

CGSA March Regional Report

While spring is arriving in some parts of the country, it's still cold in the middle. Manitoba has not seen many days near zero, while this may not be great for the people, early indications are it is good for the grass. Winter has treated turf well with sufficient snow cover through the harshest months.

Before spring arrives, there is 1 more conference on the horizon for Manitobans. The Manitoba Golf and Turf Conference is to be held March 10 and 11th at the Hyatt House in Winnipeg. As in past years, the speaker lineup is phenomenal. This year the lineup includes Dr. Eric Watkins from University of Minnesota, Dr. Katerina Jordan from University of Guelph, Ryan Hurlbut founder of Safe2Day, Kevin Hennigar Equipment Manager from Angus Glen, Tom Wolf from Sprayer 101, Tamara Butterfield from Groundwater Use Licensing, and CGSA Past President Braydon Gilbert. This year's conference will again include a social event at TransCanada Brewing. These events will provide an excellent opportunity for Manitoba to learn and network.

The recently held Canadian Golf Course Management Conference in Calgary was a fantastic time, over 40 Manitobans attended this year's event. The tradeshow, speaker lineup, and social evenings were excellent and very well attended.

After conference season, spring will follow in Manitoba and before we know it golf courses will be opening. At this point in the season weather has been very favourable for turf. The extended fall allowed for a long hardening off period and despite a few warm days through January, snow cover remains good by all reports.

While there has not been a great deal of movement within Manitoba this winter, a special congratulations to Derek Chlopecki on his retirement from Pine Ridge Golf Club after 32 years as the Superintendent. Derek is a member of the Manitoba Golf Hall of Fame class of 2021. Some highlights of Dereks career are hosting the Manitoba Open a remarkable 22 times, a number that is never likely to be achieved again in the 100 plus year history of this event.

A further congratulations to Jeremy Sokal on his appointment as the new Superintendent at Pine Ridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin How, AGS

Manitoba Director