



## CGSA NEWS RELEASE

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### CGSA Announces Award Winners for 2014

The Canadian Golf Superintendents Association (CGSA) announced several of its 2014 award winners at its annual Fall Field Day national golf championship tournament in Port Carling, Ontario on Tuesday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Among the awards announced were the CGSA Bayer Superintendent of the Year, Future Superintendent of the Year, the John B. Steel, as well as the President's Scholarship award winners.

#### *CGSA Bayer Superintendent of the Year*

The CGSA Bayer 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 himself through dedication to the profession, performance as a golf course superintendent 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 received the award in the past or who have served the CGSA in the capacity of President.

The CGSA is pleased to announce Mr. Jim Nix, AGS from Abercrombie Country Club in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, as the CGSA Bayer Superintendent of the Year for 2014.

Jim has been a CGSA member since 1983 and holds the Association's Accredited Golf Superintendent (AGS) designation. He has been the Superintendent at Abercrombie Country Club since 1981. During this period Jim has hosted the Canadian Junior Ladies and the Canadian Seniors Championships and the Nova Scotia Juniors and Mid-Amateur Championships.

Jim has served on the Board of the CGSA and held the position of CGSA President in 2004. Jim has also served as President of the Atlantic Golf Superintendents Association (1994 – 96 and 2006 – 08) and the Atlantic Turfgrass Research Foundation (2000 – 02). He is also very active in the community and spends much of his free time helping to organize community hosted events and contributing to the curling community, both through the organizing of events and the mentoring of junior curlers.

Canadian Olympian and gold medalist, Mike Adam said of Jim, "...Jim personifies and holds true to the values one looks for in naming the Superintendent of the Year and has distinguished himself through not only his dedication to the profession as a golf course superintendent, but also to his contributions to our community."

Mike DeYoung, Superintendent at Glen Arbour Golf calls Jim, "A natural leader who very much leads by example" while Donalda Buckingham from Abercrombie Country Club says, "Our respect for Jim and confidence in his work is unwavering."

Mr. Nix will receive the CGSA Bayer Superintendent of the Year award at the 2015 CGSA Awards Luncheon in Calgary on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Congratulations to Jim Nix, AGS on being named CGSA Bayer Superintendent of the Year for 2014.



### ***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.

Miss Carmen Kozak, Foreman, at the River Bend Golf Club in Red Deer, Alberta is the 2014 winner of the CGSA/Toro Future Superintendent Award. Carmen is our first female winner of this award. She completed her Turfgrass Management Diploma at Olds College in April of 2014.

Carmen began her golf course career 5 years ago working at Wolf Creek Golf Resort as a Seasonal Greenkeeper. Two years later she transitioned to a Senior Staff Member and most recently to the Golf Course Foreman position at River Bend Golf & Recreation Area.

Jason Pick, Instructor, Golf Course Management, Olds College noted in his remarks concerning Carmen that her "long term plans to become a superintendent are well planned, strategically pursuing the Accredited Golf Superintendent, followed by the ultimate goal of becoming the first female Master Superintendent of CGSA!" Prior to starting work on a golf course, Carmen also completed a Hospitality and Tourism certificate and a Business Administration Diploma.

Carmen states in her personal award statement that working at Wolf Creek provided her the opportunity to work under Rick David and Cameron Kusiek (past winner of the CGSA/Toro Future Superintendent of the Year Award) who both helped to provide the foundation for her beginnings in this industry. "Cameron has had the biggest influence on my career and my love for the game of golf. It is through him that I developed a true understanding of how to be an exceptional turf manager and still have fun doing so. It is his passion and professionalism that ultimately made me decide to pursue this career."

Carmen's other achievements include being on the Olds College Dean's List (2012-2014), being awarded the 2013 AGSA Scholarship and being the winner of several Gold and Bronze Provincial Medals as one of the top swimmers in Alberta.

As the winner of this prestigious award Carmen will attend the Canadian International Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show (CITCTS) which takes place in Calgary from February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. She will also visit Toro's World Headquarters in Bloomington, Minnesota later in 2015.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees, all of whom demonstrated dedication, a passion for the profession and a wealth of knowledge, all of which will certainly help them prosper in this industry.

This award is completely funded by the Toro Company – a strong supporter of the profession. Thanks to Toro for its partnership with the CGSA and for investing in the future of the industry and the superintendent profession.



### ***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, MS, Superintendent at Black Bear Ridge Golf Course in Belleville, Ontario.

The recipient of the John B. Steel Award for 2014 is Jim Ross, Lead Researcher, Olds College, Olds, Alberta and the Prairie Turf Research Centre. Jim has made contributions to the profession, the industry and to related associations throughout his career. The CGSA is pleased to be able to recognize Jim Ross with the presentation of the John B. Steel award at the 2015 Awards Lunch in Calgary.

### ***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 up to two awards of \$1,000 presented annually with the primary criterion for selection being academic excellence.

Logan Kupchanko, son of Mike Kupchanko, superintendent at Wascana Country Club in Regina, Saskatchewan and Bailey Simpson, daughter of Dwayne Simpson, superintendent at Innisfail Golf Club in Innisfail, Alberta are the recipients of the 2014 awards. Congratulations to Logan who will be seeking a Bachelor of Science in Engineering program at Queen's and to Bailey who will be studying for a Bachelor of Science Pre-Medicine at Red Deer College. CGSA sincerely hopes that this scholarship will be of assistance in meeting their financial needs during their first year of University and College.

CGSA represents superintendents, assistant superintendents, equipment technicians and other industry professionals involved in the business of golf course management. Our vision is to be essential to success in the golf course management profession and our mission is to promote and support the Canadian golf course management profession. We achieve our mission and vision through leadership and membership initiatives and programs and services delivered to both the member and the golf facility.

For further information, please contact:

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