



WITTEVEEN, Gordon Cornelis

December 16, 2010

Classified Type: Obituaries & Death Notices

Location: Newmarket

WITTEVEEN, Gordon Cornelis (1934-2010) Gordon Witteveen, iconic golf course superintendent passed away December 16th in Southlake Hospital in Newmarket, Ontario of complications arising from a heart attack. Born in the Netherlands, Gordon immigrated to Canada at age 20 and, notwithstanding the fact that he was not a Canadian citizen, he enrolled in the Ontario Agricultural College (now the University of Guelph), and with encouragement by working during summers he graduated from a program in horticulture in 1958. He became superintendent of the Royal York Country Club. Three years later he moved to Toronto to embark on a 12-year tenure as superintendent of the Royal York Golf Course. In 1973 he became superintendent at the 36-hole Toronto Board of Trade Country Club. A few years later. He was active with the Ontario Superintendents Association and helped found the Ontario Superintendents Association. He also served as a director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association's historical preservation committee. A frequent contributor to industry publications, he received awards for his work. He initiated *The Greenmaster* magazine and served as its editor for five years. Gordon coauthored a book, *Maintenance* which is in its second printing, has been translated into Spanish, and serves as a text for maintenance programs. A seminar based on the book, *The Magic of Greenkeeping*, has been presented in North America and beyond. He also wrote two books on golf course management history, as well as a book on golf at golf course architecture and designed several successful courses still in operation today. Upon his death in 1999, Gordon, with his brother Harry, re-opened a dormant 9-hole golf course (Pleasant View Golf Course) years before near Brantford and owned/operated it until its sale in 2008. A world traveller who visited all continents, the globe, Gordon often spoke to superintendent groups with presentations together with his friend and colleague from Chicago. He was a lecturer of golf course maintenance courses at local colleges for several years. His son, assistant Corey Jansen became involved in a website, *Turfnet*, actively participating in a forum discussing golf course experiences. He wrote a column, *The Last Word* for six years and most recently contributed a blog. A highly accomplished career superintendent, author, teacher and lecturer, Gordon felt his most lasting impact on the industry was the many young men and women he mentored as assistants or employees who have since become successful in the industry. Over thirty of Canada's finest superintendents worked for Gordon and currently look up to him as a guru. He is mourned by his family: his spouse of twenty years, Marilyn; his brothers Harry of Ontario and sister Katherine of Cambridge; his children Ann of South Africa, Sidney of Alma, and Margaret of Ontario; and Geoffrey of Sydney, N.S., and stepdaughter, Janna of Australia; grandchildren Riley and Katie of Ontario, Aidan, Sophie and Morgan of Nova Scotia, Callum and Taten of Seattle, and Josie of Australia. He was a valued colleague as an unforgettable influence in their lives. A private funeral will be held on Wednesday, December 22nd, 2010, at 10 a.m. at the **Funeral Home**, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora (**905 727-5421**), visitation at 10 a.m., followed by a memorial service is planned for after the holidays. Donations to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society may be made by the family. On-line condolences may be left at www.thompsonfh.ca/aurora.com

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