

ONTARIO REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

The golf season does not want to end, particularly in Southern Ontario. A long stretch of near record temperatures in November has extended an already long season in the province. This extraordinary fall has only added to the record number of rounds played at golf courses. Some course or clubs are reporting as much as a 40 percent increase in play compared to last season. This has certainly put a strain on growing conditions and a much-needed respite for the turf is needed. The warm November temperatures has allowed Superintendents to winterize their irrigation systems and courses under favourable conditions compared to typical fall conditions.

Just like the rest of the country, this has been an unforeseen, unprecedented year in Ontario. Combine that with record heat and drought like conditions and it is a year that no one will forget. There was a marginal number of courses forced to temporarily close because of Covid outbreaks at their facilities. After deep cleansings they were able to open back up within a day or two. This is a testament of how seriously our profession took this pandemic and the measures taken by Superintendents and Assistants to protect their staff and golfers at their respective facilities. Congratulations to all for your extraordinary efforts.

This has been a long, tough season for everyone. Please take time in the coming months to rest and spend time with your loved ones and as always, staff safe and stay healthy.

All the best.

John McLinden