

President's message

by Randy Booker

Otter Creek Golf Club

It's been a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors and a privilege to be elected as president of the OGSA for the coming year. As I reflect on my experiences with the association it's an honor to be following in the footsteps of every past president of the OGSA from its inception in 1924. A very big thank you must go to our immediate past president Jeff Stauffer, a friend and colleague. Jeff's dedication to the association over the past 8 years is inspiring in itself and we can be proud of Jeff's term as president. I'd also like to thank Sean DeSilva for his dedication during his tenure on the Board and we all wish Sean the very best in his future endeavours.

Once again we were blessed with a successful Ontario Golf Course Management Conference and Trade Show. All early indications show that we surpassed past delegate numbers and exhibitors showing once again that this event is one of the premier trade shows and education events in the industry. I must acknowledge the many hours of planning, organization and commitment by our Conference Chair Jeff Alexander along with his conference committee. Well done Jeff! Certainly I'd be remiss if I didn't extend a gracious thank you to our OGSA staff and volunteers for their dedication to our business; thank you Dorothy, Pat, Deborah and Kendall. A kind thank you must also go to Ken Cousineau and his staff at the CGSA for all their work in managing our conference and trade show. We look forward to the joint efforts of the CGSA and OGSA for the combined 2010 show in Toronto.

I must admit it's a bit frightening to be at the helm of the OGSA but as I look at the history of the association and the dedication of every person that has served prior, it certainly gives me the strength and warmth knowing that I'm not alone nor are you as members. When we look at past issues that have plagued the OGSA and the fight that has been waged over the years to secure our present voice in the golf industry it pushes our inner strength and brings our passion for the game to the forefront. The OGSA's commitment to insure the continued growth of the game while increasing our stewardship of the environment is just one of our strengths as an association.

We are going to be tested by many issues over the year, none of which are more important than realizing our future with Bill 64 and the challenges that we'll face. It's our duty as members to look at these challenges with optimism and enthusiasm. If our mind and actions tell us to fail we will ultimately do so, I personally challenge all of you to look at these issues and face them head on knowing that we will survive and succeed in holding our spot among the game's most influential people.

We are in a period where the economy is being squeezed, resources are crunched and budgets tightened. We occupy a position that will be looked upon to become more responsible and accountable for every action. It's time to show our leadership in the industry and help each other through these periods and place ourselves along with our clubs in a position for success and growth in the future.

We clearly have a journey ahead of us but let's not forget who we are and what we are. Take time to relax and enjoy life to insure that when we're needed we are at our best whether that be for work or our families. Enjoy the coming season and remember "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift".