**Name:** Marcio Melo

**Position:** Assistant Superintendent

**Golf Club:** The Royal Montreal Golf Club



**Q: Are there any unique features that make your golf course stand out?**

**A:** The Royal Montreal Golf Club has a rich history. Established in 1873 it makes it one of the oldest golf clubs in North America and renowned internationally. We have 3 golf courses; the Blue, the Red and the Dixie, each offering a different playing experience totalizing 45 holes on 600 acres of beautiful landscape surroundings. Over the years the Club hosted many major events such as Canadian Opens and of course the Presidents Cup in 2007 and 2024.

**Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in golf course management?**

**A:** It all started when I was 16 years old, working a summer job at the Golf Course. What began as a summer job quickly turned into a passion and, eventually, a career that I truly love.

I fell in love with being outdoors, surrounded by nature, experiencing the beautiful sunrises, and watching the course come to life every morning. There is something special about being out on the course early, knowing that the work we do behind the scenes creates an unforgettable experience for golfers.

Over the years, this industry has also allowed me to grow as a person, develop my leadership skills, and build relationships with incredible people. I have learned that golf course management is much more than maintaining turf; it is about teamwork dedication, continuous learning, and taking pride in what you do

One of the things that inspires me the most today is the opportunity to develop the next generation and introduce young people to this incredible industry. I want to share my knowledge, experience, and passion with them, helping them discover the opportunities that golf course management can offer and encouraging them to build their own careers.

Looking back, what started as a summer job at 16 became a lifelong passion. The combination of nature, challenges, personal growth, and the opportunity to make a difference is what continues to inspire me every day.

**Q: What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your role?**

**A:** One of my biggest challenges is recruiting and retaining staff between the ages of 25 and 35, as fewer people are looking to make a long-term career in golf course management. Finding students is relatively easy, but attracting individuals willing to commit to early mornings, weekend work, and the demands of the industry are becoming increasingly difficult.

Another major challenge is the rapid evolution of technology, robotics, and machinery. The industry is changing quickly, and we must continuously adapt, learn, and integrate new technologies to improve efficiency and stay ahead.



Ultimately, the challenge is to develop a strong team, embrace innovation, and maintain exceptional course conditions while preparing for the future of our industry.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your role?**

**A:** What I enjoy the most about my role as assistant superintendent is being part of a team that makes daily decisions to provide optimal golf course conditions for our members and guests. I also enjoy working with a dynamic team, mentoring young people, and sharing my knowledge and experience to help develop the next generation of golf course professionals.

**Q: What's a moment in your career that stands out as particularly rewarding?**

**A:** Several moments in my career have been particularly rewarding, but I would highlight the 1997 Canadian Open when Tiger Woods played at the Royal Montreal Golf Course at the beginning of his career and hosting the 2007 and 2024 Presidents Cup.

These events gave me the opportunity to meet extraordinary people in the golf world, both players and colleagues of the industry that worked behind the scenes who helped make these tournaments such a success. Being part of these experiences and contributing to events of this magnitude has been incredibly rewarding and something I will always cherish.

**Q: What do you enjoy the most about being a CGSA member?**

**A:** I enjoy the networking from coast to coast, sharing of knowledge, and continuous learning that come with being a CGSA member. It's a great opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow professionals, stay up to date with new technologies, and contribute to the growth and future of our industry while continuing to develop professionally.

**Q: What's something people might be surprised to learn about you-fun fact?**

**A:** I would say people are surprised when I tell them that I'm a father 4 and speak four languages. I would also add that people sometimes are confused by my sense of humor. I have a deadpan humor where people never know if I'm joking or not…

**Q: What advice would you give to someone pursuing a career in golf course management?**

**A:** My advice is to stay passionate, curious, and never stop learning. I started in the industry as a summer student at 16, and what began as a summer job became a lifelong passion. Take every opportunity to gain experience, learn from others, and challenge yourself and always be proud of what you do and accomplish.