



Oh, Canada!

COVERAGE OF THE 50TH CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW CONTINUES ON PAGES 20-25.

Super of the Year: Stay enthusiastic

By MARK LESLIE

BRAMPTON, 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 embellishes about 29-year-old son Scott “whose resume is better than mine.” But ask colleagues of Canada’s 1998 Superintendent of the Year and they remark about a man who has greatly impacted this career field.

“Bob Heron has a good relationship with his members and he produces a pretty fine golf club,” Gordon Witteveen of The Board of Trade Country Club in Woodbridge said about the man who is now head superintendent at Beacon Hall Golf Club here. “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



Above is Beacon Hall Golf Club’s 2nd hole, which keeps Bob Heron, below, and his crew busy in Brampton, Ontario.

of Oakdale Golf & Country Club in Downsview, who nominated Heron on behalf of the Ontario Golf Course Superintendents Association. “He’s a good player and 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 pio-

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Bubble Cover wins converts in Quebec

By MARK LESLIE

TORONTO — Be it laser shooting, Global Positioning Satellite technology or soil sensors, some of the greatest advances in the world of golf have been borrowed from other industries. Enter the latest: Bubble Covers, originally designed to lay over swimming pools to keep them warm.

Quebec superintendents have been experimenting with Bubble Covers to protect their greens from winter injury, and, according to Serge Gauthier, they have found success while saving money.

Speaking at the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference here, the superintendent at Islesmere Golf and Country Club in Laval, Quebec, said his experience with Bubble Cover over the last three winters has been extraordinary in terms of effectiveness, ease of installation and removal, and cost compared to using straw.

Traditionally, Gauthier had protected his greens during winters by laying down a strong netting, spreading a layer of straw over that and then covering both with a greens cover.

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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 Ausen and Tom Verrips.

Pooch sniffs out golf course’s elusive PVC

By PETER BLAIS

BRUTUS, Mich. — Think dogs are just good for chasing geese off golf courses? Well, Steve Sump, superintendent at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club here has a PVC-seeking missile of a Labrador Retriever that can find clogged drainage caps through the deepest, murkiest standing water allowing Sump to get the flooded parts of his course back in play in two shakes of a dog’s tail.

Buddy is an 18-month-old, 80-pound yellow lab who has lived in the Sump household since he was six weeks old. Buddy began accompanying Sump to work almost immediately, riding on the superintendent’s cart and quickly developing into a top-flight goose deterrent.

“I originally brought him out here to chase the geese,” Sump said. “We don’t have any geese now. We’ve got more turkeys than anything, and a few ducks. I got him to understand not to chase the turkeys or the ducks.”

Being a retriever, Buddy loved to pick things up and bring

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Buddy and partner Steve Sump quite a team at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club.

Headhunters are the new niche in job placement

By TERRY BUCHEN

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — While networking 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 Clemont, 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 their 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

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