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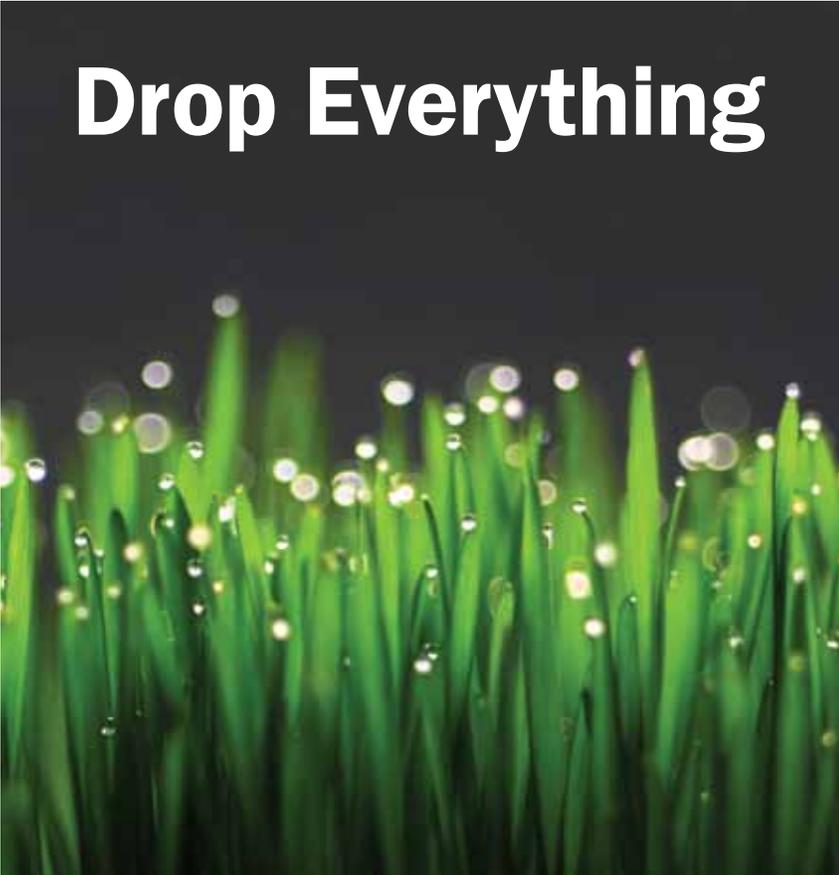


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### Cover Photo:

Incoming President Mike Johnson  
 Pine Hills Golf Club

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# President's MESSAGE

As I begin my year of Presidency of this great association, I find myself reflecting on the journey to this point. I can still remember attending my first Property Manager's Conference while studying at Olds College. I was fortunate enough to be a classmate of Kerry Watkins during the diploma and degree program and it was at this first conference I remember Kerry leaning over to me and saying "that will be us sitting up there on the Board some day." I believed it to be true for him at the time...but I wasn't so sure it would be in my cards at that moment in time. Upon graduation I had three simple goals: 1. Secure a full-time year-round position. 2. Work towards being an Assistant Superintendent 3. Become a member of the AGSA.

Thank you to both Jason Clouston and Bruce Constable for approaching me to think about being a member of the AGSA Board a number of years back now. It is because of that vote of confidence from your peers and the support of the membership as a whole that makes it possible to be successful while on the Board.

Representing our membership as we enter into our 26th year, I am proud to follow the great group that has gone before me. Being President of this association is a daunting task, but it is only accomplished with the strength and support of the Board as a whole. Professionalism and fraternity are the two characteristics that best describe our association and I plan to serve our members keeping these qualities in mind.

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After a “year of change” we will now forge ahead in our future as an association. The willingness to be welcome to change while at the same time polishing the things we do well, I believe are both qualities of being proactive. We will continue to develop our Long Range Plan as we strive to provide the best for our membership. We will stay abreast of the topics of concern whether they are environmental, legislative, membership concerns, etc. I encourage all our members to contact the Board with concerns or ideas that can make our association stronger.

To our outgoing president Terry Shinkewski, I would like to thank him for a job well done. You truly are a stand up guy that I look forward to following. Thank you also to Duane Sharpe

after fulfilling your time on the Board. You represented your membership well and always provided your opinion which was much appreciated. I look forward to working with our current Board members Dustin Zdan – Connaught GC, John Faber – Springbank Links GC, Brad Eshpeter – RedTail Landing GC, and welcome aboard to our newest director Robin Sadler – SilverTip Resort. And a special thanks goes to our Executive Director Barb Alexander.

I would like to also acknowledge our industry affiliates who continually support the AGSA and the various events we offer. I extend best wishes to all as we approach the holiday season, and safe journeys to wherever you may travel for that well deserved vacation. I look forward to seeing you all in 2013! 🏌️

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## 2013 Canadian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show (CITCTS)

The CGSA 2013 Canadian International Conference & Trade Show will be hosted in Toronto Ontario January 25th – 29th. The tag line for this year’s conference is “Growing for Golf”. The joint conference organizing committee (OGSA & CGSA) has put together what looks to be a tremendous educational opportunity to learn tips, tricks and research information from more than 25 of the world’s leading authorities on such topics as:

- Poa Annuua control (Poa Cure)
- Winter injury recovery strategies
- Fertility management
- Summer stress management
- Environmental aspects of turfgrass management

As well as many other great topics and speakers discussing technical subjects to help delegates hone their skills, there will be other interesting topics such as dealing with pace of play, the business of golf round table and dealing with committees at your club.

To kick off this year’s conference, Keynote Speaker Sean Foley is sure to entertain and provide interesting insight into the world of the PGA as well as the unique perspective as the swing coach to one of the world’s all time great golfers, “Tiger Woods”.

Besides the outstanding opportunity that each delegate will have for education and personal development, there will be numerous social and networking opportunities to meet colleagues from around the country to create new friendships and learn about the industry from many others in different regions of the country.

The trade show booth sales to current date (December 1st) have been very active which will likely provide the largest trade show in a number of years. Delegates will be able to meet with vendors from all aspects of the industry to discuss how they can best utilize their products and services as well as get exposure to new and exciting products.

This year’s conference is being hosted in downtown Toronto at the Sheraton Center Toronto Hotel. The host hotel is in the same building as the educational sessions and the trade show which is very convenient. The Sheraton Center Toronto Hotel is also connected to the Eaton Center and is only a block or two from the world famous Younge Street, home to unlimited dining and entertainment options.

The CGSA Board of Directors and Conference Organizing Committee would like to encourage Alberta golf course superintendents and staff to attend the 2013 CITCTS. We are certain you will enjoy the conference and have a great opportunity to bring back new ideas to help make you and your facility thrive. Please access the CGSA web site [golfsupers.com](http://golfsupers.com) for tips on helping to sell the benefits of the conference to the decision makers at your club.



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# NEW TURF PLOTS Ready for Research

With construction of a new hotel on Olds College campus, our turf plots that had been in existence since the early 1970's have been relocated. Construction is now complete and the plots are sufficiently established so that we can conduct a full array of research trials in 2013.

The plots are located east of the new botanic gardens and wetlands that have been constructed on campus. Construction began in May and despite the rain we were able to seed the area in early July and it appears that the plots will be fully mature early next year.

A 1200 m<sup>2</sup> USGA spec green was constructed on the west side of the area and was seeded to a mixture of T1, A4 and A2 creeping bentgrass. The north end of the green was seeded

to annual bluegrass, so that we can conduct winter injury research on a sand based green. The construction of this green was undertaken by Goodwin Golf out of Crossfield and it was a very interesting process. Laser grading of the green sub-grade was done prior to the installation of a flat tile system. Installation of the flat tile system took us about three hours to cut, anchor and install the various sections. This meant that we did not have to excavate drainage lines for the tile and was a big time saver. As soon as the tile was installed, the gravel layer began to arrive and within a matter of hours it was installed, completely to grade. The root zone mix was soon to follow and it, too, was installed very quickly and efficiently. The laser level was attached to a skid-steer loader and the placement and pushing out of the materials was completed in a couple of days.



*Installation of the flat tile drain on the sub grade of the USGA spec green.*

Once the green was constructed the installation of the irrigation system began. TC Irrigation, also from the Crossfield area, completed the installation of HDPE pipe and RainBird decoder system. The advantage of the decoder system is that we will have greater flexibility in irrigation of the plots and it will be easy to add onto the system whenever we decide to complete phase two. The pump station was installed in the new botanic garden area and it was a short

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run from there to the new plots. The variable speed drive pump worked smoothly and efficiently.



*Fusing HDPE pipe for the irrigation system prior to installation.*

In addition to the USGA spec green, we established two soil 'push-up' greens, one seeded to annual bluegrass and one seeded to creeping bentgrass. These greens will be used for product testing and winter injury studies. It was amazing to see how quickly the annual bluegrass area established! The remainder of the area was seeded to a blend of four drought tolerant Kentucky bluegrasses.

The next phases of construction will be to establish a storage building on site and to add to the plots area. In order to complete the next phase, it will be simply a matter of extending the irrigation system and leveling the area prior to seeding.

Although, we did not get the large grant that we were hoping for we were able to build an area that is 2.5 acres in size with a state of the art irrigation system. There were many supporters of this construction and they will be recognized in future correspondence and on our website. The ATRF would like to thank all of those who supported the development of these plots. 🍷

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# AGSA FALL MEETING

**JOHN FABER**  
Superintendent  
Springbank Links Golf Club



The forecast for October 2 was cold temperatures and wind for the inaugural AGSA Member/Guest format meeting, but 36 AGSA members were joined by 12 guests at Springbank Links for the third meeting of the season.



We started the day off with a presentation by Chris Prodahl and Lance Morris (Assistant Superintendents) of Priddis Greens about the IPM Program that is in place at their golf course.

They presented us with a detailed overview of the IPM Program at Priddis; informing us on how the program was initiated, how it was implemented, information gained from it, and how it continues to be a work in progress. We as Superintendents all practice IPM, but the degree to which we monitor, document, evaluate, and utilize the information is varied.

The meeting followed. After the meeting, the attendees bundled up and headed onto the golf course with the temperature at a balmy 7°C. Everybody braved the elements for a 2-person Net Best Ball format. Bragging rights for braving the elements, as well as showing skill on the golf course, was up for grabs. Just about everyone completed their round as the temperature dropped to about 3°C and the wind increased. Congrats to everyone who did finish!

After golf, everyone was treated to a delicious steak sandwich supper and the prizes were handed out. Results as follows:

**Skill Prizes:**

Hole #1	Long Putt	Trevor Niebergall
Hole #3	KP from off the green	Pete Francis
Hole #5	KP	Barb Alexander
Hole #8	KP	Connor Winslow
Hole #10	KP	John Hudon
Hole #13	Ball in water draw	Brad Eshpeter
Hole #14	Long Putt	Shane Gibson
Hole #16	KP	Adam Richardson

**Team Prizes:**

1st	Trevor Niebergall / Nick Weisgerber	65
2nd	Brent Kadwell / Aaron Setter	65
3rd	Terry Shinkewski / Chris Murray	68
4th	Travis Matijevich / Barb Alexander	68

Thanks to all members and guests that attended. We feel the Member/Guest format was a great success, but would



appreciate any and all feedback to make it even better! 📧



# 2012 Calgary Assistants Match Play

**DAVID HARMS**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Springbank Links Golf Club

The 2012 edition of the Calgary Assistants Match Play saw some changes this year but was still well received by all the teams that participated. This season saw a drop in numbers from 32 teams down to 16 who were again placed in pools with four teams each. The two-person net best ball format remained the same with each pool playing round robin matches and the winner of each pool moving on to the single elimination playoff round.

Pool winners this year were Priddis Greens 1, Canyon Meadows and River Spirit. Unfortunately, because of time constraints the playoff round was not completed and no final winner was named. The winning team from each pool received \$50 with the remaining funds of \$350 being donated to the Calgary Superintendent Hockey Fund.

As in past years a number of matches were not played due to weather, staffing shortages or injury. This continues to be an issue for the match play program and we welcome any feedback on how we can make changes to help improve in the years that follow. The match play event has always been well received by those that participate and it allows for many Assistants and golf course staff to network and enjoy each other's golf courses. We are hoping to continue next

season if there is still any interest and will be contacting teams early in the New Year. If any new teams from Calgary or the surrounding area wish to enter please contact us as soon as possible.

We would like to thank all the teams that played this season as well as the organizing committee of David Harms, Mike Roberts, Wade Bishop, Chris Paterson and Chris Murray.

Finally we would like to thank Albert Wong who stepped down as organizer after the 2011 edition of the match play. His hard work and dedication over the years has helped to grow and ensure the success of Calgary Assistants Match Play. 🍷



## Dates to REMEMBER

**January 25<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>, 2013** CGSA Candian International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show – Toronto, ON

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>, 2013** WCTA Conference – Penticton, BC

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# SUPERINTENDENT Profile



## Mike Johnson

**Pine Hills Golf Club**

### **Where were you born and raised?**

I was born in Lethbridge but my family moved to Brooks when I was one and I called it home until I was twenty-one.

### **Where and when did you get your start in the golf course industry?**

I got my start in 1991 working at the Duchess Golf Course which is 10 kms North of Brooks. I worked there for 4 summers; one prior to and in between my 3 years of study at Medicine Hat College.

### **What made you decide on a career in turfgrass management and what would you be if you hadn't become a superintendent?**

I had just come back home from Australia on a 9 month agricultural work exchange and returned to work with Barry Renn at Duchess. I had originally been studying pre-science to be a Chiropractor and was discouraged. It was that summer that Barry suggested to me that I would be good in the golf course industry. Off to Olds I went! Not certain what else I would be doing as I can't imagine any other career for myself at this point. As a child I wanted to be a sports reporter. If I had to pick something else perhaps I could see myself being an electrician.

### **Who are your mentors and who has had the biggest impact on your career thus far?**

My mentors have been the superintendents I have worked for and key staff I have worked with along the way. Barry Renn gave me my start. Working for Ron Hume at GlenEagles was a huge eye opener to golf on the broader spectrum as my experience prior was very limited. Wade Peckham has had

the biggest impact on my career. When I met him he was fully aware of my desire to be a golf course superintendent in the future. He became my mentor and worked with me on fine tuning my skills to take that next step.

### **How many years have you been at your current golf course and where did you work previously?**

I have been Superintendent at Pine Hills for 8 years. Prior to that I was the Assistant at the Highlands Golf Club in Edmonton for 4 years. Previous to that I was the Assistant at Deer Valley Golf Club in Sun City West, AZ for two years. I enjoyed working at The Links of GlenEagles in Cochrane after my first and second years of the diploma program. Before attending Olds College I worked 4 plus summers at the Duchess Golf Course.

*I want the AGSA to stand for the beliefs of it's members as a whole and provide a voice for our members so that they know they have the support in times of need.*

### **Tell us about your golf course and what your biggest challenges are there.**

Pine Hills is truly a great track to play. A course you would never get tired of playing. Lots of elevation changes and although I have narrowed the fairways there is still lots of room with the holes cut right out of the pine trees. It is not a long course but the greens are smaller compared to today's standards with lots of subtle breaks to add to the challenge.

Our biggest challenge is trying to staff our maintenance department in an oilfield based economy. Our location in Alberta can be a challenge from time to time. Being 2 hours away from both Calgary and Edmonton makes it tough when we need golf specific supplies on short notice. Anything we need is usually difficult to get especially when items are needed immediately. Another major challenge is our aged irrigation system. It requires a lot of man hours and labor to deal with the numerous repairs throughout the season. We are fortunate most seasons though as we generally receive our fair share of rain to mask it's limitations.

**Has your club addressed the Occupational Health and Safety issue?**

Yes. Especially over the last few years during the off season we continue to review and update. It is always a work in progress.

**Do you use any water treatment devices such as a sulfur burner or acid injection?**

No.

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

I think the perception of golf courses from the general public is and always will be a constant issue that we as superintendents will continue to face. Pesticide use remains a hot topic and I think we must do everything we can to demonstrate our judicious use of the products available. I also think staffing will continue to be a challenge for us in our economy throughout the province as a whole. The growth of the game for the entire industry I believe is a challenge now and into the future as the baby boomers continue to get older while they represent a huge segment of the current golfing population.

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

I believe in what has been done by the quality people before me. My goal is to continue to lead this great association in a professional manner, in whatever aspect the AGSA may be involved in. I want to continue to develop the relationships I already have and I look forward to fostering new friendships with other fellow members and peers. I want the AGSA to stand for the beliefs of it's members as a whole and provide a voice for our members so that they know they have the support in times of need. My hope is that our members understand that the Board is open to their thoughts and ideas for the future. The AGSA strives to represent what is best for the association in each individual situation.

**What are your plans as the AGSA president?**

I am following a great guy in Terry. I like what we have done over the last few years and the changes we have made.

We have made a couple of significant moves with the relocation of the Property Manager's to Canmore for this past conference and the upcoming Challenge Cup at Copper Point in 2013. These moves will be evaluated by the Board and see where it takes us in the next couple of years. I see us being more and more involved in our partnership with NAGA as we look to be a stronger voice as a sum of all the sectors in our industry. Long Range Planning is always a part of evolving our association so as we review the priorities we will address the needs as they arise.

**What is your favorite restaurant?**

Can't really say I have one. I like food and try to experience what the locals eat wherever I go. Really enjoyed the seafood down in the New Orleans area at the American conference a few years back. Tex Mex is always a go to when I have a craving.

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

Augusta National of course! I would also like to take in the Bandon Dunes experience on the Oregon Coast. I have heard many good reviews from those that have played there.

**What do you like to do away from the course?**

Mostly like to spend time with my family. I am a fairly new dad with a daughter that just turned three and a son that is 10 months old. Needless to say I am busy and it is a nice escape from the golf course to come home and see their energy. I like to travel to warm locales in the off season even if it is just for a week. My wife and I are off to Cabo the second week of December. ☺

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# PROPERTY MANAGERS CONFERENCE 2012

As another golf season passes, so does our 18th annual Property Manager's Conference. This was an exciting year as we moved our location to Canmore after a number of years in Red Deer. As I begin summarizing this year's event, I must start with a big thank-you to all attendees. Participation was fantastic throughout the entire conference as our numbers were up from previous years.

We began this year's event on Sunday with our pre-conference seminars. We had two Sunday seminars being offered. We had Dr. Kevin Frank from Michigan State do a presentation on cool season turfgrass nutrition, fertilizers, and programming. Philip Massier presented the Alberta Pesticide Legislation Seminar in the morning for many of



those that needed the additional credits available and the exam was offered in the afternoon. Attendance was great for both seminars, and in particular there were around 35 that took the pesticide seminar and 15 of those stayed to take the exam in the afternoon! The importance of having qualified applicators in our industry cannot be stressed enough so to see participation like this is very encouraging to our membership as a whole. The Grey Cup Party was hosted by both Oakcreek Golf & Turf and Direct Solutions, and as always was well attended. It was also great to hear that some attendees and suppliers were able to take a day away to enjoy the slopes on Sunday before the Grey Cup activities began.

Keynote Speaker James Duthie from TSN put on an entertaining display that seemed to have the attention of all. It was a good way for everyone to enjoy some laughs and ease into the education sessions. Kevin Frank, Scott Niven, Marie Thorne, Kolby Beaton, and Albert Wong rounded out the Turfgrass stream on Monday. Corinne Hannah, Gord Koch, Dwayne Neustaeter, and Geoff Wood provided the feature talks for the Horticultural portion of the conference. It was great to hear the Horticultural stream was well attended for the full day of talks. Eddie Konrad returned this year to round out the Mechanic's stream of the conference. Brett Young once again sponsored the Monday Night Reception that allowed colleagues and industry representatives to converse in an informal setting.

Tuesday's program featured talks put on by Derf Soller, Dale Miller, Jason Pick, and Matt Nelson. It was great to see such

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a strong show of attendance right through to Matt Nelson's presentation as the final speaker of the Conference.

It was also announced during the conference that Wayne Brown was this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Well deserved to such a long serving Superintendent and one of the founding members of the AGSA back in 1987. Congratulations Wayne and good luck with your retirement from the Red Deer Golf & Country Club.

Putting together such a Conference requires a lot of time and effort of a number of individuals. It is this work put together as one that makes it the success it is. The commitment and continued support of our industry representatives is huge as the AGSA provides it's membership with this educational opportunity as well as other events throughout the year. A thank you goes out to my organizing committee, my fellow Board members who helped so much throughout the event, and the speakers that provided the program from which to learn. As always a special thanks goes out to Barb Alexander for her continued effort in putting all the pieces together each and every year as we strive to ensure a successful conference. I look forward to seeing all our members next year at the Property Manager's Conference and hope you all have a successful 2013 golf season. 🌱



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.

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# WAYNE BROWN Distinguished Service Award

Long time Superintendent of the Red Deer Golf and Country Club, Wayne Brown, is this year's recipient of the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association (AGSA) Distinguished Service Award.

Wayne began his career at the Mayfair Golf and Country Club in Edmonton in 1967, when his stepfather introduced him to the business of turf care. The following year, Sid Puddicombe, took over as Superintendent and was looking for someone to serve as his assistant. It didn't take Sid long to realize that he had someone in his own ranks that could fill the position and Wayne became his assistant in 1971.

In 1974, Red Deer beckoned, and Wayne became the Superintendent. He remained in this position until his recent retirement. Let's see if anyone can ever top that, a career that lasted 38 years at the same club!

Always an outdoorsman, Wayne enjoyed the fresh air and early morning smell of cut grass. His highlights at the golf course included the development and fulfillment of a master plan, the hosting of many Alberta and Canadian championships, and 'just meeting a lot of great people.'

Wayne is a man that has always chosen his words carefully, but had the ears of many when he spoke. His sincere desire to further the profession of Superintendency led Wayne to become one of the early organizers, a founding member, and then the second President of the AGSA in 1989. During his time as President the AGSA was opened up to assistants and as an organization 'took over the Challenge Cup.' Soon after his tenure was complete, Wayne was named Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Superintendent of the Year in 1994. In addition, Wayne counts his time as President of the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation as a special time in the development of the turfgrass industry in Alberta.

When asked what changes he has seen in the industry in his time, he stated somewhat sadly, 'you now have to spend



more time in the office and less on the golf course. There's a lot of paperwork with regulations and planning,' he said. 'You also have to spend more time educating the Board. With the master plan you had to be the one to take the architect's plan and be both the planner and the hands-on guy.' 'And the golfer's expectations are much higher. You need to be aware of this and 'buckle down'. We were one of the first clubs to mow greens twice a day.'

**A career that  
lasted 38 years  
at the same club!**

Now that he doesn't have to 'buckle down', Wayne wants to spend more time at Gull Lake and 'play more golf at Eamon's golf course' in reference to the Gull Lake Golf Course that is owned by good friends, Eamon and Carla McCann. 'Shannon', Wayne's wife, 'has two or three more years at Red Deer College, so

we won't be there full time.'

Wayne also mentioned that he would like to travel, 'in Canada, in the summer. You don't get much of a chance to do that in the golf business.'

And no doubt he will plan some more hunting trips. 'I have to learn to shoot them closer to the truck. I'm getting too old to drag those things out of the bush.'

'Distinguished' and 'Service' are two words that describe this year's award winner! Congratulations, Wayne Brown, but more importantly 'thank you'. 🍷

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



*Reuben Kopp turf student winner*

The AGSA is happy to announce the winners of the 2012 scholarships. The turf student winner is Reuben Kopp. Reuben attends Olds College and works for Mike Desmarais at Trestle Creek Golf Club.



The winner of the scholarship for a son / daughter of an AGSA member was awarded to Jordan McNeely. Jordan attends the Vancouver Film School, and is the son of Calvin McNeely, the Superintendent at Kananaskis Village Golf Course.

Each of them received a cheque for \$1000 – congratulations to both and good luck in future endeavors. 🍀

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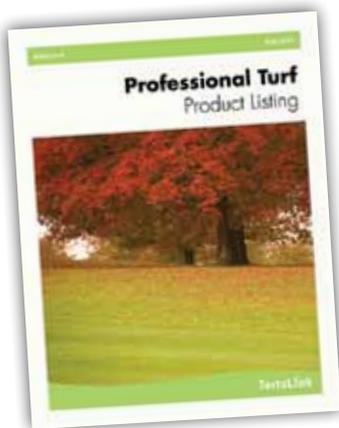
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