

## CGSA British Columbia Update

May 13, 2025

It all seems so quickly that the turn of the year is long behind us, and we are barreling down on another golf season. As I was coming off the course today, I caught myself thinking, “You know what? Some days I would pay them so I could do this job.” Now of course not every day is like that, but springtime always seems to make me really appreciate what I get to do for a living.

Now I’ll remind you that this was the end of the day and perhaps the mind wanders a little more when tired, but it did start me down a not foreign to me path of wondering why I enjoy this so much. I enjoy playing golf, but it’s far from a passion. The mornings are early, the days are long, the challenges are never-ending, but I’m starting to think I really do like all those things too.

I had a member stop me the other day to say, “Thank you for all that you and your Team do, this place is my sanctuary.” This took me back to the opening address from Dale Kobelsky of Syngenta Canada this past February in Niagara Falls. His message was simple, what we do matters. While my true sanctuary may not be at my workplace, the spaces we create and surfaces that we maintain provide the opportunity for so many others to have their sanctuary. Whether it is the beautiful surroundings, the physical exercise, the mental challenge of the game of golf, or simply the social opportunities that our courses create, what we do matters.

In a world that currently seems excessively chaotic and bewildering, perhaps more than ever what we do matters. I’ll try to remember this thought next time that sprinkler won’t shut off after the 3<sup>rd</sup> time flushing and it’s time to dig it up, digging this next hole really matters 😊.

With my evening muse out of the way, I would like to draw attention to what I think will be one of the top events of the season out west. The CGSA is hosting their second annual Summer Shamble event at [Okanagan Golf Club this June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>](#). Designed to be hosted in areas that do not typically see a CGSA Conference or Fall Field Day, the Summer Shamble helps to keep travel costs down and provides an opportunity for more members to attend CGSA events. Host Superintendent Gary Stadnik is very excited to host us and has even added a night before horse race to the event list. Horse race and reception on the Monday evening. Education, golf, and dinner on Tuesday. What a great time of year to grab a quick trip to the Okanagan Valley and catch up with the awesome people in our industry!

On the education side, we have lined up Cal Club Superintendent Javier Campos to come up and speak with us. I asked Javier what he would like to speak about and along with some interesting projects as Cal Club, he had this to say:

*“I have a very different approach than the "old school" way of grinding guys into the ground, which again, works for me/us in terms of actually letting guys enjoy what they do and not regretting getting a job on the golf course. I love that when I do exit interviews of Interns and/or*

*assistants here, they say it's the most fun and rewarding job they have had and for some, even making it the reason they decided not to quit the industry. In lesser words, describe my management approach and how we need to evolve with how people view work and life balances and how that is definitely important to not burn yourself out of the industry. ”*

Well, combined with my opening thoughts and the opportunity to get away from your course in the summer, it seems like this event fits right into what Javier is talking about. Hopefully you can make the time to join us at Okanagan Golf Club this June and until then, keep doing those things that matter.

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BC CGSA Director