

RCGA supports environmental initiatives with donations

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada — Two environmental initiatives have received a big boost thanks to a \$110,000 donation from the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA).

A check for \$75,000 was presented to the Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation while the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary

System of Canada received \$35,000 during the RCGA's annual general meeting here at Edmonton's Fantasyland Hotel.

"The sport of golf has enjoyed incredible growth in recent years," said Stephen Ross, executive director of the RCGA. "However, that growth places increased importance on devel-

oping the game in an environmentally responsible manner. Both these programs work hard to protect and enhance our environment and we are proud to support them."

The Canadian Turfgrass Research Foundation (CTRF) funds turfgrass and environmental research at various universi-

ties and research facilities across Canada. The foundation's goal is to reduce maintenance requirements by improving turfgrass species and cultural practices. Institutions currently receiving CTRF support are Laval University, University of Guelph and Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

ACSS OF CANADA

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada develops and administers environmental education programs for landowners. As many as 25 Canadian golf courses have become fully certified sanctuaries for wildlife, while another 170 courses are actively participating in the program. The RCGA's donation will assist in the ongoing environmental education program.

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Articles:

- Secondary turf equipment market growing pains**
By JAY FINEGAN
CHICAGO — A new source of capital has entered the golf industry, and this one comes with deep pockets. Heller Financial, a \$20-billion credit firm, recently established a golf lending group with plans to fill some of the void created when the Bank of America abandoned the golf-financing field last fall. Ironically, two of the key players in the new Heller golf brain trust have sailed in from Bank of America. Rick Nekoroski, who completed \$275 million in golf course investments for Bank of America, will be in charge of the new Heller group. Rick Heller, Heller's president and CEO, says the new Heller group will be a "win-win" for both the lender and the borrower. Heller says the new Heller group will be a "win-win" for both the lender and the borrower. Heller says the new Heller group will be a "win-win" for both the lender and the borrower.
- Chicago credit giant to finance golf**
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- Wolf Creek offers high drama in Nevada desert**
By DOUG SAUNDERS
MESQUITE, Nev. — The fairways of the recently opened Wolf Creek Golf Club pour through the stark desert terrain like green lava flowing through the landscape. Their stunning contrast against the multi-colored sandstone cliffs creates a spectacular setting that begs a golfer to come out and play in this high desert setting in southeastern Nevada. Your first thoughts are: how could a... Continued on page 24
- Drought-stricken N'west faces dry summer**
By JOEL JOYNT
SPOKANE, Idaho — A drought-stricken Northwest is facing a dry summer. According to Scott Gudes, acting administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Northwest is the most drought-stricken region of the United States. Continued on page 12

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Ice damage

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to clean up in the spring." At a price of \$16 for a 40-pound bag of Profile and \$8 a bag for a 50-pound bag of sunflower seeds, the material costs are low.

Superintendent Scott Cybulski at Falmouth Country Club is having similar success with Profile. He uses one 40-pound bag per green and has made one application so far this year.

"It works right down through the ice and makes air holes in it," he said. "When it is above freezing it works really well. It turns the ice into a frozen margarita consistency."

While some are concerned that constant applications of Profile would cause the build up of a Profile "layer" in the soil, Hodge is not concerned.

"I am putting down such a light application," he said. "And with my verticutting and aeration it gets worked into the soil. I have also just done this twice this year. If I was putting down tons year after year, then I would worry."

Getting rid of the snow cover and the ice, however, does open the greens up to other problems, Hodge conceded.

"Exposed turfgrass is now susceptible to direct low temperature kill and desiccation," he said. "But at least I can see the turf and manage it."

The best case scenario at this point would be snowy weather. "We have had a lot of ice this winter," he said. "Some snow cover would help." ■

Snowmelt clues

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analyzed, and future fencing and repellants can be planned.

Although not related to the snowmelt process, mice damage inhabiting irrigation controllers is another potential problem spot. Most manufacturers recommend that irrigation field satellites remain on during the winter period. These can generate small amounts of heat that mice cherish over the winter period. The resulting damage from wires being chewed can cause major headaches. Preventive measures such as putting mice bait inside these controllers can reduce this damage. ■