

President's Message Winter 2010

As I write my first President's message, it's hard not to reflect on the last eight years that I have been involved with the OGSA. I remember Jim Flett calling me and asking if I would like to be nominated to run for the Board of Directors. At the time I was very busy with the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association, but Jim took the time to discuss the importance of the OGSA and being engaged with your provincial association. Jim was a big influence in helping me make the decision to become a director and I'm so glad I did. Along the way you work with so many great individuals who volunteer their time to make our profession better. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each president who I served under; Jim Flett, Mark Piccolo, Rob Ackermann, Paul Scenna, Robert Burrows, Sean DeSilva, Jeff Stauffer and Randy Booker. Thanks so much for your support, leadership and friendship over the years.

Speaking of past presidents, the OGSA held the 2nd Past Presidents' Luncheon at Credit Valley Golf and Country Club on January 14th. The afternoon was filled with some great camaraderie, stories of the past and a good discussion on the association's direction into this new decade. Thanks to all the past presidents that attended and a special thank you to our host Jeff Stauffer for organizing the day.

I had the opportunity to attend the Golf Association of Ontario Awards Ceremony and Annual General Meeting at Maple Downs Golf & Country Club on January 30th. The Golf Association of Ontario (GAO) has built their new home at Wooden Sticks Golf Club and has signed a new lease agreement for the next 15 years. Although membership numbers were slightly down the association financially ran a surplus. One great thing is that our player development program is really in great shape, having our province win 6 of the national championships in 2009. In other news the GAO was able to hire their provincial coach for this year to continue to run programs and work with our golfers. The GAO donated funds to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation. OTRF President David Kuypers was on hand to accept the cheque and graciously spoke of our profession and why we need continued research in our industry. A special presentation was given by the Royal Canadian Golf Association on their new branding named "Golf Canada". Over the last year they have built some strong relations to help them market and sell their branding and will be working with all provinces to unveil and promote it. Look for the new Golf Canada Cards that any provincial member can purchase for special privileges.

Continuing education is an important part of being a golf course superintendent. I hope you had a chance to participate in the 2010 Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. By attending this show you have shown that you are committed to improving your profession, career and facility. Socializing with colleagues and building new relationships are part of the process, providing a learning opportunity as we get ready for another golf season. The Awards Luncheon showcases our scholarship winners in the past year. Congratulations to our recipients Michael Herbert Newton, Alex Barratt, Tyler Windfeld and Michael Trainor. The 2010 show is a joint effort between the CGSA and the OGSA. I would like to thank Ken Cousineau and his staff at the CGSA for all the hard work they have done to make this show a success. Thank you to the Conference Co-Chairmen, Jarrod Barakett and Chris Andrejicka and their committee on a job well done!

The golf industry in Ontario looks strong with associations being governed by individuals that truly care about the future of the game of golf. The growth and viability of the game is everyone's responsibility. Make sure you check *Calendar of Events* on our website for association updates. Sign up for some events this year and take advantage of what your association has to offer.

I am very honoured and humbled to be the 55th President of the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association. At anytime, please feel free to contact me with concerns, comments or suggestions. All the best for a successful 2010 golf season!

Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association

Jeff Alexander
President