

## CGSA British Columbia Update

October 2025

One of my favourite aspects of working in golf course maintenance has always been the opportunity to work with a team. I started out as part of a crew, worked my way through the ranks, and eventually had the chance to help shape — and then directly build — teams of my own.

It's incredibly rewarding to witness the power of individual efforts united around a common goal. A team also lifts you up when you're down. I often remind my crew that there are days when waking up at 4 a.m. feels impossible. But walk into a lively room full of chatter and good energy, and that mood can shift in an instant.

The longer you're in the industry, the more you realize that your team extends beyond the borders of your own course. We're fortunate to be able to connect with other Superintendents through regional, provincial, and national associations. I was recently inspired by a group of Danish Superintendents who host an annual "Tour de Fungus." Their tour — focused on the shared challenge of maintaining turfgrass without pesticides — includes visits to eight properties in one day. They collect specific data points from each course and share meals throughout the day to exchange ideas and insights.

Fresh off that inspiration, I organized the first annual South Island Superintendents Tour. Scheduling challenges meant not everyone could attend the full day, but for a first run, it was a success. I asked each Superintendent to answer six questions on video so we could share their insights with the group. It's always amazing to see the creativity and ingenuity practiced by Superintendents. We toured a mix of 9-hole, 18-hole, public, and private courses — and it didn't hurt that we had stop-ins with two past CGSA presidents, Brian Youell and Dean Piller.

I encourage you to try something similar in your own area. A little bit of scheduling and organizing (we do this every day anyway, right?) and I guarantee you'll walk away with at least one new idea from every property you visit. I know I did!

T-Jay Creamer, AGS

CGSA BC Director