Oh, Canada!

Super of the Year: Stay enthusiastic

By MARK LESLIE

B RAMPON, Ontario, Canada — Ask Bob Heron about his accomplishments and he first points away from himself, to his many assistants who have gone on to take head superintendent jobs from North America to Loch Lomond, Scotland.

Ask about his family and he embelishes about 29-year-old son Scott “whose resume is better than mine.” But ask colleagues of Canada’s 1998 Superintendent of the Year and “He’s an upbeat guy and always has a positive personality, which makes him fun to be around.”

“R. Tee’s contributions to the game of golf locally, nationally and internationally have been many and continue to be ongoing,” said golfing pal Paul Dermott of Oakdale Golf & Country Club in Downsview, who nominated Heron on behalf of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association. “He’s a good player, always turns out a playable and well-maintained course for his membership. He’s always been a real proponent of bentgrass, and he was one of the first ones up here to experiment with some chemicals to eradicate poa annua.”

Indeed, several innovations in golf course maintenance have been pioneered by Bob Heron. He’s been one of the first ones up here to experiment with some chemicals to eradicate poa annua. He’s a real proponent of bentgrass, and he was one of the first ones up here to experiment with some chemicals to eradicate poa annua.

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Headhunters are the new niche in job placement

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — While working with fellow course officials and investigating local and national job-referral services have long been used to discover superintendents’ jobs, search firms, or “headhunters,” are gaining credence with clubs and general managers.

“We are sensing there is a growing need for using search firms such as ours in the recruiting of superintendents and directors of golf maintenance operations,” said Richard Farrell, a partner with Golf Search Personnel in Clermont, Fla. “We found we can be a neutral source for private clubs, ensuring no favoritism is involved as there can be in club politics. Also, using a search firm brings the confidentiality that needs to be involved in a search.

Headhunters follow a similar format, though each has its own unique style.

Dick Kopplin of Kopplin Search, Inc. in LaQuinta, Calif., has been in the golf business for 28 years, many of those as a well-connected club general manager.

“We provide a specialty service to clubs where the general manager or president will contact me to help them find a qualified superintendent,” Kopplin said. “After sending them a packet of information about my company, with references, I will contact me to help them find a qualified superintendent.”

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BRIEFS

PTC AWARDS $175,000 FOR RESEARCH

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council has announced allocation of funds to Penn State for the 1998-99 fiscal year. The $175,000 research grant brings to almost $2.5 million what the council has donated to Penn State over the years. The funds will support research projects in the departments of agronomy, entomology, and plant pathology. It will also support eight scholarships and awards granted to undergraduate and graduate students.

IGCSA ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTORS

DES MOINES, Iowa — The following superintendents were elected to serve on the board of directors for the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Iowa Turfgrass Conference here. President Dennis Watters, of the Fort Dodge Country Club in Fort Dodge, Iowa, will be assisted by new directors Ron Stephan, Joyce Hamilton, John Atesen and Tom Verrips.