



## CGSA NEWS RELEASE

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### CGSA Announces Award Winners for 2008

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) today announced its 2008 award winners at its annual Fall Field Day national golf championship tournament in Collingwood, Ontario. The Superintendent of the Year, Future Superintendent of the Year and John B Steel Award recipients were identified, as well the President's Scholarship Award choices.

#### Superintendent of the Year

The Superintendent of the Year award recognizes a superintendent member of the CGSA who has that position for a minimum of five years and who has distinguished her or him self through dedication to the profession, performance as a golf course manager and contributions to their profession and their community. Canada's seven regional superintendent associations are eligible to nominate candidates for this annual award and the selection of the award recipient is made by a panel of five distinguished current or former superintendents who have received the award in the past or who have served the CGSA in the capacity of President. The CGSA is pleased to announce that William (Bill) Fach, Master Superintendent, AGS, CGCS, at the Black Bear Ridge Golf Club in Belleville, Ontario is the CGSA Superintendent of the Year for 2008.

Bill has been a CGSA member since 1978 and holds the Association's Master Superintendent® (MS) designation which he earned in 1996. Bill has been the Superintendent at Black Bear Ridge Golf Course since 2003. He has worked for 29 years as a Golf Course Superintendent. He started at Essex Golf and Country Club in 1977 before moving to Rosedale Golf and Country Club in 1986. After 10 years Bill moved to York Downs Golf Club for 5 years and he has just completed his 5<sup>th</sup> years at the Black Bear Golf Course in Belleville, Ontario.

Mr. Fach's nomination stated, "...We are delighted to nominate Bill as a most deserving candidate for the Superintendent of the Year award. Bill's career represents the essence of excellence in golf course management and professional leadership. "Bill has a long track record of being a dedicated volunteer and of making a habit of investing in the future of our profession. Of particular note, he has served as President of the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, as a Board member of the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association and for the past 5 years he has served on various committees, including Education, Webcast and this year the Conference Logistic group, for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America".

In a letter signed by several of Bill's former colleagues, they note, "Bill is passionate about his commitments to his profession, his colleagues, and to the game of golf". "Seven of his assistants have moved on to become superintendents. He has also mentored eight individuals who have become either assistant superintendents or now work in some other turf related position".

Bill's many accomplishments include his service as a Director of both the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association and the CGSA and, in 2002 he was elected to the position of President of the CGSA. His management skills and drive for perfection have elevated Black Bear Ridge Golf Club to its rightful place as one of Canada's best. It was heralded as *Best New Course in Canada East of Toronto* in 2006 by both Score Golf Magazine and Golf Digest, and as *Best New Public Course* in 2005 by Fairway Magazine.

Congratulations to Bill Fach on being named Canadian Superintendent of the Year for 2008.

#### Future Superintendent of the Year

The Future Superintendent of the Year Award is awarded to a full-time student member of CGSA who is completing their graduating year in a CGSA recognized program. The nominees who are considered for this award are interviewed by a panel made up of a representative of the Toro Company (the award sponsor), the industry (an architect, owner, superintendent, etc.) and the CGSA.

Mitch Davidson, Golf Course Technical Supervisor of The Fairmont Banff Springs, in Banff, Alberta is the 2008 winner of the CGSA-Toro Future Superintendent Award. Davidson was raised in Virden, Manitoba and studied Turfgrass Management at Olds College from 2006-2008. Prior to this he attended Brandon University and the University of Manitoba from 2001- 2005 and worked towards a BA, majoring in psychology with a minor in sociology.

Davidson started his career at the Virden Wellview Golf Course in 2002 as a greenkeeper. He then worked at the Miniota Golf Club for the 2005 and 2006 seasons as the greenkeeper. In 2006, after his first year of Turfgrass Management, he stayed in Alberta to work as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant at the Speargrass Golf Course and he is currently working as the Technical Supervisor at the Banff Springs Golf Course, in Banff, Alberta.

Davidson was raised in Virden, Manitoba and considers his first superintendent George Trowell to be his mentor. "He instilled the passion and curiosity for the turfgrass industry that still drives me today". "I still call him up whenever I have questions or just to talk and he is always there to guide me". Mitch, when asked what has had the biggest impact on his young career, stated, "Having the opportunity to start from the ground up at small rural golf courses gave me the strong knowledge base, experience and work ethic that has helped me to reach my goals thus far in the turfgrass industry."

Davidson would also like to thank the great people in the turfgrass industry that he has had the opportunity and pleasure to work with. Individuals such as Justin Jones, Warren Boese, Russ Cramm, Dan Nolin, and Bob Burrows have all played important roles in aiding in his development, not just as a turfgrass manager but also as an individual. He would also like to thank the Turf Grass Management Faculty at Olds College and especially Dave Moroz, Ian Morrow, Ken Fry, and James Smith and a special thank you to his family, friends, and classmates for their support.

"There are a few special people that have always been there to listen to me, provide support, and keep me grounded. Without these people I would have never met my goals", says Davidson.

As winner of this year's award, Davidson will travel to Scotland and take part in a six week training and work experience program. In March, 2009, he will speak at the CGSA Conference in Halifax. He will also participate in a trip to Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis in 2009. Olds College will be presented with a personal computer on behalf of Mitch Davidson.

Congratulations to all the nominees for this year who demonstrated dedication, a passion for the profession and a wealth of knowledge, all of which will certainly help them prosper in this industry.

Also, thank you to the Toro Company – a strong supporter of the profession – for partnering with the CGSA to invest in the future of the industry.

## **John B Steel Award**

The CGSA John B Steel Award is presented annually to an individual chosen by the CGSA Board of Directors who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of golf course superintendent. An individual may be nominated by the Board of Directors of CGSA or by a CGSA superintendent member. The recipient of this award is invited as a guest of the CGSA to attend the annual Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show where they are presented with an original soap stone carving designed and carved by Bill Fach, Superintendent at Black Bear Ridge Golf Course in Belleville, Ontario

The 2008 John B Steel recipient is Walter Gooder, Master Superintendent®, and AGS™, of the Country Hills Golf Club, in Calgary, Alberta who has been a CGSA member since 1973. Walt served as Past President of CGSA in 1982 and was the CGSA Superintendent of the Year and winner in 1997. Walt started his career in golf course management in 1968 as the assistant superintendent at Pinebrook Golf and Country Club in Calgary. Soon after he enrolled in the Turfgrass Management degree program at Lake City Florida College. After graduating he returned to Alberta to the Willow Park golf and Country Club and then to the Edmonton Golf and Country Club where he remained for 16 years. In 1989 Walt Gooder moved to Country Hills Golf Club where he practiced the art of golf course management for 18 years until his retirement in 2007.

Among his many accomplishments, Walt Gooder served as a member of the CGSA Environmental Committee, as Chair of the AGSA Challenge Cup and as a founding member of the Alberta Golf Industry Association and the Alberta Turfgrass Research Foundation. Walt was a driving force in the establishment of the AGSA Property Managers Conference and was the recipient of the AGSA Distinguished Service Award. He continues to contribute to the profession as a member of the golf industry effort to ensure that superintendents will continue to be able to use pesticides in the City of Calgary.

The CGSA is proud to name Walter Gooder, MS®, AGS™ as the recipient of the 2008 John B Steel Award.

### *President's Scholarship Award*

The CGSA Board of Directors established a new post secondary scholarship award to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of a CGSA member and are enrolled in any full time post secondary education program. Only full-time, first year students are eligible to receive this award. There are two awards of \$1,000 presented annually with the primary criterion for selection being academic.

CGSA is proud to announce this year's winners: Kevin Bishop son of Ted Bishop, AGS, Superintendent at Rolling Meadows Golf Club and Kelsy Leavins, daughter of Doug Leavins, Superintendent, of the Chinook Golf Course as the winners of the 2008 awards. Congratulations to both Kevin and Kelsy. CGSA sincerely hopes that this scholarship will be of assistance to meeting their needs during their first year of University.

The CGSA represents golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents and equipment technicians from across Canada. It has been in operation since 1966 and currently has over 1500 members. The CGSA mission is to promote excellence in golf course management and environmental responsibility through the continuing professional development of its members.

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