

CGSA Report

The Manitoba Golf Superintendents kicked off its 75th anniversary with a cocktail reception on October 24th at Glendale Golf and Country Club in Winnipeg. This is one day shy of the founding date of October 25th, 1950 at Glendale. The evenings master of ceremonies was Rob Officer a long-time member of the association and past board member. Rob shared a brief history of the association and some points of interest from the history books along the way.

Here are some of those points; the origins of the association began in the summer of 1950 when a group of interested greenskeepers met on several occasions to discuss forming an association which would, through the interchange of knowledge and ideas, upgrade and improve playing conditions on Manitoba's Golf Courses, as well as promote and improve the professional status of the men who cared for the courses.

The original mandate was to:

- A) Form an association of the Golf Greens Keepers of Manitoba for the information, instruction, education and mutual advantage of its members.
- B) To promote knowledge and disseminate information regarding the planning and construction of golf courses.
- C) To assist members to obtain employment and to extend relief to needy and deserving members.

On Wednesday, October 25, 1950, a meeting to organize the Association was held at the Glendale Golf and Country Club. At this meeting the group was named "The Manitoba Greenskeepers Association" by resolution. The following were elected as officers:

A.C. (Cy) Creed President
John B. Steel Vice President
Frank MacDonald Treasurer
Stan Walker Secretary

The mandate that was put in place 75 years ago continues to serve the membership today.

As the [Manitoba Golf Course Superintendents Association](#) (MGSA) was founded in 1950, it served as a model for other provinces to emphasize education and member support. Once again, John B. Steel was a founding member and early leader of CGSA.

Consequently, Manitoba also played a key role in the history of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) which involved the professionalization of the golf course

maintenance role, with its national formation in 1967 led by [John B. Steel](#), who championed the term "course superintendent" over "greenskeeper".

Manitoba has also had a number of CGSA Presidents including CGSA's first President in John B. Steel in 1967. Others who have followed in his footsteps include; Ian Martinusen in 2005, Greg Holden in 2010, Darren Kalyniuk in 2020, and Current President Brayden Gilbert, AGS.

The 1990's- so productive for our profession locally and nationally with an association name change from GCSAM to MGSA, MGSA hiring an Executive Director, the creation of Occupational Standards locally and nationally, the creation for the Greenspace Management program and at the national Level Occupational standards for Canada and the Environmental Standards and Resource manual produced by CGSA under the lead of Jay Leach and the start of the GSM Program.

Some of these highlights show the achievements of our association regionally as well as at a national level. Many of these initiatives continue today. The CGSA has begun the process of updating the Environmental Standards and Resource manual. The accreditation process continues and has recently received and update no longer requiring an 8-year period for members to challenge the MS exam.

Thank you to Rob Officer for hosting the evening, Current President Jordan Joye for speaking on the current MGSA, and Dave Linstead along with his committee for organizing the evening those who attended had a great time. THE MGSA continues to plan events for the remainder of the year and will be launching some great 75th anniversary initiatives throughout the year.

In present times the fall has seen significant moisture throughout the province, much of the total season's rainfall has hit the ground from August 1st till October 31st. This has created challenges for construction projects and regular course operations as well as preparing for winter. The majority of Manitoba's Golf Courses are closed for the season with final preparations for winter being completed.

The countdown to opening in April can now begin. As a busy season winds down I encourage our membership to reflect on their successes from this past season, be inspired by the past success and begin planning our future success. It takes an active membership at all levels of our industry to promote and create success.

Respectfully submitted:

Dustin How, AGS
Manitoba Director