

Teamwork is the Order of the Day

By Nicholas Stephens

An avid golfer, CGSA's new president Doug Meyer was born in Lachute, Quebec, where he grew up on his parents' dairy farm.

"This was the beginning of my love of working with the land. My father involved me in the day-by-day operations of the farm from a very early age."

In 1968, following the example of two brothers-in-law, Meyer entered the golf course business, working for CGSA Past President Tom Johnson at Carling Lake Golf Club for two summers while still in high school. By the time he graduated, Meyer was convinced that he wanted to be a golf course superintendent, so he enrolled at Guelph University and studied Turf Management, working the summers at the Cutten Club in Guelph under Richard Creed. From 1972 to 1974 he worked as a research technician at the University of Guelph for Dean Clayton Switzer before marrying and embarking on an extended trek around North America.

Eventually he settled in Quebec, where in 1975 he became superintendent of Cedarbrook Golf and Country Club in Ste. Sophie. Meyer joined CGSA as well as OGSA, GCSAA the QGSA. He was president of QGSA in 1984-85 and is still active on that association's board. In 1991 he became Quebec director of CGSA. Meyer is Master Superintendent in Canada and a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in the USA.

Since graduating from the University of Guelph, Meyer has continued his studies in Turfgrass Science. In addition to an Associate Diploma, he has also earned the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture (1976-1978), the Turf Management Short Course, University of Guelph (1977) and the Canadian Diploma in Horticulture. In 1987 he became the first golf course superintendent in Canada to pass the RCGA Rules of Golf examination.

GreenMaster: What are your personal goals as a superintendent, now and for the future?

Meyer: One of my main goals as a



superintendent has just been realized — to become president of CGSA. It has been very rewarding to see the major changes and the strides forward CGSA has made in the last five years. The friends that I have made from coast to coast and internationally through CGSA have greatly enriched my career as a superintendent. Not all my future goals are set, but I do hope one day to host a major tournament, help build and grow-in a new golf course and help out at the Augusta National during the Masters. As well, I would like eventually to gain certification in the United Kingdom.

GreenMaster: What are your aspirations and goals as president of CGSA?

Meyer: CGSA is set up to function on teamwork, not on personal agendas. We have a long-range plan in place and our mission statement to give us guidance. The executive committee, the board and the staff all work as a team to achieve the association's goals for its members. If you're asking which of the

association's goals I personally would most like to see implemented, it would be to ensure that our national conference moves across the country from coast to coast. It is very important that we involve superintendents from all regions of Canada in our association. We have much to learn from each other.

GreenMaster: What do you see as CGSA's objectives for the immediate future?

Meyer: Two of the most pressing key objectives facing CGSA are the development and publication of the *Environmental Management Resource Manual* and the development of the Program of Occupational Standards to complement our existing Master Superintendent Certification Program. In addition, we have recently upgraded our computer systems to make our office more efficient and we are working on the creation of a web page with a view to becoming more visible and accessible to our members. Eventually, we plan to have the *Environmental Management Resource Manual* on-line.

GreenMaster: What are CGSA's membership goals for the next five years and what do you plan to do to achieve these goals?

Meyer: We are hoping to increase membership by 20 per cent over the next three years. We feel that this is achievable through improved services that are appropriate to members' needs and accessible to everyone regardless of region. We feel that the soon-to-be-completed *Environmental Management Resource Manual* and Program of Occupational Standards will attract new members. Additionally, having information available via the Internet will enable members in remote areas to stay informed and in touch. We are constantly seeking new ways to identify and satisfy members' needs. The more professional and effective our association becomes, the more valuable membership is to each individual.

GreenMaster: How does CGSA gather information about member needs and wants?

Meyer: In the past few years, CGSA has gathered information about membership needs by:

- setting up round table discussions at our National Conference;
- conducting surveys and telephone canvasses of readers of *GreenMaster* and suppliers to the industry;
- having regional directors bring feedback from members in their area to our board meetings;
- consulting regional associations.

GreenMaster: In addition to looking to CGSA for resolutions to problems, what steps can members themselves take to help each other and to contribute to the overall effectiveness of CGSA?

Meyer: Networking is very important. Interaction with local and provincial associations is particularly productive. CGSA works very closely with the provincial associations. We encourage individual members to contact their provincial CGSA directors with suggestions, or to write letters to the CGSA offices. I can assure all members right now that any suggestions brought to

our attention will be discussed at board meetings. Membership participation and input is very important to the growth and overall effectiveness of CGSA.

GreenMaster: In your opinion, has the role of the golf course superintendent changed recently, and if so, how do you see CGSA adapting to these changes?

Meyer: The role of the superintendent has definitely changed over the years, and it continues to do so. More and more, superintendents are becoming managers, and as such are increasingly finding themselves involved in the everyday decision-making of their clubs. CGSA is adapting to these changes by expanding the national seminar program to include professional development seminars. In addition, with environmental concerns continuing to be a major issue, superintendents must have the knowledge in this area needed to play a leadership role. CGSA's *Environmental Management Resource Manual* can help members follow environmentally sound practices on the golf course.

GreenMaster: What role do you see in

the future for the assistant superintendent?

Meyer: In a very real way, the assistant represents the future of both our profession and CGSA. It is very important, therefore, that assistants take up membership in CGSA in order to benefit from the many opportunities thus presented to network with fellow superintendents and to learn and plan for the future. I believe an entry level accreditation program will greatly assist future superintendents.

GreenMaster: What ongoing role for women do you see in greenskeeping?

Meyer: In the past few years, several women have been hired as superintendents. Presently there are ten women superintendents in Canada. I see no reason why this trend should not continue.

GreenMaster: If you had to sum up your overall philosophy in a few words, how would you do that?

Meyer: Be honest and work hard. If something is worth doing, do it to the very best of your ability. ■

Go•Green

For cosmetic green up of turf

- Field tested at the *Sports Turf Research Institute* in Bingley, UK
- Rapid action green up – usually hours after an application
- Safe to use with no excessive foaming problems
- Helps correct iron and magnesium deficiencies
- Aids in giving a more uniform colour to the turf

AG-TURF
CHEMICALS INC.

For more information on Go•Green contact your nearest turf supplier

62 ROEHAMPTON CT., KITCHENER, ONT. N2A 3L1

TEL (519) 893-5360

FAX (519) 893-4239