

Dear Members,

August can be an interesting month. The excitement and anticipation of spring are long gone, and the fresh energy that comes with the start of the season has often been replaced by fatigue and frustration. Our teams have been working hard for months, the equipment has seen countless hours, and the course has endured everything Manitoba's weather has thrown at it. At the same time, expectations from golfers remain high. A consistent challenge that comes with this time of year is watching our seasonal staff begin to head back to school, return to other jobs, or simply move on to the next chapter. Losing people who have become an important part of operations can put additional pressure on those who remain. The workload does not necessarily get smaller just because our staffing levels do. For many of us, the coming weeks will require us to adjust schedules, responsibilities, and expectations while continuing to provide the level of conditions golfers have come to expect. It is important to recognize that this transition can be difficult, and to make sure the people who remain on our teams know that their work is appreciated. Take a moment to thank someone who has gone above and beyond. Give your team credit for the small victories. And when you have the opportunity, take a few minutes to step away from the maintenance shop and actually enjoy the course you have worked so hard to prepare.

This is where perspective becomes important. It is easy to focus on the imperfections, but August is a good time to take a step back and recognize what has been accomplished. We have brought our teams together, navigated the weather, maintained playing surfaces through the busiest part of the year, and provided a venue to enjoy the game we all care so much about. That is something worth being proud of.

August is also a good time to start looking ahead. As we get a better understanding of what worked this year and what didn't, we should be thinking about what we might do differently next season. That could mean changes to staffing, equipment, agronomic practices, budgets, communication, or simply how we approach some of the challenges we faced this year. It could also mean a completely new role at our existing club, or at a different golf course entirely. We do not need to have all the answers today, but the lessons and reflection we embark on now can make next spring a little easier. Sometimes the best time to start planning for next season is while this season is still fresh in our minds.

We are in the stretch run now. Keep pushing, keep communicating, and most importantly, keep things in perspective. The end of the season will arrive sooner than we think, and when it does, I hope each of us can look back and know that we gave our best.

Stay safe, take care of your teams, and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Jordan Joye
President
Manitoba Golf Superintendents Association