

2025 Ontario Regional Report – CGSA

Overview

With the season now finished—or at least winding down for most facilities, many of us are taking time to reflect on the year: the successes, the challenges, and the lessons learned. This is an important period for superintendents and their teams to collaborate, share experiences, and evaluate what worked well and what can be improved. The off-season is also a critical time for equipment servicing and exploring new equipment innovations that can strengthen operational efficiency heading into next year. I strongly encourage everyone to use the off-season not only to plan, train, and prepare for next year, but also to take much-needed rest so you're ready for whatever is thrown at you the moment the first tee goes into the ground.

Weather is always part of our story in this profession, and the 2025 season in Ontario was no exception.

March brought unseasonably warm conditions, especially in Southern Ontario—resulting in some courses opening in mid-March, which may be a record for several regions. Then April arrived with cooler-than-normal temperatures which prolonged winter with snow cover in many areas of the province, delaying openings and slowing recovery for clubs dealing with winter injury.

Spring seemed short-lived, nearly skipping straight into sustained warm weather, and once the heat arrived, it never relented. Much of the province experienced extreme temperatures throughout the summer, with Southern Ontario reporting 24 consecutive days over 30°C in July. At the same time, high humidity and torrential downpours in some regions, combined with prolonged heat, brought significant disease pressure to many facilities. Dry periods between these events added further stress, placing immense importance on water management strategies and testing turf teams across Ontario.

Despite these challenges, superintendent reports from throughout the province consistently highlighted excellent playing conditions. This is a testament to the skill, preparation, and resilience of turf managers and their teams.

Winter preparation across Ontario has been especially difficult this year. A warm fall created pressure for many facilities to remain open longer, shortening the window for late-season cultural practices. This was followed by early snowfalls in November, then thaws, then more snow, and more thaws—an inconsistent pattern that disrupted surface preparation and made scheduling extremely challenging.

Adding to the complexity, a significant portion of leaves remained on trees well into late fall, making leaf cleanup extremely difficult. Many courses will head into winter less clean than ideal, with some leaf management deferred to spring. In most cases this is manageable, but it does create additional early-season workload and strategic planning considerations.

- **Staffing:** Seasonal staff departures continue to challenge timelines, but teamwork and flexibility have allowed most clubs to stay on track during these unpredictable conditions.
- **Capital Projects:** Numerous Ontario clubs undertook fall projects—bunker renovations, tee expansions, sod work, tree programs, and irrigation upgrades—with many making strong progress ahead of winter despite weather disruptions.
- **Professional Development:** Engagement remains strong across OGSA and CGSA educational platforms, with many Ontario members taking advantage of webinars, virtual learning, and in-person networking opportunities.

CGSA Activities & Member Engagement

- Ontario continues to be one of the strongest regions for CGSA membership growth and active participation.
- I want to be in regular contact with superintendents and chapter leaders to ensure Ontario voices and concerns are accurately represented at the national board level.
- Members are encouraged to reach out regarding CGSA programs, certifications, scholarships, and education credits—our resources are here to support you.

Looking Ahead

As we move into winter planning, I encourage all Ontario superintendents to:

- Collaborate within your teams and with industry colleagues
- Review successes and failures honestly and use them as growth tools
- Plan early for staffing, budgeting, cultural programs, and spring expectations
- Rest and recharge so you're ready for spring
- Get involved with the CGSA—your engagement strengthens both your own operation and our profession nationwide

In closing, I strongly welcome any questions regarding the CGSA and how the association can assist you and your facility. Your participation and engagement help elevate our entire industry, and I am proud to represent Ontario superintendents at the national level.

Respectfully Yours,

Colin Young
Ontario Director
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association