

March 05, 2026

As we move toward the spring season, conditions have varied across the province, with many areas experiencing prolonged snow cover and, in some regions, significant ice accumulation. Repeated winter storms and high winds have created drifting conditions, while low-lying and shaded areas have seen ice layers persist for extended periods. This in turn has created concerns around potential anoxia and winter injury on putting greens. As we transition from winter to spring and snow melting and chances of flash freezes more concern will lean towards crown hydration.

The offseason has also provided valuable opportunities for professional development and industry engagement. Ontario members demonstrated strong participation at both regional and national educational events. The Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association conference, held January 20–22 in Collingwood, was well attended and featured a strong educational program and trade show, providing excellent opportunities for networking and sharing regional challenges. Ontario members also participated in our recent Canadian Golf Course Management Conference hosted in Calgary by the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, which was well received. These events continue to provide valuable opportunities for superintendents to connect with peers from across the country, exchange experiences, and discuss emerging technologies, environmental stewardship, and operational best practices.

Another notable development within the Canadian turfgrass industry is the transition from the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) toward the National Turfgrass Research Foundation (NTRF). This shift reflects a broader effort to coordinate turfgrass research funding and priorities at a national level while strengthening collaboration across regions. Ontario superintendents and industry partners remain strong supporters of research initiatives that advance sustainable turfgrass management.

Labour remains a key topic across the province. Like many industries, golf course operations are working to attract and retain skilled staff while navigating increasing wage expectations. Many clubs are investing more heavily in training, workplace culture, and career development pathways to strengthen retention and support the next generation of turf professionals.

As we approach spring, our turf teams continue to prepare equipment, finalize seasonal staff recruitment, and refine agronomic programs for the 2026 season. While winter conditions will ultimately determine the level of spring recovery required at some facilities, the overall outlook remains positive. Ontario superintendents and their teams continue to demonstrate resilience and professionalism while maintaining exceptional playing conditions and advancing environmental stewardship across the industry.

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