



Weston Golf & Country Club

Hole #15: Big Oak, Weston G&CC

50 St. Phillips Road, Toronto
Ontario M9P 2N6

www.westongolfcc.com

ABOUT THE COURSE

Designed by World Golf Hall of Fame member, Willie Park Jr., the golf course is known for superb conditioning paired with memorable design features of the golden age of course architecture. Since 1915, a Toronto hidden treasure has remained true to its original inspiration and today, Weston Golf and Country Club ranks among Canada's most challenging and enjoyable places to play.

Type of Club: Private

Architect: 18

Number of holes: Willie Park Jr

Number of holes: 18

Number rounds annually: 32,000+

Practice Facility: Yes

Number of staff year round and seasonal?
6 year round / 40 in peak season

How many mechanics, assistants?

- Dave Jacobsen, Associate Golf Course Superintendent
- Vlad Droppa, Equipment Manager
- Jake Graham, 2nd Assistant
- Petra Kolenicova, Assistant in Training
- Amy Curlew, Assistant in Training

Member since 1987

Rob Ackermann

General Manager & Golf
Course Superintendent at
Weston G&CC



Rob Ackermann, Superintendent, Weston G&CC

*Written by Andrew Marsan, Technical Turf Sales,
Plant Products*

Named after the OGSA's first president, the William Sansom Distinguished Service Award honours individuals whose outstanding contributions have significantly advanced the golf course superintendent profession. Considered our association's most prestigious award, it recognizes those whose impact is both long-lasting and deeply valued by their peers. Few individuals continue to shape and drive an industry as significantly as Rob Ackermann. As the recipient of the

2025 OGSA William Sansom Distinguished Service Award, Rob's contributions to our industry are widely recognized and deeply respected by those who have had the privilege of working with him. They say you can tell a lot about a person by the company they keep. For Rob, his greatest accomplishment isn't just his professional achievements—it's the relationships he's built along the way. Those who know him best in the industry speak to the deep impact he leaves on everyone he meets.

A FRIEND

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q: Favourite Major?

A: The Open Championship

Q: Best piece of turf equipment?

A: GPS Sprayers

Q: Lowest round ever and where?

A: 78 at Weston

Q: Ultimate foursome: You and ?

A: Paul Scenna, Bill Fach, and Ken Wright

Q: Favourite movie?

A: The Godfather

Q: Favourite meal?

A: Any meal after golf

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: Cypress Point

Q: Favourite course designer?

A: Charles Blair Macdonald

Q: Favourite Band?

A: U2

"I've had the privilege of knowing Rob since 1989," says Paul Scenna, Golf Course Operations Manager at The Toronto GC, while reflecting on their decades-long friendship and professional journey. "We met as young aspiring assistant superintendents, and we've been golfing together and pushing each other professionally as best friends ever since. From the very beginning, we connected on a professional level—sharing ideas, challenges, and successes. That connection quickly grew into a great friendship, built on a shared love for the game and a commitment to excellence in golf course management."

Paul isn't the only one who has turned to Rob for advice. His reputation as a trusted colleague extends across the industry. "Whether it's discussing course conditions, operational strategies, or the latest industry trends, Rob is my first call to hear a second

opinion," Paul adds. "His knowledge, experience, and willingness to help others make him an invaluable resource to everyone in the profession."

Dave Jacobsen, Associate Superintendent at Weston G&CC, has worked with Rob for nine years in three different roles. "His passion and dedication to the craft were apparent the first time I met him," says Jacobsen. "Rob Ackermann is the reason I do what I do for a living. I am proud to work with him, but even more proud to call him a friend."

A LEADER

Rob has always been more than just a superintendent—he's a leader with a clear vision. "He is the consummate professional, widely respected by his peers," says Scenna. "He represents our profession with class, knowledge, and integrity. He has a long track record of providing his club with an outstanding everyday experience and managing his property to an elite level. He is both a hands-on superintendent who is on the ground and an organized leader in the boardroom."

"I have had a front-row seat as Rob has taken on the dual role of General Manager and Golf Course Superintendent," adds Jacobsen. "To watch him bring his infectious attitude to all



Rob Ackermann accepting the 2025 William Sansom Distinguished Service Award at the OGSA Awards Luncheon.

aspects of the club has been an absolute treat to witness. His endless determination and unmatched work ethic have allowed him to make the transition look seamless."

Bill Fach, Master Superintendent Emeritus, has known Rob for over 20 years. He has always been most impressed by Rob's relentless work ethic and willingness to embrace change to enhance the playing conditions at Weston

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Predominate grass type: Poa bent everywhere

Predominant soil type: Heavy clay

Types of greens: Heavily modified pushups – all internally drained

Course Length: 6807 yards

Size of Greens: 140,000 sq. ft.

Size of Tees: 120,000 sq. ft.

Size of Fairways: 33 acres

Major Challenges:

Providing consistent, exceptional greens. All programs are geared to maintain healthy poa annua on small, undulating greens that get significant play. We work to guard against the worst-case scenarios of hot wet summer conditions and winter ice.

"He represents our profession with class, knowledge, and integrity. He has a long track record of providing his club with an outstanding everyday experience and managing his property to an elite level. He is both a hands-on superintendent who is on the ground and an organized leader in the boardroom!!"

– Paul Scenna, Golf Course Operations Manager at The Toronto GC



Hole #2: Long Drop, Weston G&CC

G&CC. “I truly believe Rob has become one of the top superintendents in the country,” says Bill.

His ability to lead extends beyond his own club. As President of the OGSA in 2004, Rob was instrumental in launching the Ontario Golf Course Management Conference, a decision that provided the association with financial flexibility to invest in education and growth. “This change reset the future success of our professional organization and its viability,” Paul explains. “With financial stability, our association continues to grow and invest in programs that support golf course superintendents.”

A MENTOR

Many who have worked under Rob credit him for shaping their careers. Colin Young, Director of Golf Course Operations at Beacon Hall Golf Club, started on Rob’s crew as a teenager and remembers the impact Rob had on him from day one. “At just 14 years old, Rob hired me to work on the grounds crew at Markland Wood. He was the one who inspired me to become a superintendent. I fed off his passion and admired his relentless work ethic.”

Rob’s leadership isn’t just about giving direction—it’s about working alongside his team. “People want to work for Rob,” Colin says. “His leadership inspires loyalty—I would have run through a wall for him. Not too many leaders have that kind of impact.”

Dave Jacobsen echoes this, “Rob has been the ultimate mentor, constantly encouraging growth and pushing those that work with him

to be the best that they can be. His passion and dedication to the craft are infectious and were apparent the first time I met him.”

A WELL-DESERVED HONOUR

Reflecting on his journey, Rob acknowledges the mentors who shaped his path, particularly Gord Witteveen, whose influence was profound. “Many people play a significant role in all of our careers, and for me, that list starts with Gord,” Rob says. “Gord was a neighbor and my father’s best friend. He actually hired my brother and sister first—he thought I laughed too much and wouldn’t take the work seriously. When he did finally give me a chance in 1984, I embraced every minute. I just loved it.”

Rob first met Ken Wright shortly thereafter, when Ken was the superintendent at The National Golf Club of Canada, just around the corner. “Every time you meet Rob, he greets you with enthusiasm and a warm, welcoming smile,” Ken recalls. “Whether it’s running one of our 10 km marathons, golfing, or simply spending time together, those moments are special to me. The members of Weston G&CC must be proud to have such an accomplished superstar on their staff.”

Rob’s career has been defined by relationships—both those who guided him and those he has mentored in return. Following his beginnings at the Board of Trade under Mr. Witteveen, Rob went on to work for Bob Brewster at The Toronto GC, who also had a lasting impact on his career. Rob achieved early success, securing his first superintendent’s position at Markland

Wood GC before moving on to the historic Weston G&CC, where he has dedicated the past 24 years of his career.

Beyond the golf course, Rob’s greatest joy comes from spending time with his family. He is supported by his wife of 34 years, Glennis, and takes great pride in their two children, Sydney and Alex. Sydney is currently completing her PhD in cancer research at the University of California, San Diego, and Alex is working towards a degree in mechanical engineering at York University.

Rob’s journey has been filled with challenges and triumphs, but over the past four decades, he has remained committed to his core values. Rob reflects, “So, what is my message? Hopefully, I’ve shared that special connection with people have mattered the most to me over my career. I encourage you to prioritize your connections—they may just make a difference for you as well.”

As the 2025 OGSA William Sansom Distinguished Service Award recipient, Rob Ackermann’s impact on the industry is undeniable. His dedication, leadership, and generosity have shaped the careers of countless individuals and will continue to influence the profession for years to come. ■

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