

By the time that the annual Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) conference started I knew it was going to be a productive week. What I didn't expect was how energizing these turf professionals would be.

From the opening speaker, who gave insight about how we have to take care of ourselves - so we can fulfill our responsibilities at the course and take care of others, to our goodbyes - it was awesome!



Equipment managers and technicians were engaged in specialized seminars that highlighted equipment systems, shop efficiency, preventative maintenance, and adapting to evolving equipment technologies. The underlying message was clear: modern golf operations rely on collaboration between the course and the shop, and innovation must happen on both fronts.

The trade show floor buzzed with activity, showcasing the latest turf equipment, technology, and products. Vendors were not just displaying equipment – they were exchanging ideas, listening to feedback, and strengthening partnerships that keep courses running at peak performance.

A while ago I sat in on a class that emphasized the importance of making an event more memorable. Most of the speakers who come to the conference were not from Calgary, so I wanted to share my city with a couple of the guest speakers Austin Wright – CTEM, Hazeltine National Golf Club and Hector Valazquez – OPE, hectorsshop.com. I wanted to take them all over and show them how great this city is, but I didn't have days to do this, so I

had to figure a quick way to show them. We got way up high and 'took a look' around the Calgary Tower!



I was able to show the prairies to the east and the mountains to the west, the grounds of the Calgary Stampede and the new home of the Calgary Flames, some golf courses, and other local landmarks. It will be a memory that will stay with me and my guest for quite some time.

One of the highlights points of interest was Earl Grey Golf Club and we had the opportunity to visit the Turfcare facility. Host Superintendent Terry Shinkewski and Equipment Manager Perry Retzlaff opened their shop and allowed us to learn about reel sharpening and electrical soldering.



As the final day wrapped up, I heard a common theme about the importance of bringing new talent into the industry. The conference emphasized that knowledge transfer, from field practices to shop procedures, it is vital to maintain standards at your home course and across the industry.



The conference was more than just a bunch of presentations; it is a reminder of why this industry thrives. Its build on relationships with neighbours, vendors and friends who want you to succeed. We share our hard-earned knowledge with our competitors knowing that “a rising tide, raises all ships.”

The fairways may stretch across thousands of kilometres, but for three days in Calgary, the industry stood united and committed to raising the bar for turf quality, operational excellence, and professional growth. In a city known for its entrepreneurial spirit and western hospitality, the CGSA conference proved that Canadian golf is in capable hands.