



BUD JOHNS

Bud Johns was an outstanding golf course superintendent. When he started there wasn't much turf education available, but Bud's curiosity and open mind absorbed everything he read or heard and he tried to adapt it to the demanding conditions presented by prairie golf courses. Bud learned to grow grass in gumbo or alkali soil and in shady or desert-like conditions. He played and understood the game well and transferred this knowledge to the golf course so that players of every handicap level could enjoy their game. Hazards were placed to challenge better players and trees were planted with consideration for play of the hole as well as aesthetics.

Bud began his career at Woodlawn Golf Club in Estevan in 1966, where he had the daunting task of converting the sand greens to grass with a limited budget. In 1974 he moved to the Wascana Golf Club in Regina where he remained until 1980. He spent the next 16 years at the Saskatoon Golf and Country Club, retiring in 1996.

Bud Johns played a significant role in building the Golf Superintendent profession in Saskatchewan. He supported the Saskatchewan Turfgrass Association as they promoted networking and education for turf experts and he was honored with the J. Drew Smith Member of the Year award in 1995.

Bud was always willing to share his knowledge with other superintendents and his advice was in constant demand. When called to a course he was quick to point out everything that was positive and give a huge pat on the back to a young superintendent. A number of small towns in the province converted from sand to grass greens under his guidance, and owe their success to his wisdom.

Bud put in long days with his commitment to his club and his crews. He led by example and there was no chore he wouldn't do himself. Countless young people on his crew were influenced by his work ethic and sayings. Many went on to have a career in the golf industry. His influence lives on.

After his retirement Bud continued as a Life Member at the SGCC until his death in 2010. One of his sayings was "behind every good golf superintendent is an even better partner who lets us do what we love." His partner, Beth, continues to golf at the Saskatoon G&CC.