President's Message

This time of year, what is evident now more than any other time throughout the season is optimal course conditions are less about the turf and more about the people behind it. It can be a strange one for superintendents. The days are getting shorter, the season is starting to wind down, yet there is still so much to do. Our seasonal staff have left and the workload gets heavier. After everything we've been through since spring, the fatigue starts to catch up. It can be easy to get caught up in everything that still needs to be done and forget to look back at everything that has already been accomplished.

But when I think about what makes this profession special, it isn't just the golf courses we maintain. It's the people who make it possible.

The employee who arrives before the sun comes up, the assistant who stays late to finish one more job. It's the mechanic who somehow gets another piece of equipment back into service and the staff member who steps up when no one else can cover a shift. The superintendent who keeps pushing forward even when they're running on empty, and it's the families at home who understand that this profession sometimes means long days, missed dinners, and weekends at the course.

As some of our seasonal staff move on, I hope we take the opportunity to genuinely thank them. Not just for the work they completed, but for the time, effort, and commitment they gave us throughout the season. A golf course can recover from a missed project or an imperfect day. People deserve to know that their contribution mattered.

Burnout is real in this profession. Before long, we'll be looking ahead to next season and thinking about what needs to change. Those conversations are important, but I hope we don't lose sight of the bigger picture while having them. The goal isn't simply to build a better course next year, it's to build a better environment for the people who make that course possible. The grass will grow again next spring. The projects will still be waiting, there will always be another season. But the people we work alongside are what make this profession special.

So, to my fellow superintendents: if you're feeling tired right now, you're not alone. If you're looking at the list of things you still wanted to accomplish this year and wondering where the time went, you're not alone. And if you're already thinking about what you need to do differently next season, you're certainly not alone. Take a moment to look around, thank your staff, check in on a fellow superintendent. Appreciate the people who support you at home and give yourself a little credit for making it this far.

The course may be what everyone sees, but the people behind it are what truly matter.

Jordan Joye
President
Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association