

President's message August 2007

A few recent unfortunate events have really made me think about what is important in life and what constitutes true happiness. Is it a successful career? Is it a successful family life? Is it personal wealth? At times I think we are all guilty of working really hard during those six grueling months called the golf season. Unfortunately, it takes a few tragic events for all of us to revisit our approach to life and determine what truly defines happiness.

I have decided to set aside any association business during this message to mourn, recognize, and honour a few tragic events that have taken place in the last year, on behalf of our association and membership. I've thought about these unfortunate events a lot over the last while and determined that it's much larger than our careers, the golf business, the game of golf, or anything else I can write about.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family of Steve Connors. Steve is an employee of Turf Care Products, and his daughter Abi, has had a recent unfortunate accident, and continues to fight every day on the road to recovery.

On behalf our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family and friends of Paul Pilley, who passed away early this year. Paul, an educator and owner of The P.E.S.T. Institute touched the lives of many in the golf industry.

On behalf our membership and association, our heart goes out to Mike Jansen and his family. Mike is the equipment manager at Credit Valley Golf & Country Club and was in an unfortunate accident earlier this month. Mike, continue to fight and please know that there are a lot of people in the industry who truly care and are pulling for you.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out the family of Jay Lavis. Jay was a long time member of the OGSA and passed away earlier this year. Jay was a colourful character and was loved by many.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the family of Graydon Goff. Graydon passed away earlier this month, and was a long time supporter of the OGSA, and spent the last 30 years working in the golf industry.

On behalf of our membership and association, our heart goes out to the staff and family of Ernie Amsler. Ernie was a great father, mentor, and long time member of our association. Ernie was respected and admired by many of his peers and staff members alike.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the above individuals for the gift of realization and appreciation. You've helped all of us realize how valuable our health, family, friends, and lives are. You've helped us appreciate the people around us whether it's in our personal lives or at work. Thank you on behalf of our membership and association. Your gift will be appreciated and remembered forever.

Sincerely,
Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Sean DeSilva
President