOSTALGIA CORNER

At the Toronto Ladies Golf Club, circa 1955, Dr. Fred Graw (left) and Thomas Unsworth (right) examining a soil plug. Looking for Black Layer, perhaps.

Thomas Unsworth passed away this past summer. Dr. Graw is in his 80's, is still very much alive although somewhat handicapped. He is deeply involved with the Musser Research Foundation at Penn State College.

SUBMITTED BY GORD WITTEVEEN, BOARD OF TRADE COUNTRY CLUB

LESCO

— RIDING GREENSMOWER
— 5 GANG FAIRWAY
MOWER

TURF MARMAC

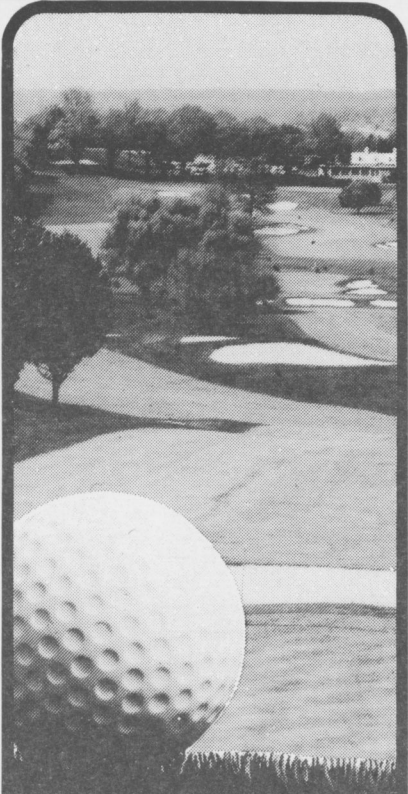
YOUR TURF MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT
ALTERNATIVE

WEST: 56 McCULLOCH AVE.
REXDALE, ONT.
M9W 4M6
416-249-7325

EAST: 1160 TAPSCOTT RD.,
SCARBOROUGH, ONT.
M1X 1E9
416-293-9000

LESCO

— TRAIL GANGS
— PARTS AND
ACCESSORIES



Just the thing for "teed-off" fairways

When your fairways need first aid overseed with the best.

Where top quality bentgrass is called for try Emerald creeping bent, rapidly gaining in popularity with professionals all over North America.

Quick germinating, fast growing perennial ryegrasses like Palmer or Yorktown II.

Proven top quality, long lasting Kentucky blue-grasses like Baron, Midnight or Haga.

Tough, drought resistant, fast growing fine fescues like Fortress or the new Wilma chewings fescue.

You can count on these proven varieties — just call Paul Johnson, Oseco's turfgrass specialist.

EMERALD
Creeping Bentgrass

PALMER
Perennial Ryegrass

YORKTOWN II
Perennial Ryegrass

BARON
Kentucky Bluegrass

MIDNIGHT
Kentucky Bluegrass

HAGA
Kentucky Bluegrass

FORTRESS
Creeping Red Fescue

WILMA
Chewings Fescue

Oseco
P.O. Box 219
Brampton, Ontario L6V 2L2
Telephone 416-846-5080

Tee maker cuts wood for peat's sake

by Connie Bryson

When Edmonton entrepreneur Donald Noland plays golf, he cares for his tee as much as his ball.

At about 2 cents each, tees are the cheapest part of an expensive sport. But the North American market for the five-centimetre-long ball platform is worth about \$20 million a year — a market Mr. Noland thinks he can capture.

By next spring, his company, Peat T Inc., will be manufacturing a tee made of peat moss. The tee looks and works just like the wooden or plastic ones golfers use now; the difference appears after the drive, when golfers often discover their tees have been broken or can't find them.

"Tee-off boxes are usually strewn with broken or discarded wooden and plastic tees," Mr. Noland said. "Peat tees won't make a mess. Whereas conventional tees can lie on the ground for weeks, broken peat moss tees absorb moisture overnight and are mulch by morning."

Discarded wooden and plastic tees also cause damaged blades and cause flat tires on mowers and golf carts. But because peat tees turn to mulch, they are expected to save greenskeepers many headaches.

Almost all golf tees are made of wood and come from Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Canada imports about 100 million a year and the United States about 1.6 billion.

The idea for a peat moss tee came to Mr. Noland in 1986 after a family golfing vacation in Jasper. Research and development began almost immediately.

Financed in part by a \$4,000 Industrial Research Assistance Program grant from the National Research Council, the first stage of development work on a special formulation for the tees — peat moss and a sec-

ret binder — was done at the Alberta Research Council.

To finance further product development, Peat T raised \$480,000 through a share offering on the Alberta Stock Exchange in mid-May. Since then, the Research Council has identified two commercially available coatings that will prevent the tees from turning to mush in a sudden shower, but will allow them to decompose when they are broken.

Peat T has also hired Calgary civil engineer Peter Fransham to take the manufacturing process from the laboratory to an industrial scale. In order to be competitive with wooden tees, production will have to be on the order of 800 tees a minute.

Dr. Fransham has worked with peat moss for the past three years, assessing the usefulness of peat pellets for cleaning up oil spills.

Gino Blink, an analyst with Toronto investment dealer Deacon Morgan McEwen Easson Ltd., said Mr. Noland's conservative approach to research and development enhances the credibility of his company.

"There's no question that Peat T is still a risky investment because there is no product as yet," Mr. Blink said in a newsletter to his clients. "However, the project is conceptually sound and the planning is good."

Mr. Noland said field testing of the tees will begin in October and a production plant should be in operation in the Edmonton area by February.

He expects production costs of the peat tees to be about 0.4 cents each. Peat "T" would sell them to retailers for 1.3 cents, to be resold for two cents — competitive with wooden tees.

Mr. Noland hopes to win the approval of greenskeepers' associations so that the peat tees are made mandatory on all golf courses.

Reprinted from The Globe and Mail
August 16, 1988

Season's
Greetings

...From All
of us at
Green is
Beautiful



The 1988 FESSCU Awards



by Ann Witteveen

So often we are asked by our bosses (you have a Greens Committee — I have a Sales Manager) for "reports". These reports are pertinent summaries of our activities and frequently are made up mostly of numbers, figures which represent budgets or wages, sales or profits.

They don't, however, tell a lot about what makes up our day. The compliment from a crotchety golfer that puts a smile on your face the same day as your new aerifier went toppling into the creek; the warm cup of coffee and friendly chatter that makes the sun shine on the same day that you just received your fourth speeding ticket in two months.

It's the little things in our days and the attitude with which we approach each event that makes up the moods and emotions of our lives.

It is with these thoughts in mind, fresh from my third season, of calling on the Golf Industry, that I present this lighthearted look and the nuances of everyday life "on the road".

You've heard of the Emmy's, the Tony's, the Oscars, and the Genies; now you can read about something even better — The FESSCU's — First Every Superintendent Sales Call Uwards — presented unabashedly, with humour, and not just a little bias, by your friendly Nutrite Sales Rep.

Best Cup of Coffee —

Riverview Downs. Terry Rece always has a fresh pot waiting for me at this pretty course near Welland.

Cleanest Office —

Whenever I have an appointment with Paul Dermott at Oakdale Golf Club I never hesitate to wear my favourite white skirt — he has nicer furniture in his office than I have in my livingroom!

Scariest Maintenance Area —

At Brantford Golf Club there are many large signs with pictures of vicious dobermans and the warning "Beware of Guard Dogs". When I call here I wait in my car until I see someone — Vince Piccolo has told me that these signs are a ruse — that there aren't any guard dogs anywhere but I'm not totally convinced.

Most Interesting Golf Cart Ride —

Was with Doug Black (currently working for Chem Lawn — previously of Beaverdale). He ran out of gas at the furthest point of the golf course and we had to walk all the way back.

Most Helpful Sales Rep —

Scott Richmond of Hutcheson Sands who patiently changed a flat tire for me at 7:30 a.m. on a cold, rainy April day while I made phone calls from his car phone.

Favourite Golf Course to Play —

The finalists in this category are Brooklea in Midland, Beaconsfield in Quebec, and Twenty Valley in Vine-land. (Only golf courses where I have played a full 18 holes can qualify — I almost played 18 at Streetsville Glen in Mississauga, but Jim Sara's promise of free beer in the clubhouse when I finished made me skip holes 13 through 17.) And the winner is . . . Twenty Valley where I shot a sizzling 138 and got the first par of my golfing career!

Most Helpful Superintendent —

Pat McDevit of Bolton Golf and Curling Club who needed a large tractor, 10 feet of heavy chain, and 2 other people to pull my car out of a ditch near his maintenance shed.

Favourite Call —

Whenever I'm having a really bad day I drop by Glen Eagles Golf Club. Bill Calhoun, the Superintendent there since the Club's inception some thirty years ago, always has a smile and a hug that can brighten even my most miserable day!

Winners may claim their prize when they place their next order. Watch for next year's nominations and remember — even non-Nutrite users will qualify.



Douglas Wood Large Tree Sales Ltd.

"We Buy, Sell, & Transplant Large Trees"

PAUL HANOUSEK

(519) 853-2035
1-800-265-6681

Georgian Bay Superintendents Association Winds Up Season

by Steve Stasyna

On September 13th the GBSA held its final meeting of the '88 season at the scenic Muskoka Lakes G & CC in Port Carling, Ontario. Host Superintendent Dave Smith presented us with an excellent layout that was in great shape. Special thanks should also go to Dave's wife, and his green crew for preparing the fantastic meal. The clubhouse had closed for the year, and was reopened for our benefit.

Threatening skies gave way to cool, brisk sunshine for the 43 Supers and Suppliers that made the trip to the land of the lakes. **Marlon Gieseler**, Assistant Superintendent from Brooklea G & CC took top honors for the day with a round of **75**. Marlon also carded a hole-in-one on the 17th hole.

Special thanks should go to the five Superintendents and their clubs for hosting the GBSA golf days this season. They were as follows: **Neil Acton, Brooklea G & CC; Randy Fielder, Bonaire GC; Kim Hanley, Blue Mountain GC; Ed Douda, Barrie G & CC, and Dave Smith, Muskoka Lakes G &**

CC. Each club's hospitality towards us was very much appreciated by all. The chance each month to meet amongst our peers, to compare and share our thoughts and practices regarding turf maintenance, is important as it benefits each individual's club, and their own morale.

Overall winners (with top three scores counting) for the season were as follows:

1st Gross – Marlon Gieseler	(223)
2nd Gross – Don Norris	(244)
3rd Gross – John Hughes	(249)
4th Gross – Gary Gravett	(253)
5th Gross – Henry Toews	(267)
6th Gross – Kim Hanley	(271)

1st Low Net – Neil Action	(205)
2nd Low Net – John Kinch	(211)
3rd Low Net – Charlie Terry	(214)
4th Low Net – Ray Richards	(215)
5th Low Net – Randy Fielder	(224)
6th Low Net – Steve Stasyna	(249)

GBSA President Ray Richards, along with all the suppliers should be congratulated on all the organizing of events, and donations to the prize tables.
GREAT JOB, GUYS!!!

Looking forward to seeing all during off-season meetings, and next season's GBSA golf days.

ECONOMICAL POLE FRAME BUILDINGS FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS . . .



BUILDING SYSTEMS LTD.

FARM & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Call collect to Jack or Rick Brenzil
for a **FREE ESTIMATE . . .**

(416) 772-3551

(416) 388-6865

Over 30 Years Experience!

Region 1 Report

by Gord Nimmo, CGCS

The summer of 1988 was highlighted by two regional meetings. The first was in June at Maple City Golf & CC in Chatham hosted by John Pickard. The second meeting was held at Greenwood Golf Course hosted by Ted Ellis. After a round of golf and a steak barbecue we were treated to an informative talk by John O'Rea of Lampton College and Mike Van Beek of Seneca College on what community colleges are offering us in the way of trained graduates and what employees can expect if they take these courses.

From talking to area Superintendents, this past summer was basically broken into two parts. From May to mid-July, it was hot and dry with little humidity. Disease was minimal but watering systems were under stress. Once the rain came the humidity rose to a point that diseases such as summer patch and pythium started to appear. *Poa* loss began about the second week of August but didn't seem as severe as last summer. Crabgrass was rampant and quickly filled in where grass died out.

Paul Barnes at St. Clair Parkway felt his chemical budget was stressed and he feels he needs to increase it for 1989. Rod Trainor at St. Thomas thought we were all crazy when we complained about drought conditions. His new automatic irrigation system and pump station worked beautifully. Another successful job by Al Draper who must have known the drought was coming when he left Greenhills two years ago. Ted Ellis had a good year at Greenwood and at the end of August had just finished building and seeding a new green to go into play next year.

Some did not make out as well as others as rumours circulated during August and September. Changing to a new course recently has left many superintendents wondering if they made the right move.

Thankfully the cooler nights came and we had a beautiful September to fill in and prepare for next year. It is interesting to note that the hot summer may cause above average snowfalls as Lake Huron reached its highest water temperatures since 1950. This means it will take longer to freeze and being warmer than the air masses it will supply more moisture to weather systems crossing the lake.

Region 2 Report

by Bruce Burger

Reflecting back on the past summer brings to mind the extended hot and dry conditions through June and July. Many Superintendents had problems with running short of water. Some were down to watering only greens for a few minutes because their ponds were virtually dry. This led a couple of superintendents to drill deeper wells in search of more water.

Paul Romahn at Elmira and Hank Schmitz at Brookfield followed this route to more water. Greg Aljoe at Foxwood dug a back hoe line from one pond into his pumping pond to solve his water shortage. Golf courses located close to the Grand River were pumping their maximums.

Because of the extremely dry conditions, Hugh Kirkpatrick at Westmount has extended irrigation pipes into the rough to provide better coverage over the whole course. Also, here

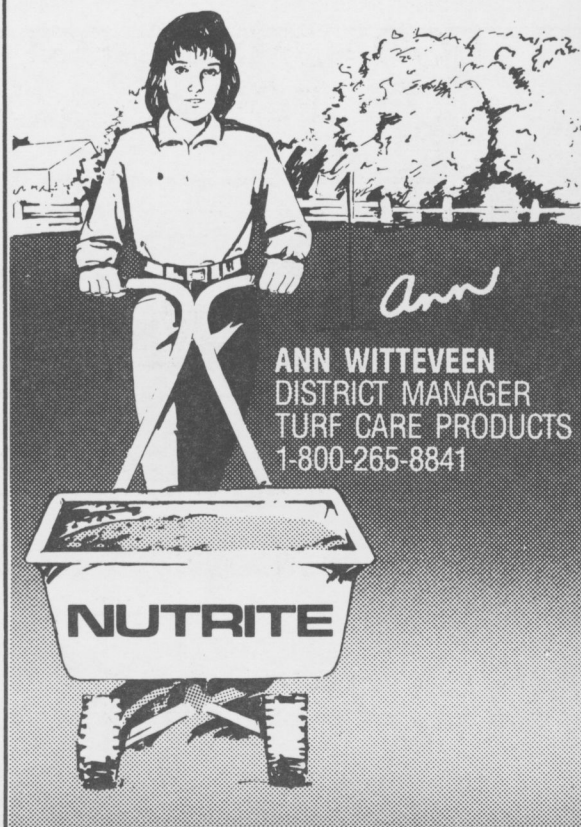
(cont'd on page 14)



NUTRITE

TOP PRODUCT & TOP PEOPLE

**GIVING YOUR COURSE
A HELPING HAND**



Ann
ANN WITTEVEEN
DISTRICT MANAGER
TURF CARE PRODUCTS
1-800-265-8841

(cont'd from page 13)

at Galt, we are upgrading our watering system on the green and tees, plus extending a couple of pipes into rough areas that dry out very quickly. Most Superintendents have seen the limitations to their own systems after this past summer and are taking steps to improve.

Other activity in the Region include Gary Hastings at Maryhill who has been involved in new greens construction. The biggest construction project has been at Conestoga Golf Club where Superintendent Bruce Vollett has been actively involved in converting Conestoga from 18 to 27 holes.

It has been a very busy year and the area Superintendents have been involved in one project or another in an attempt to improve their golf courses for next year.

In closing, may your golf courses receive 6" of snow a couple of days after you apply your winter fungicides.

Region 3 Report

by Mark Hagen

There was plenty of activity in Region 3 this year. Congratulations are in order to those who hosted major tournaments:

Paul White at Glen Abbey – Canadian Open
Gord Witteveen at Toronto Board of Trade – Ontario Amateur
Bruce Dodson at Emerald Hills – CPGA Championship
Paul Brown at Maple Downs – Chairmans Tournament for the Canadian Open
Kimmo Salonen at York Downs – President, Greens Chairman Tournament
Ken Wright at the National – OTRF Tournament
Tom Murphy at Lambton – Pro-Superintendent Tournament



251 Exeter Road
Unit D
London, Ontario
N6L 1A4
(519) 652-3154

WE CAN SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR IRRIGATION NEEDS

- Suppliers of pipe, fittings and sprinklers
- Installation and upgrading of your total irrigation system
- Prefabricated pump stations by Commercial Pump Service Inc.

CALL
THE IRRIGATION HOTLINE
1-800-265-9786

TELL US YOUR
IRRIGATION NEEDS FOR 1988.
We will send you a
FREE HAT
and our
1988 CATALOGUE.

And to all our members who were able to withstand the searing heat, water restrictions, disease and insect infestations and labour shortages to provide good golfing conditions for the golfers.

1988 was a year that will go down in the record books as one of the hottest and driest ever. Despite this, numerous construction projects were undertaken. Jim Sara at Streetsville Glen opened up a new 9 for a total of 27 holes. Bill Calhoun at Glen Eagles also has another 9 holes growing in nicely. Ron Heeson up in Blue Mountain is watching the new Monterra GC grow in as well. Dave Gourlay Jr. had Beacon Hall open for regular play right on schedule. Barry Britton has broken ground at his new course, Lionhead, and plans are under way for a second golf course project. Bill Hynd has joined the Can-Am organization and their project at Devils Pulpit. Neil Acton, CGCS is taking over new duties overseeing operations at Deer Creek Golf & Country Estates, a total of 4 golf courses.

The hot weather gave Ken Wright and Warren Vout a good chance to test their new irrigation systems. Al Beeney at North Halton will sleep easier now that the club has approved a new irrigation system for his course.

Wayne Rath at Islington GC has been watching a new clubhouse go up while Vince Dermott at Markland Woods also watches major clubhouse renovation. Vince is continuing into the 3rd year of their 5-year river bank erosion prevention program. Bob Heron, CGCS at Mississauga has trucked in thousands of yards of soil to redesign and berm holes 13, 14 and 15. The complete 11th and 5th holes have been renovated at North Halton and Simon George reports their new double green system on 4 and 13 at Oakville works well. Thom Charters has opened Weston's new driving range and practice facility and Gord Witteveen is also working on a new practice facility. Barry Endicott has undertaken major drainage work at Nobleton Lakes.

Numerous changes have occurred within our Associate membership as well. Mike Smith and Nolan Duke have joined GC Duke Equipment. Jim Tanner, Doug Colley and Dave Park are with Marmac Ltd. Angelo Campannelli is with D and R Distributing, Bill Kirkpatrick is with V-Quip and Tom Fisher joins Turf Care.

The Architects have also been very busy this year. Rene Muyleart has started 18 hole projects at Horseshoe Valley – "Highlands of Horseshoe", and Cambridge – "Clemens Mills Golf Links". Rene is also working on new courses in London, Orillia and Clappison Corners as well as numerous renovation projects.

Dave and Bob Moote are busy at Brampton – "Peel Village", Sudbury – "Lively G & CC", Kenora G & CC, "Lakeridge Links" in Uxbridge, "Seaview" in Nova Scotia, Southwood GC in Winnipeg, Dorchester G & CC and Bradford's "Scotch Settlement".

With all the exciting news of growth and expansion came the news that Mount Hope GC has closed its doors due to a government airport expansion and Ted Tom has lost 9 holes to residential development.

Presently there are 120 new golf course projects in the planning or construction stage within the Toronto vicinity. I apologize if I've overlooked any special activities that may have occurred at your club this year.

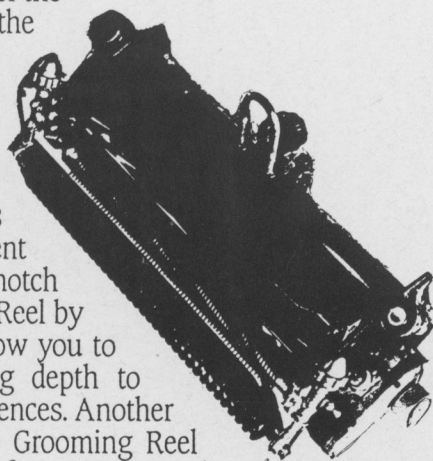
Have a relaxing off-season as we all know that next year will be just as taxing.

Designed Around Your Greens' Differences, Not Their Similarities.

If all your greens were exactly the same, achieving over-all turf consistency would be very easy. But all greens are not created equal. And neither are grooming reels. Presenting the new Toro Grooming Reel for the riding Greensmaster®. Now you can easily manage individual green conditions throughout your course with tailor-made precision. Assuring you and all your members of uniform playing conditions from green to green all season long.

Among the features on the Toro Grooming Reel is the exclusive "Quick Up — Quick Down" adjustment that will allow you to easily raise or lower the Grooming Reel without losing the depth setting. Engagement or disengagement of the Grooming Reel is just as easy. A turn of a knob is all it takes.

Adjusting the depth of penetration is easy, too. No tools are needed. Just lift the adjustment knob, and the rotation by one notch raises or lowers the Grooming Reel by .007 of an inch which will allow you to precisely tailor your grooming depth to various turf conditions or preferences. Another important advantage the Toro Grooming Reel gives you is uniform height of cut. Because the Grooming Reel is part of a free-floating cutting unit design, the collection basket - which fills more quickly and heavily during grooming - is carried on a frame that's independent of the cutting unit. This maintains uniformity



THE PROFESSIONALS
THAT KEEP YOU CUTTING.

of cutting height and prevents gouging. And more good news, the Toro Grooming Reel is retrofittable to many older Greensmaster cutting units, including the 8 and 11 blade single-point cutting units. To give your members consistent putting surfaces all season long check out the new Toro Grooming Reel. You'll be surprised at the enthusiasm it generates for your course. And the compliments it generates for you. For a demonstration or more information, call your local Toro distributor

TURF CARE

105 GIBSON DRIVE, MARKHAM, ONTARIO L3R 3K7 • PHONE: (416) 475-0988 • FAX (416) 475-0788



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 4 & 5, 1989

Guelph Turfgrass Symposium,
University of Guelph

FEBRUARY 6-13, 1989

GCSAA, International Golf Course Conference
and Show
Anaheim, California

FEBRUARY 9 & 10, 1989

International Society of Aboriculture, Convention
Aboriculture Seminar on "Tree Hazards"
Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

MARCH 12-15, 1989

Canadian Turfgrass Symposium
Vancouver, B.C.



Green is
Beautiful

Ontario Golf Superintendents Association