



FON

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Update

Memorial Service for Gordon Witteveen (1934 - 2010)

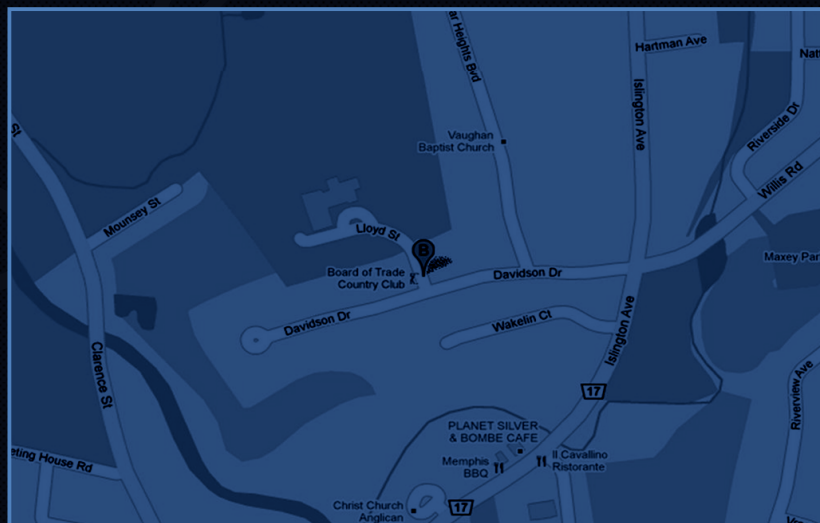
January 8th, 2011

A memorial for the Gordon Witteveen will be held on Saturday January 8th, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Country Club (i.e. Toronto Board of Trade) in Woodbridge, Ontario.

This golf facility is where Witteveen had spent much of his career as its superintendent.

The Country Club is located at 20 Lloyd Street.

A light lunch buffet and a video presentation will take place. All are welcome.



Hero

Gordon Witteveen

Despite the DISGRACEFUL attitude of CGSA ...

... we all owe A LOT to Gordon Witteveen.

He was a FOUNDING FATHER of the Modern Golf Course Superintendents Industry.

He was, without a doubt, a GREAT UNFLINCHING SUPPORTER and FRIEND and ACTIVIST for all Golf Course Superintendents, across Canada and around the world.

Gordon himself was a LEGENDARY and an ICONIC GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT.

Furthermore, he was a GIFTED and PROLIFIC WRITER, and a RENOWNED AUTHOR.

He was also an ACCOMPLISHED TEACHER and LECTURER.

Gordon was also a MENTOR for DOZENS of aspiring Golf Superintendents.

Gordon was a man who was HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, ENERGETIC, INDEFATIGABLE, and ROBUST, with BOUNDLESS ENERGY.

He was a HERO in every sense of the word.

We have always been in awe of Gordon and his great accomplishments.

He has left behind a world that is BETTER because of his work.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

People who took the time TO SEND ELECTRONIC CONDOLENCES to the Thompson Funeral Home

As a member of The Board of Trade Country Club for many years, Gord, in my opinion, was the finest Superintendent the Club ever had. Managing expectations of more than a 1000 members was not easy, but he did it with a certain panache and aplomb. Let this memory be his legacy.

— Ron Cawfield.

Gord was a force to be reckoned with. I enjoyed our encounters, both the kind where we were mutually celebrating, and those when he was challenging something with me. He was likely the first « celebrity superintendent ». He was a true lover of Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and a proud founding member of Canadian Golf Superintendents Association. GreenMaster was a particular love. I'll miss him.

— Vince Gillis.

Gordon always kept the Horticulture class of 1958 Ontario Agricultural College entertained with his wit. It has been a pleasure to see him from time to time over the years. His accomplishments leave a great legacy to the turf grass industry.

— Harold Crawford. Guelph, Ontario.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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Gordon devoted his working career to making people happy through the game of golf. He will live on through the work he did and the people he mentored and helped through the years. He left us a legacy of printed material that will continue to help many succeed in practicing the craft he loved so much. Thank you, Gordon.

— Tim Kubash. Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Gordon was a great and interesting character who contributed tremendous energy, enthusiasm and knowledge to the golf industry. In recent years, he made it easy and affordable for the Canadian turfgrass industry to purchase a wide array of golf oriented books. Thanks Gordon for the many years of conversation and service.

— Bob Kains. Canmore, Alberta.

Gordon was a pioneer that helped forge our industry into the success it is today.

— Wade and Jennifer Peckham. Edmonton, Alberta.

Gordon was truly an outstanding person in the turfgrass industry. He will be sadly missed by all of us who had an opportunity to know and work with him.

— Clay Switzer.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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Gordon Witteveen was golf course and turf maintenance in Canada, and indeed in North America ! Just to read the messages in this guest book and the areas from which they originated, and who the folks are, including old mutual friends Clayton Switzer and R. Vince Gillis ! Gordon was not just a good thinker and writer, but also a great radio guest on my CFRB (Toronto) radio programme. Farewell gallant spirit !

— Art Drysdale. Parksville, British Columbia.

Gordon Witteveen will be missed but never forgotten. His legacy will live on for generations.

— Christopher Kane. Victoria, British Columbia.

Great classmate in horticulture at Ontario Agricultural College and always free with his compliments and interest in where your career was going.

— Larry Sherk. Toronto, Ontario.

He encouraged us with our work and shared with us an interest in family history. We appreciate his efforts in writing his family history.

— Albert van der Heide. Langley, British Columbia.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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He was a pioneer in our industry in Canada, and a friend to all golf course superintendents wherever they might be from. I was always impressed with how he remained a « student » of the profession, despite his vast knowledge and experience. He always related to young turf managers, and I think that was partially why. His legacy in our industry will last forever. He was friend too though, and it's his friendship and personality that I'll remember most. His enthusiasm for life, his love of his family, the twinkle in his eye, the way he loved to laugh, his philosophical side, and his ease in making new friends, all come to mind as I reflect on our time together.

— Jim McGarvey. North Vancouver, British Columbia.

He will be truly missed, and I cannot begin to tell you the impact he has had on my life.

— Ron Heesen. Collingwood, Ontario.

He will be well remembered for his shaping of the golf course industry and the establishment of the word « professional » in the superintendent name. We will all miss him.

— Paul Lefebvre. Durham, Ontario.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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I cannot begin to tell you the impact that Gordon had on me. Taking a green horn pro shop employee and showing me the art of cutting greens and maintenance of a golf course. I will always remember Gordon and his stories.

— Gasper Bernardo. Ottawa, Ontario.

I listened to Mr Witteveen give a lecture to myself and other Seneca College GCT students at Board of Trade in 1989. I was immediately struck with his professionalism and passion for the turf care profession. He was so good to all of us that day, and it was readily apparent that spending time with young people about to enter a world in which he was so instrumental in forming was as gratifying an experience for him as it was for the rest of us. All Superintendents across Canada owe Mr. Witteveen a world of respect and gratitude for helping to instil the sense of professionalism, and indeed higher learning that has become a hallmark of the job we all love so very much. Thank-you Mr. Witteveen, you will be missed.

— Dave MacMillan. Chester, Nova Scotia.

I was a very young Superintendent in the late 1980s and it was at I believe my second CGSA Conference that I was bestowed with the inaugural Gordon Witteveen Award for best superintendent written article in GreenMaster magazine. I was surprised, proud, and quite frankly nervous to meet a man with such a rich history in the turfgrass management profession. However, in very short time frame Gordon put me at ease with his quick wit. I saw Gordon at every CGSA conference, I attended 15+, and he always had time for me. In the late 1990s, I was in Toronto on CGSA business and had the chance to play the Board of Trade with Gordon and have dinner together in the clubhouse following our round.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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Although Gordon had his opinions, I never felt he was more than willing to let a young buck like me express mine as well even if they were in conflict with his. When I left my position as a golf course superintendent to teach at Red River College, Gordon always kept in touch not only to make sure I had an ample supply of books, but to see how I was faring as a teacher. Gordon as well all know was an accomplished writer and teacher in his own right and I will never forget the time he made for me and how he put me at ease when I was a very young superintendent attending CGSA conferences early in my career. Gordon will be greatly and sadly missed by many including all of his friends in the turfgrass management profession. Gordon was one of the early leaders of CGSA and one of the first to put the « professional » into turfgrass management in Canada.

— Rob Officer. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

I was saddened to learn about the passing of Gordon Witteveen, a classmate from Ontario Agricultural College 1958. I got to know Gordon well at Guelph, because we spoke the same language (Frisian), and English was still difficult for both of us. We spent time together playing chess, and talking about our experiences as immigrants to Canada. I kept in touch with Gord through all these years, and often met at professional meetings where Gord would speak about his favourite subject, golf course management. Gord was a trusted friend and we will all miss him. He served with me on the OAC 58 executive committee, and he will be missed there also.

— Tjipke Haagsma. Sarnia, Ontario.

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I was very fortunate to have had the chance to play the occasional round of golf with him these past 3 summers when I really got to know him as the great guy he was. He was articulate, compassionate, and devoted to his family and the outdoors he helped cultivate for people and wildlife to enjoy in manicured and environmentally conserved surroundings. Gordon will be missed by his loved ones and his friends and all who had the pleasure of encountering his presence – the presence of a truly outstanding individual.

— Bill and Marilyn Weinstein. Toronto, Ontario.

I went to my first Masters with Gordon in 07. Tiger Woods blew the field away. I enjoyed it very much.

— Dave Stevens. Minden, Ontario.

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Gordon. Having recently been involved with the writing of his memoirs. The first chapter. I had hoped we could have got together sometimes this spring. Unfortunately, this was not to be.

— John Bouman. Caledonia, Ontario.

Condolences

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It seems like only a short time ago that you two came by and spent time with me at Boca Rio. I will continue to treasure the memory of that day. I will always remember Gordon as being the perfect example of what a golf course superintendent and a gentleman should be.

— Bob Randquist. Boca Raton, Florida.

May the love of friends and family carry you through your grief.

— Albiny Provost. Chambly, Quebec.

Mr. Witteveen (as I called him) will be missed. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for him. He reminded me of my father. I enjoyed the many talks that we had after his game of golf at the Club. I'll miss his wonderful smile Mr. Witteveen (as I called him) will be missed. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for him. He reminded me of my father. I enjoyed the many talks that we had after his game of golf at the Club. I'll miss his wonderful smile and kind words.

— Linda Magliocchi. The Country Club.

Mr. Witteveen left us an inspiring legacy. My sincere condolences.

— Christian Pilon. Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Quebec.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

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Our sincere sympathies to you and your family. I'm sure that Gordon and Mom are having a good chat and thinking of us all down here.

— Sibbel and Glenn and family. Barrington, Illinois.

Reading these messages give me a good feeling of the amazing man Gordon was. It sounds like he had time for everyone and always with a smile and kind word. He was a generous man in all ways.

— Piet Bouwhuis, Dora and Peter.

We all have very fond memories of Gord and the contributions he made as a member of the Beaver Valley Bruce Trail Club Executive and as a Hike Leader for our club's hiking programme.

— Linda Murray.

We were fortunate to have him and Marilyn on a Dungeness crabbing venture on the west coast and dinner afterwards, a great day. His diligence in producing his books of our greens-keeping history was inspiring.

— Dennis Pellrene. Delta, British Columbia.

Condolences

Gordon Witteveen

People who took the time TO SEND ELECTRONIC CONDOLENCES to the Thompson Funeral Home

Guest Book
by Legacy.com

Thompson Funeral Home
510 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, ON L4G6W8 |
(905) 727-5421

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GORDON CORNELIS WITTEVEEN
This Guest Book has been kept online until 10/12/2012 by Thompson Funeral Home.

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December 20, 2010
As a member of The Board of Trade Country Club for many years, Gord in my opinion was the finest Superintendent the Club ever had. Managing expectations of more than a 1000 members was not easy but he did it with a certain pinache and aplomb. Let this memory be his legacy. Ron Cawfield
- | Contact Me

December 19, 2010
Dear Marilyn,
On behalf of Kenny and myself our sincere condolences go out to you and your family
Kenny & Barbara Haley

December 19, 2010
We all owe A LOT to Gordon Witteveen.
He was a FOUNDING FATHER of the Modern Golf Course Superintendents Industry.
He was, without a doubt, a GREAT UNFLINCHING SUPPORTER and FRIEND and ACTIVIST for all Golf Course Superintendents, across Canada and around the world.
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Furthermore, he was a GIFTED and PROLIFIC WRITER, and a RENOWNED AUTHOR.
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He was a HERO in every sense of the word.
I have always been in awe of Gordon and his great accomplishments.
He has left behind a world that is BETTER because of his work.
William H. Gathercole.
- William H. Gathercole, Saint-Sauveur, Quebec
| Contact Me

December 19, 2010
Dear Marilyn and Family,
Please know that I am thinking of you all during this time of grief.
Mr. Witteveen (as I called him) will be missed. I have a great deal of respect and admiration for him. He reminded me of my

Elected Officials and Staff of Canadian Golf Superintendents Association who could NOT be bothered to send electronic condolences

OVER 85 PER CENT of recent Elected Officials and Staff of Canadian Golf Superintendents Association
COULD NOT BE BOTHERED TO SEND ELECTRONIC CONDOLENCES to the Thompson Funeral Home

AFFLECK, Merlin (1994 – 2001)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

AMIRAUULT, Debbie

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send her condolences

BEEBE, James

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

BLAYNEY, Neil (1999–2006)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

BOYD, David (1990–1997)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

DeYOUNG, Michael (1989–1996)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

FACH, William (1996–2003)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

FLETT, James

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

GILLIS, Vince

- FORMER staff member
- ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CONDOLENCES

HARKNESS, Tim (1998–2002)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

HOLDEN, Greg

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

KELLGREN, Kyle

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

KUBASH, Tim

- Current board member
- ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CONDOLENCES

LEACH, Jay (1995–2002)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

MARTINUSEN, Ian (1998–2008)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

McGARVEY, Jim (1998–2004)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CONDOLENCES

Elected Officials and Staff of Canadian Golf Superintendents Association who could NOT be bothered to send electronic condolences

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MILLS, John

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

NIX, Jim (1999–2005)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

OFFICER, Rob (1993–1997)

- ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CONDOLENCES

OLSVIK, Ken (1986–1992)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

PILLER, Dean (1993–2000)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

PILON, Christian

- Current board member
- ACTUALLY TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CONDOLENCES

PINEAU, Ray (2003–2005)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

RADKE, Bill (1998–2000)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

SAVARD, Ray (1988–1992)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

SCENNA, Pelino (1990–1998)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

SMITH, Trevor (1989–1995)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

TRENTINI, Glen (1992–1996)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

WALSH, Doug (1997)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

WATKINS, Kerry

- Current board member
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

WATKINS, Ralph (1984–1990)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

WHITE, Paul (1987–1993)

- Could not be bothered to send his condolences

YOUELL, Brian (2002–2004)

- Presided when Witteveen was DUMPED
- Could not be bothered to send his condolences



Gordon Witteveen
UNFLINCHINGLY SUPPORTED
Golf Superintendents
Rust in Vrede
(Rest In Peace)

