

For Immediate release

Thorne donates turf book collection to U. of Guelph

Marie Thorne, a pioneer of women in the turf industry in the past 30 years, will pass forward her turf industry book collection to the University of Guelph Turf Management programs this month. *“It’s all in support of the students,”* says Thorne. *“It feels good to provide a lasting resource to the next generation of turfgrass professionals”*.

Thorne’s donation comes at a time when the U of G Diploma in Turfgrass Management (DTM) was reviewing their current textbook collection and archives in the MacLaughlin Library. *“Throughout her impressive career, Marie has amassed an impressively diverse and valuable treasure trove of turfgrass management books”* says Cam Shaw, Manager of the U of G’s DTM program. Shaw continues: *“Her personal library covers all aspects of the industry such as: fundamentals of irrigation, drainage, soils, pathology, insect pests, IPM, golf design and architecture, as well as more modern principles in sustainability, land stewardship and ecology on golf courses. We are so grateful for Marie’s thoughtful gift.”* Shaw states the books will be housed at the GTI as well as within MacLaughlin Library’s turf reserve collection to increase accessibility and visibility for U of G turf students of all levels.

Despite the fact that we live in the digital age, Thorne hopes that students will never stop enjoying the tactile pleasure of reading and learning from a book. *“We have enough screen time as it is,”* said Thorne. *“I’ve always found picking up a book can truly be a welcome alternative to surfing and scrolling”*. She remembered the late, great Gord Witteveen peddling books at many past golf conferences. *“He was always eager to make a sale,”* she said, *“and I’d happily return home with a stack of the latest editions”*. Thorne’s donated collection includes such classics such as the late Houston Couch’s *Diseases of Turfgrasses* and *Creeping Bentgrass Management* by Peter Dernoeden.

“Turf books are like buying shoes” she chuckled, *“When you’re in the biz, you can’t get enough of them”*.

Thorne hopes that this donation will inspire others to do the same.