Crisis in Canada puts clamps on course spending

By PETER BLAIS
TORONTO — The cry of the Loony — as Canadians call their one-dollar, bird-imprinted coin — has been a mournful sound for superintendents and suppliers of U.S.-manufactured course equipment as the plummeting Canadian dollar has made those items increasingly expensive for Canadian course managers.

By early August, the Canadian dollar had fallen to a record low, an equivalent of approximately 65 cents in U.S. currency. That represented a 15-percent decline from a year earlier and was forcing some superintendents to consider cutting back, or at the very least continuing on page 49

The British are coming

By TREVOR LEDGER & MARK LESLIE
Over 100 years ago the "fathers" of golf course design boarded steam packets and headed west over the Atlantic Ocean to share the "gospel" according to St. Andrews.

Now, following 60 years of one-way eastbound traffic (with the odd exception bucking the trend), a trickle of British design evangelists is lighting the fires of revival.

Saddle your horse, continuing on page 36

Developmental tidal wave hits Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

By PETER BLAIS
PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Three major golf projects located within 15 minutes of one another are in the works in this southeast Florida community that is already home to many upscale private and public facilities.

A Catholic priest, who wants to pair a golf course with a treatment center for troubled teens, hopes to close on a 500-acre parcel for the facility here this fall; Golf Digest magazine plans to build a home for its golf schools and a venue to entertain corporate clients; and Jack Nicklaus is designing what many people are calling his legacy near his South Florida home.

Father Leo Armbrust, who is the team chaplain for the NFL's Miami Dolphins and the Big East Miami Hurricanes football teams, is negotiating with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to purchase the property, where he plans to build Renaissance Village.

Armbrust hopes to build a private course co-designed by Jack

Public Golf Forum Maintenance Track: Long-sought solutions unveiled

By MARK LESLIE
PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — From unveiling the long-sought solution to Poa annua and the initial results of the country's first "environmental test course," to illustrating the best practices for everyday operations, the upcoming Public Golf Forum promises practical help in its conference Maintenance sessions.

To be held at Rancho Las Palmas Marriott Resort here, Oct. 26-27, the Golf Course News-sponsored national conference and expo is geared toward superintendents, general managers, owners and developers of public-access golf facilities.

Following keynote addresses by Dr. Michael Hurdzan on Monday and PGA Tour star Greg Norman on Tuesday, each

Public Golf Forum Preview
If you're on the fence about attending this year's Forum, take a look at who'll be on hand

Spotlight on Asia: Malaysia
Overbeck visits Kelab Golf Seri Selangor Public Golf Course, Malaysia's first public track

Public Golf Numbers Remain Strong
Twelve years ago, private golfers made up 20 percent of the golf population. By 1997, that percentage had dropped to just above 18 percent. Since 1986 public golfers grew by over 39 percent, from 15 million to 21 million in 1997.

COURSE MAINTENANCE
Water study exonerates fungicides
Greenskeeping and the "2" Rule
Cottonwoods perfect soil, fertilizer storage

COURSE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT
Golfing the Big Apple's main street
Great British Open holes come to Vegas
Andrews AFB first base to reach 54 holes

COURSE MANAGEMENT
Boyne hits greens and slopes
Meadowbrook adds a pair
OB Sports expands to Seattle

SUPPLIER BUSINESS
Flowtronex pumps up local service
Rain Bird gets into the a
Lebanon to market isobutylidene diurea

Crisis in Canada puts clamps on course spending

Maybe a first: Gary Player, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus all in one room at the same time for the project announcement in Palm Beach Gardens.