

CGSA Report - Dec 2020

It was an abrupt end to the 2020 golf season as snow descended on Alberta causing a flurry of action to get courses put to bed. Hopefully, everyone was able to get everything they needed done on the golf course and enjoy some relaxing time away.

We definitely don't want to re-start 2020 but it has been great to watch the resurgence of our Golf Industry. Our golf courses were once again seen as an essential and safe recreation facility for the young and old. It can't be lost on us how the golfing public flocked to courses across the province as an opportunity to be outside and enjoy mother nature. Yes, it is just grass, but could there be a year where playing golf was any more important in our society. We talk about mental health, life balance, and physical health being so important, all of these are provided as you make your way around 18 holes. We need to keep promoting our industry for those exact reasons. As we continue down the Covid path, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. After another long winter, what could be better than a spring walk on your local golf course. I know both the AGSA and the CGSA will be diligent and ready for any obstacle that presents itself as we head towards another COVID golf season. As superintendents, let's make sure our clubs are again promoted as a safe place to enjoy.

That being said, at the AGSA Annual General Meeting, Dean Zilinski ended his tenure as President. I want to thank Dean for his tireless effort this abnormal Covid year. The amount of time and stress that went along with the re-start of golf can't be understated. NAGA Alberta was at the forefront of getting golf back in business, and Dean was an integral part of that committee. Also, at the AGM Cameron Kusiek stepped off the board as his tenure as Past President came to an end. Thank you, Cam, for the many years of supporting our members and our profession. I am very excited to see Mike Roberts, from D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club, become the new board member. Last but not least, I look forward to working with new President Chris Prodahl from the Glendale G&CC. The first AGSA meeting is scheduled for the Glendale in early June. Fingers crossed we will all be able to get together.

We are excited to bring the Canadian conference online. The Canadian Virtual Conference will be a 3-day event consisting of education and a virtual Trade show. This event will run from March 2-4. The conference committee is currently working on the speaker lineup, and we hope to release this information very soon. We are also in the process of coordinating what our Fall Field Day will look like in 2021. Stay tuned for details on that event coming in January.

It's always very hard to talk about yourself, even harder to talk when something is sprung on you without knowing! It was a surprising honour to receive the Walter Gooder Distinguished Service Award at the AGSA AGM. It was very humbling to get this award, and as shown in the zoom call, I was very emotional about it. On one hand sitting alone in my office receiving the award was weird, but zoom allowed my family to watch (unbeknownst to me), a special guest to speak, and it made the presentation every bit as good. I want to thank so many people but we would run out of pages. Briefly, the guys who brought me into the associations, Bruce Constable (AGSA), James Beebe (CGSA), and all the Past Presidents that I served under and with at the AGSA and CGSA. So many lifelong friends made through serving our members. I will

say this, our superintendent fraternity is like no other industry. It is a special breed of people, sometimes we are up on top of that mountain, while other times up to our knees in mud, but we always find a way to get the job done. When I was up at Mountain View Golf Course in the Yukon, if I had the opportunity, I wanted to serve and be part of the superintendent association. I have been lucky enough to do that. I have always done it for one reason, to better our profession and elevate the superintendent in our industry. I believe we have made huge steps, but we are not done yet. Lastly, thanks to all that reached out to me it was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dustin Zdan
CGSA Alberta Director