

## 2009 COURSE AND GROUNDS REPORT

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The 2009 fiscal year was extremely challenging but very productive for our Course and Grounds Department. In mid October of 2008, work began on the renovation of our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> holes to conform with modern safety standards required by the Town of Collingwood to address compatibility issues between our course and the neighbouring housing development. Due to the early snows in November of 2008, completion of the project was delayed until last spring. Our staff worked diligently with the architect and sub-contractors resulting in a new look for holes #3 and #4 which are both esthetically pleasing and challenging. The project has enhanced the quality of our course and was completed within budget.

In addition to the normal spring maintenance requirements, emphasis was put on improving the playability of certain holes by widening the fairways on #1, #13, #15 and #18. This project was very well received by the members and helped to address speed of play concerns in these areas. In addition, during the month of June, the Committee tackled the drainage problem in front of Hole #9 green.

In 2009, the Ministry of the Environment introduced stringent pesticide use laws for homeowners and golf courses. Each course must be accredited through the new Integrated Pest Management program. Don Campbell has completed the written examination requirements. As part of the procedures, daily written reports are now completed for the Ministry. Many products used on courses over the years have now been replaced with more environmentally friendly but much more expensive alternatives.

In addition to changes in pesticide use, the Ministry is also proposing the reduction of irrigation consumption by 15% over the next 15 years. These challenges have resulted in the research and development of the new T1 seed which has more drought and disease resistant characteristics. Endorsed by the Committee, Don began a long term overseeding process with this seed in August. Also during the summer, the mandate for a new Course and Grounds Long Range Planning Committee was developed. This Committee will focus on "Master Plan" improvements. In the fall, the Committee recommended re-establishing the Bench Memorial Program for those wishing to donate funds for a bench in the name of a past member. More details on this program will be made available to the members this coming spring.

Due to the inclement conditions in October, the annual aerification of fairways had to be cancelled. Recognizing its importance, this 2 day program is scheduled to take place the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> in 2010 which coincides with the time of year for this project at many courses. Technological advancements in the machinery used to aerify fairways will result in minimal effect on play during the process.

As Chair of the Course and Grounds Committee, I would like to congratulate our staff on an exceptional job this season despite difficult weather conditions. It was a pleasure to work with my fellow Committee members Al Ferguson, Dawn Frisch, Gib Hunter, Gary Hooper, Bruce Parrack, Larry Rowbotham, Don Campbell and Jim Malley. Don and his staff look forward to, once again, providing our members and guests with top quality turf to play on in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Godin  
Course and Grounds - Chair

