

## Links Report – 8/14/25

The Links Crew has been hard at work this past month working towards improving the quality of & overall conditions on the golf course here at Rivershore. This is the number one priority for our team of greenskeepers, and we are happy to hear general feedback that we have been reasonably successful thus far. There are a number of cultural practices that I have implemented since I began as Superintendent here at Rivershore in March 2024 – including more frequent fertilizer applications, a greens-mowing and rolling schedule, a frequent verti-cutting and light top-dressing program on our greens, yearly core aeration of our tees and greens along with a heavy top-dressing of sand, monthly needle-tine aeration of our greens, yearly deep verti-cutting of our fairways, bi annual deep verti-cutting of the tee boxes, granular fertilizer applications to our fairways & tee boxes, daily moisture monitoring of our greens and tees with moisture meters followed by hand-watering, irrigation improvements, bunker raking technique improvements, etc.

These practices have been implemented to improve overall golf course conditions, and this level of turf management takes a lot of resources – in the form of time and labour to complete, but again, my primary goal is to improve overall golf course conditions. I've heard through the grapevine that some are not happy with things like the level/frequency of weeding in the rock beds around the pro shop, clubhouse, boat launch, etc. These tasks are secondary, and tertiary compared to golf course turf cultural practices. The results of last year's survey indicated that the primary desire was for improved golf course conditions. There are only so many staff/labour hours in the day to complete maintenance tasks – one of my jobs as Superintendent is to prioritize tasks and allocate labour – and since improving overall golf course conditions was deemed “priority A”, that is where I have allocated most of those resources. I hope that our members & greens fee players alike are beginning to recognize these improvements. There is still much work to be done, but I am committed to achieving that goal.

## Greens

Our greens are getting alternating bi-weekly applications of fertilizer and wetting agent. Fertilizer is better known in the turf industry as food. Wetting agent helps our irrigation program become more effective – both by combating hydrophobicity in the grass plant, and also by helping that water stick to the plant roots for a longer period. They are also receiving monthly needle tine aeration to allow for gas exchange in the rootzone and improved water infiltration. The greens have also been receiving a double verti-cut and light top-dressing of sand every 2-3 weeks throughout the growing season. The reasoning behind

the verti-cut is to remove excess thatch buildup in the rootzone, and the topdressing is to smooth out depressions/imperfections, giving the turf new material to grow into, and both practices contribute to achieving the firmness that a putting green requires.

## Tees

The tee boxes here at Rivershore are in great shape this year, and I believe that is due to a combination of cultural practices, such as – the deep verti-cutting with the new in 2024 Maredo tractor attachment, the deep tine aerator tractor attachment (also new in 2024), an improved fertility program, and daily moisture monitoring using a TDR moisture meter along with irrigation adjustments based off this information. The crew has been hard at work hand-watering hot spots on the tee boxes daily, and they've also received their second verti-cut of the year with the Maredo this past month. This verti-cut process involves a lot of cleanup – as the amount of material/thatch removed is tremendous. The benefits of this process make the effort worthwhile.







## Fairways

I recently sprayed a wetting agent & nitrogen fertilizer mixture on our fairways over the course of two days. This application takes a very long time in comparison to any tee box or greens spray application. For reference, those applications are either one or two spray tanks (140-280 gallons) – this fairway application was a thirteen tank (2,275 gallons) spray application. Each tank takes approximately half an hour to mix – so the mixing alone is approximately a 6.5-hour undertaking. I was able to complete this app just in time before the mid 30 degrees heat wave came in and thus ensured that our fairways would hold up during those heat stress conditions.



## Spraying Road Crack Weeds in the Community

Earlier this week the community roads were treated with a spray application of herbicide to control a variety of broadleaf weeds growing the road cracks in the transitions between the curbs and the main road surface. **It is important that community members stay off/don't walk their dogs on the treated areas while the spray solution is wet.** Once the spray solution is completely dry it is safe to walk on again. For better effectiveness from the herbicide, it is best if no irrigation water that hits the road ways is run within 24 hours. There was an email sent out before this application, as well as a posting notice, and caution signs setup in the mailbox area. **Please observe these warnings when they are displayed and follow the exposure precautions listed on the posting notice.**



I noticed several properties with irrigation running the following night/morning, so the effectiveness of this application will likely not be optimized. I plan to do another application in September or October, at which point another email will be sent out to the community. Again, **for this spray application to be most effective, please turn off your lawn irrigation the night following this event.**



## Irrigation

Our irrigation system continues to keep the Links Crew busy. The average lifespan of PVC underground is 25 years, and much of our system is 45 years old.

This month we had a pipe burst on the driving range tee, along with two separate repairs to the boulevard irrigation network. The range tee break was approximately 4' below the turf surface and the digging/exposure needed to be done fully by hand. Jason & Trevor repaired this irrigation break, and Tyler helped with the backfill.

The Links Crew will be ordering some sod soon and will repair the turf around that sprinkler head at that time.



## Canadian Parking

I have noticed that my remarks regarding “Canadian parking” in last month’s Links Report resonated with many of our golfers/members, and that’s great to see. For those of you who may have missed it, “Canadian parking” refers to the habit of parking your golf cart with two tires off the cart path/in the rough “just in case another cart needs to get by”. The issue with this practice is that puts wear on that rough grass adjacent to the cart paths every single time someone parks a cart in this manner, instead of just on the rare occasion when another cart needs to go around yours. **Please refrain from “Canadian parking” – instead please park your golf carts with all four tires on the cart paths next to tees and greens**, and together we can help minimize the wear on the rough grass to provide a higher-level quality of turf for all our golfers.

## Ball Marks

The following recommendation is for all putting greens, as well as collars/approaches, and I’m sure most of you have heard it before – **please fix your own ball mark, plus one more**. If we as golfers can follow this general rule of thumb it will go a very long way in providing excellent quality putting surfaces to all our golfers.

I sincerely hope that you are all enjoying playing golf at Rivershore this 2025 season!

Best regards,

Eric Newnham

Golf Course Superintendent

Rivershore Estates & Golf Links