

Ontario Regional Report

As another golf season begins to wind down across Ontario, I think many of us can look back on 2026 as another season that demonstrated the resilience, adaptability and professionalism of golf course superintendents and their teams.

Weather always seems to provide part of the storyline in our profession, and this year was no different. Across the province, superintendents dealt with periods of heat and humidity, significant rainfall events, disease pressure and the daily challenge of maintaining consistent playing conditions through changing weather. Every property is different, but one thing that remains consistent is the ability of our teams to adapt and find ways to get the job done.

Ontario had many opportunities this season to showcase the quality of our golf courses and, more importantly, the people who maintain them. Several Ontario CGSA members and their teams hosted major national and professional championships this year.

One of the highlights was the RBC Canadian Open at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley's North Course, where David Hunter and his team prepared the golf course for Canada's National Open Championship and some of the best players in the world. Hosting a PGA TOUR event of this magnitude is a tremendous undertaking and a great showcase for our profession in Ontario.

Paul Scenna, MS and his team at The Toronto Golf Club hosted the Canadian Women's Amateur Championship during a special year as the club celebrated its 150th anniversary. I had the opportunity to represent the CGSA and present Paul with his National Tournament plaque during the closing ceremony. Ryan Vlahek and his team at Burlington Golf and Country Club hosted the Canadian Women's Mid-Amateur Championship, while Scott Brook and his team at TPC Toronto at Osprey Valley's Heathlands Course had a busy summer hosting both the Osprey Valley Open and the Canadian Junior Girls Championship.

Congratulations to David, Paul, Ryan, Scott and all their teams. Hosting championships at this level requires tremendous planning, commitment and teamwork, and their success continues to demonstrate the strength of golf course management in Ontario.

Another important part of our profession is the opportunity to get together, learn from one another and build relationships. Unfortunately, this year the CGSA Fall Field Day in Saskatchewan was held at the same time as the OGSA Championship in Ontario, which left some Ontario members having to choose between two valuable industry events. I was also unable to attend either event, as we were busy at Beacon Hall hosting the Canadian Women's Collegiate Invitational at the same time.

The positive takeaway was that both events were very well attended. The CGSA Fall Field Day was hosted at Riverside Country Club in Saskatoon, where Superintendent Doug Campbell, AGS and his team welcomed CGSA members from across Canada. The event also included golf the previous day at The Legends Golf Club in Warman, hosted by Superintendent Mathew Choquette, AGS and his team. From everything I heard, both Doug, Matthew and their

teams provided excellent golf course conditions, and the events were very well received by those who attended.

Congratulations and thank you to Doug, Matthew and their teams for showcasing the excellent work being done by turf professionals in Saskatchewan and for welcoming CGSA members from across the country.

From an Ontario perspective, I would like to see greater participation from our members at future CGSA Fall Field Days. We are working toward better coordination of dates between national and regional events so members are not faced with having to choose between opportunities such as the Fall Field Day and the OGSA Championship. Both our provincial and national associations provide tremendous value, and hopefully better coordination will allow Ontario members to support and participate in both.

Although I missed those events, I was fortunate to be part of another special week as our team at Beacon Hall hosted the Canadian Women's Collegiate Invitational. We welcomed some outstanding young players, and the feedback from players and coaches about the conditioning, consistency and overall experience was extremely rewarding for our entire team.

What made me most proud was that we did not fundamentally change how we prepared the golf course. We continued to provide the firm; fast and consistent conditions we strive to give our membership throughout the season. The biggest difference was doing much of the preparation in the dark, staging equipment at 3:30 a.m. and having our team on the golf course at 4:00 a.m.

It reinforced something I believe can be said about golf courses throughout Ontario: tournament conditions are not created in a few days. They are the result of the standards, programs and attention to detail that superintendents and their teams put into their properties throughout the entire season.

As we move further into fall, our focus begins to shift toward preparing our properties for winter and setting ourselves up for a successful 2027. It is also a good time to recognize the people who helped us get through another season.

Our teams have worked early mornings, weekends and holidays through heat, humidity and rain. Much of that work happens before golfers arrive and often goes unseen. The success of any golf course operation is a reflection of the people behind it, and I hope everyone takes an opportunity this fall to thank their staff for their commitment.

We also need to continue developing the next generation of turf professionals. Many Ontario facilities welcomed students and interns again this year. Giving these young people opportunities to ask questions, take on responsibility and experience all aspects of our operations is one of the best investments we can make in the future of our profession.

One of the greatest strengths of our industry remains the willingness of superintendents to help one another. Whether through the CGSA, OGSA, industry events or simply picking up the

phone and calling another superintendent, sharing experiences and information makes all of us better.

Congratulations to Ontario's superintendents, assistants, equipment managers, interns, students and turf teams on another successful season. There is still plenty of work ahead before winter arrives, but everyone should be proud of what our profession continues to accomplish.

I look forward to seeing many of you during the upcoming education and conference season and, hopefully, even more Ontario members participating in CGSA events across Canada in the year ahead.

Respectfully,
Colin Young
Ontario Director
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association