



CGSA Member Spotlight Q & A

Name: Rob Munro

Position: Assistant Superintendent

Golf Course: Crown Isle Resort & Golf Community

Are there any unique features that make your golf course stand out?

Crown Isle is a Graham Cooke design that shares a lot of similarities to some of Stanley Thompson's designs, including mounded/rolling fairways, interesting bunker designs, deceptive greens and areas where the bunkering mirrors the mountains in the background. While the massive Douglas firs and Sequoias around the property give the course a very "Parkland" style feel, the mounding on fairways and greens reward Links, "low to the ground" style golf. Crown Isle is an interesting course to play and maintain!



What inspired you to pursue a career in golf course management?

My dad, Rick Munro, was a Golf Course Superintendent, and he came home one day when I was 14 and told me I needed to get a job. When I said I didn't want to, he said "That's too bad because you start tomorrow morning at Arbutus Ridge. Set your alarm for 4:30am." After that first season, I figured that if I already had the best job, why change it? I enrolled at Olds College a few years later.



What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your role?

Our biggest challenges at Crown Isle mostly stem from the amount of traffic we receive. Being open year-round, like most west coast courses, makes keeping high-traffic areas healthy a huge challenge.



Recruitment, training, and retaining new staff is also a big challenge, as the North Island is a relatively transient place with Mt. Washington Ski resort nearby. There are a lot of businesses competing for the small group of seasonal employees that become available every spring.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I really enjoy collaborating with our team to come up with solutions to problems. Many of them have worked at Crown Isle for a long time and have great knowledge. It is cool to see what they come up with when presented with a problem and then also providing my input.

What's a moment in your career that stands out as particularly rewarding?

I have been lucky enough to work at some awesome courses around Canada and the world, and it is really rewarding to be able to have my family and friends visit those courses and see what I do for work firsthand. There is something special about working hard to create something and then being able to display it.



What do you enjoy most about being a CGSA member?

I think that the biggest value of the CGSA is the networking opportunities that are provided, as well as the opportunity to volunteer as a board member. It is great to meet people that work in a totally different climate than we have on Vancouver Island. (Which is pretty much everywhere else in Canada), and volunteering is a great way to get out of my comfort zone.

What's something people might be surprised to learn about you/fun fact?

I have played golf on 4 different continents, including Europe, Australia, North America and Africa. I also write/record music!

What advice would you give to someone pursuing a career in golf course management?

Ask a new question (or several) every day. Ask the Assistant or Superintendent at your course about maintaining turf, the Mechanic about equipment, the GM about the business side of things; and don't be afraid to go and see what other courses are doing. No two grounds crews operate the same way.