

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

BC Report

Well what a year it's been! Seems like every year now we start our reports with, "Well what a year it's been!" The successive years of dealing with a new reality combined with weather systems that have devastated communities are definitely taking a toll on all of us.

In BC, just when we thought it couldn't get any worse after the entire province was on fire, Mother Nature said, "Hold my beer!" The devastation from "atmospheric rivers" has been unparalleled. Merritt flooded, and most of the lower mainland was cut off from the rest of the province as highways were washed out and much of that region was also flooded and under as much as six feet of water. Highway 8 from Merritt to Spences Bridge lost a 22 km stretch of highway! Of course panic buying set in and grocery store shelves were empty and so many people again did without.

BC Superintendents persevered though, as we often do, and even in the face of catastrophe a bunch of BC Superintendents still made their way to Victoria to hold another successful Professional Development Days. Kudos to Dean Piller and his team for pushing through adversity so that there could be a little return to normalcy in the industry. I know it wasn't an easy decision and thanks to the airline companies for doing the right thing by hiking airfare to make travel decisions easier. In BC many regional meetings resumed but our 2021 exchange tournament was cancelled once again due to the pandemic. We are hopeful of holding an event in 2022.

More congratulations are in order for Dean Piller, as once again he has been honoured by the CGSA as this year's Gordon Witteveen Award winner for most outstanding article of the year. Dean's article, "Managing Your Golf Course Ecosystem", is a detailed account of how Dean has managed his property to compliment the natural surroundings and vice versa. Dean is piling up an impressive list of awards as he continues to be a huge inspiration in our industry. Well done Dean!

The CGSA and our partner the OGSA will be holding our annual conference virtually this year March 1 – 3. I hope you can all participate in the excellent education program and trade show. The education program looks fantastic, thank you once again to our staff for all of their hard work.

I'll finish by mentioning my good friend Tim Kubash who has finally returned home after completing his rehabilitation at the GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. Tim passed his driver's test using hand controls and continues to improve each day. Tim still has a long way to go but his attitude is amazing and when I saw him last, as we ate Dim Sum, he was still smiling. Good luck with your future endeavours my friend.

Have a great winter everybody! Hope you had a Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Ken Brunneski, AGS – BC Director CGSA