



# *Superintendent*

## *Update 7 April 2010*

*Welcome back for the 2010 golfing year. I hope that everyone had a great winter and is ready to play golf this year. I am starting something new this year to try and keep the golfers informed about the course, the conditions and project that we have coming up or going on. I will be posting these updates on the information board located by the first tee and in the clubhouse by the front entrance. Eventually I will join the modern age and do a post on the website or a Blog or something but for now I will see how this goes. Hopefully this will help keep those that are interested informed and may bring up questions, concerns or comments. I will keep these short and try to post one monthly or sooner if possible but please feel free to talk to me or email me if you so desire about the course. I am not that scary and I don't bite.*

*The course came through the winter pretty well. The greens are doing pretty well except for the damage caused by a snowmobile on #1,7,9 (any information on who might have done it would greatly be appreciated). I will be repairing some areas and letting the grass fill in the smaller areas. With some warm temps and time they will recover. You may notice some damage to the fairways and rough by the little winter gremlins the Voles. They are small rodents that like to chew the grass beneath the snow protected from predators and the weather. The damage they do is usually to the grass blade but the crowns are still intact so you just remove the damaged grass and new grass blades will grow. There was some snow mold damage to the fairways but mostly cosmetic and again with good weather the grass will grow out of it. The driving range is almost finished. I have a little irrigation to install at the north end of the range but it will not affect play. I will continue to work on the newly seeded areas of the range to make sure that the grass fills in and returns to its original condition. Since we are having unusually*

*warm weather this spring we are a little ahead of the game as far as the grass growing and things getting green so we will be able to start hitting from the grass tee on the range on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. I try and stay off the grass range tee until we will get some recovery so that we are not hitting off dirt for the rest of the season.*

*You may have noticed a few projects started last fall that we will be continuing this season. Over 200 trees and 100 shrubs were installed last fall along hole #7 and a few other areas on the course. We will be planting a few more trees and shrubs this year to improve the course. The plan is to place trees where they will improve the safety and aesthetics of the hole without affecting the playability. Another improvement is to add an alternate blue tee on #9. It is difficult to see the landing area from the existing tee location and by moving it up the hill you will have a better visual of the fairway. We may be looking at adding an additional white tee as well if possible. We are also currently removing the soil from the nursery green on hole #3 and converting it into rough. Removing the old green will increase the area golfers can hit from on the north side of the pond. A new nursery green has been constructed by the maintenance shop. The majority of the road construction has been completed on Century Ave so we will be installing the sign in the new planter located at the entrance. Once the sign is in it will be filled with flowers. Late last season we also added a flower bed in front of the clubhouse and planted several different perennials. We will be planting more flowers and grasses this spring throughout the course.*

*Well that is about it for this update. I hope you will enjoy the spring golf and continue golfing at The Ponds at Battle Creek.*