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 John Faber – 2015 AGSA President

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President's **MESSAGE**

JOHN FABER
Superintendent,
Springbank Links Golf Club



It's hard to believe that 5 years have passed since I was first approached to let my name stand in a nomination to the AGSA Board. It was an honour to be nominated but yet quite nerve wracking as I was relatively new to not only the Superintendent's position, but also the turfgrass industry. It is now with great pride that I represent not only the AGSA as President but also the Superintendent profession. I look forward to the upcoming year and working with the great group of volunteers that make up the Board of the AGSA. I would encourage everyone to get involved at some level (committee, volunteer, Board), as it is only with the support of our great membership that our association continues to be strong and respected across Canada.

We have just completed the annual Property Manager's Conference in Canmore (see article within issue for complete write up) and deemed it a success in all regards. It was great to hear conference delegates repeating information

gathered from sessions, to see the networking occurring during the various functions, and the strong attendance at all events. One of the speakers commented to me that the comradery within our Association is something they have never seen before in any other industry. This brotherhood is something we should all continue to embrace, and know that help or advice is just a phone call away.

The next year is very busy for the Alberta golf industry as not only do we have our annual AGSA meeting/golf events, but the CGSA will also be hosting the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Tradeshow in Calgary (February 2-6) and the CGSA Fall Field Day will be held at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge (September 21 and 22). We expect your support at all of these great events as we continue to showcase the strength of our Association.

My goals as President for the next year are to continue to develop our strong relationship with the CGSA, to represent our profession and Association with the utmost pride, and to tackle some of the issues that we face as an industry. If there is anything that you would like to see addressed by myself and the Board, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

I look forward to the next year and serving our Association as best as I can. Enjoy the rest of the winter season and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🍷

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COMMUNICATION in Turfgrass Research

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend international meetings in Zandvoort, Netherlands and Gjovik, Norway to share information about the structure of our research program in Alberta and also to discuss some of our research findings with respect to winter injury.

In the Netherlands, the Dutch Turfgrass Research Foundation (DTRF) had contacted Maria Strandberg of the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation (STERF) to lead the presentations on the development of a research program. She presented the model of their structure and how it had developed over the last 10 years. Others made presentations on the sustainability of golf, the politics of playing quality, developing multi-use golf facilities, and, of course, the future of pesticide use at



Figure 1 – Tour of research plots Apelsvoll, Norway. Trygve Aamlid on right and Wendy Waalen on left.

golf courses.

However, one of their important initiatives was to develop the research program at Wageningen University and to hire a research scientist that would lead the program. From the meetings, it was obvious that in order to sustain this position there would need to be input on research priorities and financial support from the DTRF as well as direction from the University.

My message in the Netherlands was about the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation (ATRF) and its important role in the development and sustainability of research. Thirty years ago turfgrass managers in Alberta came to the conclusion that if the industry did not organize and support turfgrass research that answers to important questions would likely go unanswered. The DTRF faces this challenge but the discussions obviously showed that they were prepared to support a research program. They expect to hire a turfgrass scientist in the near future.

The meetings in Norway focused on turfgrass winter survival in cold climates. STERF reached out to other researchers for their input into their research and then to present findings of their research at these meetings. In addition, four superintendents discussed their demonstration trials of covering systems at their golf courses throughout Scandinavia. If we thought that we had variable weather conditions: check out Scandinavia!



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JIM ROSS
Prairie Turfgrass
Research Centre

Latitudes that range from 60-70°N, the effects of the North Atlantic Ocean, and mountainous terrain mean that winter takes on many faces.

The seminar was a great opportunity for researchers to discuss their findings but also to ask important questions that will lead to further discoveries. Here are a few of the highlights.

Dr. Michelle DaCosta (University of Massachusetts) discussed the quantification of carbohydrates that accumulate during the hardening process. Their research discovered that certain carbohydrates and proteins accumulated during the hardening process while others do not. Although more study needs to be conducted to determine this association, an important question emerges, 'Is there anything that the turf manager can do to increase the level of these compounds?' Dr. DaCosta is also working on seed priming in order to improve germination of various grasses at lower temperatures.

Dr's. Trygve Aamlid, Wendy Waalen, and Tanja Espevig (Bioforsk Research Station, Norway) compared six turfgrass species in their ability to withstand prolonged ice cover. Annual bluegrass and perennial ryegrass were severely injured under prolonged ice cover of 40 days, while velvet and creeping bentgrass were quite tolerant. Testing of new tetraploid perennial ryegrass shows that these grasses may be more tolerant of winter injury. However, testing is preliminary in nature.

Dr. Bjarni Gudleifsson from the Agricultural University of Iceland discussed ice encasement of grasses and preventative measures. Under ice encasement, and presumably after the onset on anoxia, certain metabolites that are toxic to plants build up. He discussed which ones these were and that with the use of antioxidants there might be some opportunity for the reduction of injury. He also discussed that certain grasses develop allelopathic compounds that inhibit seed germination and establishment. It was thought that annual bluegrass may develop some of these compounds and this may be a reason for difficulty in establishing grasses after



Figure 2 – Wendy Waalen discussing their current shade tolerance and winter hardiness trial.

winter damage.

These two seminars point out that there is considerable information that is being developed for the management of turfgrass and that this information must get to the turf managers. It also shows that in many areas we have only just begun to discover answers to important questions and that the sustainability of turfgrass research programs is critical to the industry. 🌱

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CGSA Report

JAMES BEEBE
CGSA Alberta Director
Priddis Greens G&CC



As you read this winter will be well under way and another golfing season will have wrapped up. The second season for our profession will have started – the professional development season. We are fortunate this year to have two excellent opportunities very close to home. If you were able to participate in the Property Manager's Conference in Canmore in early December, I trust you found it to be worthwhile. Thanks to Barb and her Committee for another "job well done". The second opportunity comes our way once every three or four years. The Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show (CITCTS) is once again in Calgary from February 2nd – 6th, 2015.

This year's event incorporates the USGA, several leading researchers, a collection of professional colleagues and industry representatives to present an impressive education program for your participation and benefit. Over 40 hours of educational programming, another 40 plus hours of workshop sessions and more than 30 speakers combine to provide incredible value to every participant and at less cost than any other national event and with 100% relevant content! With about 75 vendors and multiple networking opportunities the trade show and social events complete the picture. Many thanks to the Conference Coordinating Committee including Dustin Zdan, Kerry Watkins, David Boyd, Bob Burrows, Paul Dodson, Cameron Kusiek and Barb Alexander for their enormous input and to the AGSA for its ongoing support. Get out and support this amazing event!

The CGSA Compensation and Benefits Survey for 2014 is still active. All CGSA superintendent members are encouraged

to complete the survey. It is one of the best investments of 60 minutes that you can make to the CGSA and to your profession and it's worth 1 CEC. Results will be published in February and provided to all CGSA superintendent members. If you are not a CGSA member, you can still complete the survey and get a \$300 saving on receiving a copy of the results. Contact Lori Micucci at the CGSA office (416-626-8873 ext. 226 or lmicucci@golfsupers.com) to find out how to participate.

CGSA was also front and centre at the December 2nd, 2014 golf industry lobby day in Ottawa. Christian Pilon and Ken Cousineau represented the CGSA as NAGA representatives split into two-person teams and met with over 30 MP's from all parties to shore up support for changes to the Income Tax Act. Currently golf is one of only three activities that are not eligible to be used as a business tax entertainment deduction. As such, many companies have restricted or prevented employees from using golf as a business entertainment activity. President Pilon was also part of a media conference staged on "The Hill" on December 2nd along with NGCOA Executive Director, Jeff Calderwood as part of the NAGA effort.

Please contact me or Ken Cousineau at the CGSA if you have any questions. CGSA is here to support and promote superintendents in Canada. Please take an opportunity to tell a colleague about the CGSA and encourage them to become a member. Increased participation results in increased influence, better ideas and more recognition of the profession. That is good for all superintendents. ☑

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PAUL DODSON Distinguished Service Award Winner



Paul Dodson has lived golf his entire life. He has two brothers, Bruce and Scott, both Superintendents, a son Matthew, also a Superintendent, and his daughter Katie has just been hired by the Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre. Another daughter Diana and son-in-law John are also in the turfgrass industry with Diana being the Assistant Superintendent at Cottonwood G&CC in Calgary

and John is the grounds supervisor at Spruce Meadows. Even his wife Carol works in the golf business as payroll administrator working at Canyon Meadows G&CC.

With a large family of golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents and other family members in the golf business, it is no wonder he has become such a respected individual and mentor to many. He was brought up on a golf course and started working for his father at the age of 13. He worked on a golf course his entire childhood before going to Penn State University in 1968. At this time he was working for his Great Uncle at the Mississauga G&CC and in 1969 he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and never looked back. In 1972 he was given the Superintendent position and hosted the Canadian Open in 1974. In 1981 he moved to Aurora Highlands Golf Club where he was the Superintendent until 1995. During this tenure he hosted the CPGA Ladies Championship and the Ontario Amateur Championship.

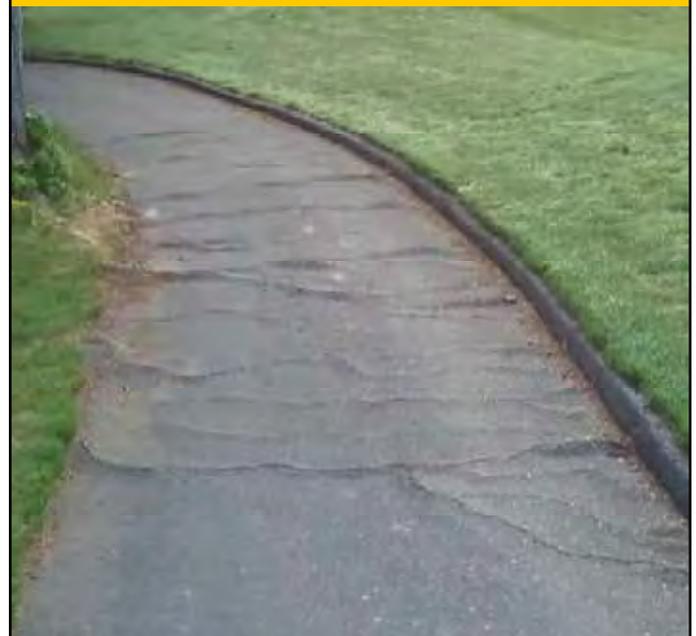
Following his time at Aurora Highlands he moved to the Lionhead Golf Course where he was in charge of the 36 hole operation as well as the Superintendent of the 27 hole sister course Streetsville Glen. In 1998 he made the move west to Alberta where he took over the Superintendent position at Silver Springs G&CC in Calgary.

Paul is always looking to help at any capacity in the turfgrass management profession. He served on the Board of Directors twice for the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association first from 1978 through 1981 and again from 1993 to 1998. He also served on the Alberta Golf Course Superintendents Association for 6 years and was President in 2006.

Paul has contributed to the successful turfgrass management careers of no less than 12 people including myself. He is always there as a coach, a mentor, and last but certainly not least, a friend. Congratulations Paul, and thank you for your contribution to our industry. 🟩

*by Heath Koch, Superintendent,
Red Deer G&CC*

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AGSA Fall Meeting

The AGSA Fall Meeting was held Tuesday September 16th at the Ponoka Golf Club. This event was the 3rd annual member guest with about 40 participants. Ian Morrow, Dave Moroz, and Jason Pick started the day off with a very informative session on the changes to the turf program at Olds College along with information on how the Internship Program works. These are exciting times for the Turfgrass Management Program at Olds and we were encouraged to have anyone interested in the program sign up immediately as the program is almost full for 2015.

Next on the Agenda was the meeting. It was announced that a Lifetime Membership has been created. Look to the website for further information. Later this year

the CGSA will be releasing a province wide IPM reference guide for all members to utilize. Everything is in place for the 2014 Property Manager's Conference in Canmore November 30th to December 2nd. Information on the conference will be coming out soon. We were introduced to the ATRF's new research scientist Katie Dodson. There was some good discussion on winter preparations and what different courses are planning to do this fall. It gave everyone attending some food for thought going into the winter.

Following the meeting was lunch and the golf event. The weather was amazing with it being sunny in the high twenties. It was a two person net best ball. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to Randy Gallant and all the staff at the Ponoka Golf Club for being gracious hosts. The course conditioning, service and food were superb.

Special thanks go out to the guest speakers Ian Morrow, Dave Moroz, and Jason Pick. Good luck to everyone putting their courses to bed this fall and we look forward to seeing everyone in Canmore for the Property Manager's Conference. 🇨🇦



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Hole #2	Long Putt	Dustin Zdan
Hole #3	KP	Connor Winslow
Hole #5	Draw Prize	Dean Ross
Hole #8	KP from off the green	Shawn Marjoram
Hole #11	Long Putt	Mike Johnson
Hole #15	KP	Barb Alexander
Hole #16	Long Putt	Connor Winslow
Hole #17	KP	Dean Zilinski

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SilverTip Resort
AGSA Director

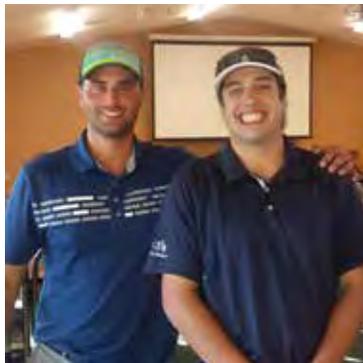


TEAM PRIZES

First
63 Jason Pick
Keith Blayney



Second
63 Mitch Davidson
Andrew Smith



Third
63 Dustin Zdan
Shawn Marjoram



Fourth
64 Pete Francis
Vince Chartier



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SUPERINTENDENT Profile



John Faber

Superintendent at Springbank Links Golf Club

Where were you born and raised?

Carlyle, Saskatchewan

Did you come

from a big or small family?

Three older sisters

Are you married with children?

Married with three step children

What made you decide on a career in Turfgrass management and what do you think your career would be if you hadn't become a superintendent?

I was helping out as a volunteer when the Carlyle Golf Club converted from oiled sand greens to bentgrass greens. Everything about it piqued my interest and I applied for Olds College but was too late that year. I managed the clubhouse the following year and helped out on the course as much as possible prior to enrolling in Turf Management at Olds in 2000.

Tell us about your career and educational paths and how long you have been at your current location?

I earned a Business Admin – Accounting diploma immediately following high school but after completion lost interest. I worked in a couple of different sectors before finding my passion on the golf course. After completing the diploma at Olds College in 2002, I went to Cordova Bay in Victoria, B.C. for 2 years and then returned to Olds for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Golf Course Management in 2004. I was hired at The Canal at Delacour during

construction as the Assistant and spent four years there. In 2008 I was hired as the Superintendent at Springbank Links and have just completed my 7th season here.

Tell us about your golf course and what your biggest challenges are?

The front and back nines are totally different. The front nine is target golf with accuracy being a must. The back nine is wide open and much more forgiving. Our biggest challenges are having to use effluent water, our soils, and safety on our terrain.

Do you have any preferences for golf course equipment or fertilizers?

No real preference as I have equipment and products from almost all industry suppliers in our shop. I always look for the best bang for the company buck but without sacrificing quality.

In your opinion how has the role of the Golf Course Superintendent changed the most since your start in the industry?

Our role has become much more administrative and about human relations on a day to day basis. There are many days in a season that I reflect upon the day and try to figure out exactly what physical production I completed that day, as I have been dealing with staff, members, management, budgets, or other administrative things.

What advice would you give to an Assistant Superintendent regarding what it takes to be a successful Golf Course Superintendent?

Learn as much as you can from your mentor(s) and ask questions. And NETWORK!!

What are some of your personal goals and aspirations as incoming AGSA President?

The AGSA has given me numerous benefits (scholarship, networking, information, professional development), so I felt it was time to give something back. I look forward to representing our profession on the local, provincial, and national level.

What are your plans as the AGSA President?

I hope to continue the great work of prior Presidents in developing the profession and also lead the charge in some of the issues we face (water, pesticides).

What do you feel are the biggest challenges we face as an industry?

Lack of water and water quality.
Pesticides and everything about them.

What golf course would you play if you had your choice?

I've been fortunate enough to play all the Open venues in Scotland, so I would have to say Augusta would be my next choice.

What do you like to do away from the course?

Ride my Harley

Do you have any mentors?

I've been fortunate to have some great mentors (Dean Ross, Dean Piller, and Terry Shinkewski) in my short career, and now call them my friends and do not hesitate to call them if I need advice.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I urge anyone that is in a position to join the Board or a committee to do so. It is the dedication and involvement of our membership that makes the AGSA the envy of Canada and keeps our Association strong. 🟩



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AGSA Property Manager's Conference



Opening Session of 2014 AGSA Property Manager's Conference

Despite the best efforts of Mother Nature leading up to the 20th Annual Alberta Property Manager's Conference, the conference was held and by all accounts was a great success.

Sunday morning started off with the Alberta Pesticide Applicator's session, a soils seminar by Dr. Gregg Munshaw (University of Kentucky) and a communication seminar by Rick Unruh. Enrollment for all three sessions was very good with lots of great information gathered by all in attendance. Due to the weather, Lakeland College was unable to travel to the conference site to proctor the Pesticide Applicator Exam this year, but the AGSA Board is going to look for an alternate solution for the future.

The pre-conference seminars were followed by the Grey Cup party, which officially signifies the beginning of the conference. Attendance at the Cornerstone Theatre was excellent and gave everyone a chance to network, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. What looked like a runaway football game in the first half ended up being decided on nearly the last play of the game. Congrats to the Calgary Stampeders and their fans.

Sunday afternoon also threw another curveball at the conference committee, as our keynote speaker (Bob Farren) was stranded in Denver due to weather. With the cooperation of our speakers, we were able to rearrange the speaker schedule to allow Mr. Farren time to travel to Canmore by Monday afternoon.



Conference Chairman John Faber and Keynote Speaker Bob Farren

Monday morning got off to a start with opening remarks by conference chair John Faber, conference sponsor Marie Thorne of Syngenta, and CGSA President Christian Pilon. First on the speaker session was a Superintendent panel, consisting of Dean Morrison, Paul Dodson, Darren Reddekopp, and Kerry Watkins, about overwintering techniques. This session was attended by nearly 300 delegates and generated plenty of discussion after the results most in the province had experienced last spring.

After the first session, delegates broke into separate rooms for Turfgrass presentations by Paul Vermeulan of the PGA, Dr. Gregg Munshaw of the University of Kentucky, Bill Brown of Turf Republic, and Matt Nelson of Magic Valley Bentgrass; Horticulture presentations by Anita Schill of Olds College, Tony Puddicombe of Kwantlen University, Geoff Wood of Ball Horticulture, and Verna Mumby of Mumby Arboriculture Consulting; and Equipment Technician presentations by Bill Brown of Turf Republic, Mike Kriz of the



JOHN FABER
Superintendent,
Springbank Links Golf Club



Mike Johnson and Dustin Zdan

During the meeting, the election/change of Board members took place and outgoing Past President Mike Johnson of Blackhawk was recognized. New Board positions are as follows:

President

John Faber, Springbank Links Golf Club

Vice-President

Brad Eshpeter, RedTail Landing Golf Club

Secretary/Treasurer

Robin Sadler, SilverTip Resort

2nd Year Director

Reid Solodan, Canmore Golf & Curling Club

1st Year Director

Tyler Patroch, Cottonwood Golf & Country Club

Past President

Dustin Zdan, Connaught Golf Club

Following the last speaker session of the day, the Monday Night Reception was held. This function gave all attendees the opportunity to network with their peers as well as meet the valuable industry sponsors that make events such the Property Manager's Conference possible. A big thank you to all delegates and sponsors for your participation at this great networking event. It was also during this event that our keynote speaker arrived after numerous booked and then cancelled flights. He, as was I, was relieved to be in Canmore and was looking forward to meeting as many people as he could and giving his presentations the next day.

Tuesday morning started off with three sessions again running concurrently. The Turfgrass room had presentations by Derwin Parker of the Glencoe Golf & Country Club, Wade Horrocks of ground³, and Rick Unruh of Q6BPC; the Horticulture room featured Kerry Lockhart of Priddis Greens/ Canyon Meadows Golf Club and Meara Rehman of the City of Calgary – Parks, and the Irrigation room had presentations by Ian Morrow of Olds College, Casey Mahan of Ion Water Management, and Tom Bourassa of Pumptronics.

Equipment Technicians Association, and David Woodward of Club Car. All presentations were very well attended and feedback was that great information and ideas were gained from each and every session.

Immediately following the final session of the day, the AGSA AGM was held and was attended by a record 63 members. During the meeting the AGSA awarded Ethan Bailey of Olds College/ Priddis Greens the annual Turfgrass scholarship and recognized Paul Dodson, Superintendent of Silver Springs Golf and Country Club, as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Both of these award winners were well deserving of their awards. Please see the article in this issue further detailing our DSA award winner.

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Continued on page 16

Continued from page 15

After lunch, it was time for our keynote speaker to take the stage for two presentations. In front of a packed room, Mr. Farren walked us through the experience of hosting the

Men's US Open and Women's US Open on back to back weeks, a first in professional golf history. This presentation was followed up with another hour on the restoration of

Please take the time to thank the following companies who helped make our conference a success and consider their services the next time you plan on choosing your golf course supplies. They include:

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historic Pinehurst #2. The pictures were spectacular and the shared experience was appreciated by all.

An event such as the Property Manager's Conference is not possible without the support and work by many. A big thank you to the conference committee of Ken MacKenzie, Mark Jull, Stu Leachman, Kerry Watkins, and Tamara Benner. Thanks also to Rick Riehl and Shawn Gartner for their input for the Equipment Technicians sessions. To the industry sponsors, a big thanks for your support and attendance. Thank you to all of the speakers, lots of great information was gained from each of you. And last but not least, thanks to Barb Alexander for all her work in keeping us on time and in line even with the twists and turns that we encountered.

I hope everyone enjoyed the 20th Annual Property Manager's Conference and we look forward to another excellent event in 2015. 📍



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The AGSA is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Turf Student Scholarship. This award went to Ethan Bailey who is currently working at Priddis Greens Golf & C.C. for Superintendent James Beebe. Ethan received a cheque for \$1000 – congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors. 🍀

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