

June 13th , 2017

**Golf Course Superintendent's Report
to the Board of Directors:**

Current Course Conditions and General Observations:

- We've experienced the sunniest and driest beginning of June in the past 50 years – far cry from the gloomy April & May
- We're currently experiencing the driest period of the season – no significant precipitation has occurred the past several days and you can notice!
- The course is currently playing dry – firm & fast.
- There have been many positive comments over the past few weeks regarding course conditions and noticeable enhancements and improvements from year's past.
- Some greens areas have become quite dry due to lack of rain and poor irrigation coverage – we're managing to the best of our ability. #13 green is the greens that we noticed struggle the most early on from heat/drought stress.
- During periods of severe heat and drought we will limit mowing frequencies, raise cutting heights, and do all that we can to not add further mechanical stress to turf areas. This particularly pertains to greens.
- New mowing lines that have been incorporated throughout the course are adjusting nicely, however I'm not recommending scalping down and adding new/additional mowing lines now due to the current weather patterns and lack of adequate irrigation. This will be too much stress for the turf heading into the heat of the summer.
- Two new seasonal staff Members will begin this week – Peter Schlax who's worked at the course the past couple of seasons and another HS student named Jack VanErt – we welcome both Peter and Jack to the Canal Shores team.

Mid-May – Early June Recap:

- Activating and operating the irrigation system continues to be a challenge – a lot of broken pipe, five RPZ valves had to be replaced and several others needed repair.
- The current irrigation system setup does not produce enough pressure and water to maintain high quality turf. My concern is that the inability to run adequate water will cause severe stress as the heat of the summer sets in.
- My further concern as we move toward a possible major course renovation is that we will not have the capability to run enough water to not only have a successful grow-in, but also to maintain higher quality play

- Bare areas on tees and fairways are currently being aerated and seeded with a custom mix of annual rye grass, perennial ryegrass & Kentucky bluegrass - dyed green divot sand/soil, peat moss, and organic fertilizer. Germination and success may be limited due to irrigation issues previously outlined.
- Per a request and inquiry from a home owner to the Village of Wilmette Arborist – several medium sized dead Ash trees were removed along the perimeter of the property on #4. These trees were killed by EAB.
- All benches throughout the course have been painted Hunter Green

Future Action Items:

- Yardage issues are being addressed and tees/CDGA markers will be adjusted accordingly. The CDGA marker on each tee will be set to the exact yardage from the White tees on the score card to the middle of the green. The exact yardage will obviously vary slightly from time to time as tee marker locations and pin placements are moved.
- Continue to hand spray broadleaf weeds throughout the course.
- Many of the cart paths will have stone added to improve functionality and appearance. Analyze costs and prioritize which are most in need of work.
- Tee signs need to be straightened, repaired in some instances, and painted
- Get a bid to trim Oak trees @ #10 tee – branches are hanging over tee area making tee shots difficult.
- Get bid to grind numerous stumps throughout the property.
- Remove unsightly railroad tie posts and cable wiring along parkways.
- Continue organizing and making the maintenance area more tidy and efficient – empower Armando to make changes that suits his needs.
- Continue staff training on innovative ways to maintain the golf course to create the best possible playing experiences for our customers – mowing patterns, attention to detail, etc.
- Engage an irrigation consultant soon to address our irrigation issues and help guide us into the future. (I strongly recommend this to materialize very soon)