

CGSA Regional Report (Alberta)

With the Canadian Golf Course Management Conference complete, the final push to the start of the golf season in Alberta has begun. Days are noticeably longer and with Daylight Savings Time going into effect on March 9th, it will seem as though days last forever compared to a couple months ago.

The Canadian Golf Course Management Conference was held the last week of February in Niagara Falls and it was a tremendous show. The Fallsview Casino and Conference Center along with the Hilton Fallsview were a fantastic host venue resulting in delegate attendance being very strong. Some amazing Alberta individuals were honoured with awards at this year's conference. Reid Solodan, AGS (Canmore Golf & Curling Club) was recognized as the 2024 CGSA/ENVU Superintendent of the Year and Robin Sadler, MS (Mickelson National Golf Club) was presented the 2024 CGSA/Rainbird Environmental Achievement Award. These two gentlemen are tremendous examples of superintendents in our profession and represent Alberta with pride. Congratulations fellas. We all aspire to follow in your footsteps.

February itself in Alberta was one of the coldest months across the province with multiple weeks of -25° C or colder. The final week did however bring extremely warm weather across the southern part of the province to the point where a couple courses even opened. That is crazy when you think about it. Golf in Alberta, in February, when Ontario has seen the most snow in years. The spring teaser was short-lived as snowstorms covered the turf again which isn't such a bad thing as that protective blanket was restored as we will undoubtedly plummet in temperature again prior to springs full arrival.

This time of year, always seems to fly by as everyone scurries to wrap up staff hiring, organizational tasks that enhance their operations, or completing their honey-do lists at home prior to the golf season. As golf season is only a blink away for most, aside from our west coast friends that deal with it year-round, I hope that everyone has one more opportunity to step away for a few more days of relaxation before things really start to ramp up. Opening day will be upon us before you know it. I know I can hardly wait. Bring on the sun!

Best wishes!

Cameron Kusiek