

Alberta Report

April, 2015

Kerry Watkins, AGS

Well it's Masters Week, the final week of NHL season and for the first time in a long time, the game of golf is being played in Calgary and southern Alberta. A wow for the Calgary market place. An exciting announcement from a AGSA business view. The Executive Director search has been completed and I'm pleased to pass along that Mr. Dennis McKernan has been selected. Dennis has over 30 years involvement in the business of golf and will work with outgoing director Barb Alexander this year. Congratulations Dennis.

Edmonton & North Report

Mr. Keith Blayney, AGS from the Edmonton Petroleum Golf & CC. reports most courses are talking about opening driving ranges next week and are still waiting for the white stuff to go. No course openings yet and so far initial turf reports are coming in with manageable results to start the season. This is positive given the winter weather experienced in Edmonton and area that saw 3 significant rain events.

Calgary & Area

Courses will be opening steadily heading into Masters weekend and into the following week. Some courses have been open on tees and greens since March 13. Regardless the golf season is off to an early start by Calgary standards. It has been quite the winter to be a Calgarian with very warm temperatures. Courses have looked at a lot of grass over the winter months. This will be a good test and provide great evidence of what Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass and Poa annua can handle no matter what the height of cut. So far reports of any significant winter damage have been on Poa turf!

Southern Alberta

Rob D'Ippolito from Desert Blume Golf Club in Medicine Hat reports courses opening the end of March which is average for the area. Winter desiccation has been a concern for the area. Courses in Lethbridge and Picture Butte opened earlier than Medicine Hat courses. For the courses with Poa the recent cold spell has caused some concern for superintendents with the chance of poa taking a step backwards.

It's hard to believe the 2015 season is underway. I hope every course has a manageable start to the season! I hope the Flames and my Jets make the post season.

Go Jets Go!