An eventful month

Marion and I have just arrived home from spending a week in Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, where I was asked to present a paper at the Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in Toronto on "Basic Principles of Greenkeeping in the UK."

On arrival in Toronto the sun was shining which made a change from the weather back home, but I soon realised that the sun gave a false impression as the temperature was recorded at 9 degrees below, but the weather apart we were given a warm welcome wherever we went.

This just illustrates the camaraderie that exists among greenkeepers worldwide. We met so many nice people and they gave us the feeling we had known them for years. My time during the day was taken up mostly by the conference and show, but we were taken to see the Niagara Falls by Pelino Scenna and then had lunch at the Burlington Golf and Country Club where Pelino is Superintendent.

You will have heard much about the GTC over the last few months, some of it fact and some just gossip. Until all the facts are available, we cannot speculate the outcome. I do, however, feel it could and should have been handled differently. We, like other parties on the GTC Committee have had a mixed reception held at the top of the CN Tower, which is the tallest building in the world... and has a glass floor!

The conference was very well attended with an interesting array of speakers and as the week progressed it became more and more obvious that greenkeeping in Canada was much closer to methods used in the UK than most other overseas countries. This is largely due to the fact that they are dealing with cool climate grasses, the same as here.

I feel that a closer working relationship with the Canadians could benefit both our associations and our greenkeepers and I would like to see such a relationship develop. The Canadians brought a party of 23 to the BTME in 1999 and maybe we could take a party to their conference and exhibition in year 2000. The cost of such a package will be looked into, so those who would be interested, watch this space.

We came together in the evenings for the excellent social programme, the first of which was the President’s Reception held at the top of the CN Tower, which is the tallest building in the world... and has a glass floor!

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