



## CGSA NEWS RELEASE

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### CGSA Announces Award Winners for 2009

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) announced its 2009 award winners at its annual Fall Field Day national golf championship tournament in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Monday September 21<sup>st</sup>. Among the awards announced were the Superintendent of the Year, Future Superintendent of the Year and John B Steel Award recipients, as well as the President's Scholarship awards.

#### Superintendent of the Year

The Superintendent of the Year award recognizes a member of the CGSA who has held the position of golf course superintendent 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 either received the award in the past or who have served the CGSA in the capacity of President.

The CGSA is pleased to announce that Mr. David Boyd, AGS, Golf Course Manager at the Heritage Pointe Golf Club in Dewinton, Alberta, is the CGSA Superintendent of the Year for 2009.

David has been a CGSA member since 1982 and holds the Association's Accredited Golf Superintendent (AGS) designation which he earned in 2006. He has been the Superintendent at Heritage Pointe Golf Club since 1991.

Mr. Boyd's nomination states, "The AGSA Nominating Committee has chosen Dave because of his support, dedication and continued contributions to both the AGSA and the CGSA. He is a proven leader in his profession and looked up to by many. Dave has served on many committees and Boards since he started his career in 1976 working at Willow Park Golf & Country Club. He was a founding member of the AGSA which began in 1986. He was elected to the CGSA Board of Directors in 1989 and served as (our) President in 1996. Dave was also elected to the AGSA Board of Directors in 2004 and has been instrumental in making the AGSA one of the strongest associations in the country. Dave has served on various committees including the AGSA Challenge Cup Committee, has twice hosted the AGSA Championship and was the chair of the AGSA Property Manager's Conference in 1999. Dave's dedication and willingness to help promote the profession of the golf course superintendent throughout not only Canada but around the world was evident when he represented Canada at the International Golf Summit in 1997."

In a letter signed by several of David's colleagues, they note, "David demonstrates excellent leadership skills, offering encouragement and guidance to his colleagues and peer group. He inspires loyalty, is passionate about his work, is a role model to anyone who has the privilege of working with him and, as a result, manages a department with exceptional staff".

David's many accomplishments include his service as a Director of both the Alberta Golf Superintendents Association and the CGSA. David continues to be a leader in his profession by providing turf conditions and a golf course that are second to none. He has been an excellent mentor and is looked up to by many who have gone on to successful careers in turf management. Heritage Pointe was chosen as the third best in Canada for service by Score Golf Magazine and rated in the top 100 courses for all of North America for two consecutive years by Golf World Business.

Congratulations to David Boyd on being named CGSA and Score Golf's Superintendent of the Year for 2009.

#### Future Superintendent of the Year

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

Cameron Kusiek, Assistant Superintendent of the Wolf Creek Golf Resort, in Ponoka, Alberta is the 2009 winner of the CGSA-Toro Future Superintendent Award. Kusiek completed his Associate Diploma in Turfgrass Management at the University of Guelph in 2009. Prior to this he attended the University of Alberta studying for his B.Sc.

Cameron has been working at Wolf Creek Golf Resort over the past eight years and just recently was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. He has been involved in every aspect of golf course maintenance and construction. For the past three years he has been a supervisor on weekends. During the recent expansion at Wolf Creek to 36 holes Cameron was fortunate to play an active role in the construction and grow-in stages. "Under Rod Whitman's tutelage (course architect), I assisted in the shaping and finishing of a variety of greens, tee boxes and fairways, even designing my own green complex. As a result, I have become proficient at operating many pieces of heavy machinery (bulldozer, excavator, scraper, articulating dump truck, backhoe and loader). Along with Rick David (Wolf Creek Superintendent) and Tyler Patroch (Assistant Superintendent), I helped design the course drainage and irrigation systems for the new 18 holes and I was also responsible for their installation. "

Kusiek was raised in Alberta and says a number of individuals have contributed to his overall success. "The University of Guelph faculty has really been helpful in that they encouraged me to step out of the box and open my eyes to the broad nature of the turf industry." He also names David and Patroch among those that were most influential, but he is quick to state that his father "has supported and encouraged me to pursue my dream and has always been there when I needed him."

Among Cameron's other achievements are: being chosen as the 2008 top recipient of CGSA Scholarship Award and the recipient of the Ontario Agricultural College Deans Honour List and Associate Diploma and winner of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship Award. While attending the University of Guelph he took a larger leadership role. He acted as Director of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Turfgrass Conference in the fall of 2007. In 2008-2009 he was Co-president of the Class Executive and Turf Club as well as Student Representation to the Faculty. During the fall of 2008 he was tournament organizer of the 4th Annual University of Guelph Turf Club Golf Tournament.

As winner of this year's award, Kusiek will travel to Scotland and take part in a six week training and work experience program. He will also participate in a trip to Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis. The University of Guelph will receive a personal computer from the Toro Company and the CGSA will host his attendance at the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show in late February and early March in Toronto.

Congratulations to all the nominees for this year. They 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 the 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 2009 John B Steel recipient is Vince Gillis, retired former Executive Director and Honourary member of the CGSA. Included among the many accomplishments that occurred during Vince's tenure are:

- the establishment of the CGSA National Occupational Standards which are the basis for the CGSA certification program;
- the design of the CGSA awards and member and industry recognition programs;
- the development and publication of the first edition of the CGSA Environmental Management Resource Manual;
- the establishment of the National Allied Golf Association (NAGA).

Mr. Gillis was born in New Waterford, Nova Scotia and is currently a resident of Chatham, Ontario. He was the CGSA Executive Director for approximately 13 years, retiring from the position in 2002. Vince holds a Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the Canadian Society of Association Executives; he is a Fellow of the American Association on Mental Deficiency (AAMD) and

was a 2003 recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Over the past three decades, Vince has volunteered or held positions on the Boards of Directors of over 30 organizations. His career has spanned a number of professions including teacher, Executive Director, Director of Recreation, Assistant Executive Director, consultant and Secretary General.

Throughout the nomination package submitted for Vince, he was cited for his professional approach to the position of Executive Director, his dedication to golf course superintendents and members of the CGSA and the integrity with which he carried out his duties.

The CGSA is proud to name Vince Gillis, CAE, FAAMD as the recipient of the 2009 John B Steel Award.

### *President's Scholarship Award*

The CGSA Board of Directors established a post secondary scholarship award in 2007 to recognize the scholastic accomplishments of students who are the children or grandchildren of a CGSA member and are enrolled in the first year of a 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 excellence.

Kelsey Suter, granddaughter to Douglas Suter who is a Life member of CGSA and Katelyn Van Gool daughter to Harold Van Gool, VP Business Development, Plant Products Co. are the recipients of the 2009 awards. Congratulations to both Kelsey and Katelyn. Kelsey will be going to the University of Guelph and Katelyn will be attending Queens University. CGSA sincerely hopes that this scholarship will be of assistance in meeting their needs during their first year of University.

The CGSA represents golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents, equipment technicians and others involved in golf course management from across Canada. CGSA was founded in 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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