

CGSA Report – Alberta June 2020

First and foremost, I am hoping this report is finding everyone well. These have been different times in our world and hopefully all our members and their extended families are doing well. I also know that there has been a lot of stress both financially and mentally when it comes to the day to day situations of life. Many of us were at home for an extended period-of-time, and that continues for those that have kids or better half's working from home. The reports from Alberta continue to trend positive and let's hope the numbers with the virus will remain low. For those that have lost loved ones during this time, our thoughts go out to you.

With everything going on, or more like not going on, it has once again proved that us as Golf Superintendents have the best office in the world. This spring certainly echoed that sentiment, and now the golfing public is also seeing it. Reports from all over Alberta are of packed golf courses, people that may have not touched a golf club in 5 years are getting a round in. Let's hope that trend continues.

With COVID restrictions in place the AGSA held the spring meeting via a Zoom call. All of us are very familiar with zoom by now, and this offered a great alternative to get everyone together. I have a feeling we will be doing this again as the season continues. Unfortunately with COVID ever present the CGSA and its partners decided just recently that the Canadian Golf Industry Show set for November would have to be cancelled. Restrictions on gatherings, and travel were the main factors in the joint decision.

With COVID restrictions almost changing week to week, the CGSA will continue to look at alternatives for an event Feb/March of 2021. Stay tuned for further information. Our next event that we continue to monitor is the Fall Field day, set for September. The Board and the staff will be evaluating this event over the next couple of weeks and will inform the membership as soon as a decision is made.

Many of you would have just recently received an email to log in to the new website, with instructions on how to pay your membership. I sincerely hope you will renew your memberships for your turf associations. One thing that became very prevalent during this time of COVID was that

strong associations have a big influence on government. I think this was at the forefront with We are Golf, our partnership with all the golf associations in Canada, and across the country with our Provincial organizations. With many events cancelled, this amplifies how important a stable membership is for the association.

I do also want to acknowledge my fellow board and the staff at the CGSA, who were putting in many hours meeting during the COVID crisis. Weekly meetings to address national and provincial concerns took time but helped our associations through the start of the crisis. Our staff and board continue to address the needs of our members in this ever-changing environment.

Lastly, I want to thank Dean Zilinski, AGSA President and Terri Solodan, the AGSA Executive Director who were also putting in countless hours of meetings with NAGA Alberta to get golf off on the right foot, when the government allowed it. When the word came that May 2 was the day, the procedures were virtually in place and golf courses did their part in offering a safe environment for the public. Thanks to everyone going the extra mile for our associations.

If at any time you have questions about what is going on with the CGSA please do fire me an email or give me a call.

Sincerely,

Dustin Zdan
CGSA Alberta Director