

St. George's Golf and Country Club

The practice facility
at St. George's Golf and Country Club.

1668 Islington Ave
Etobicoke ON M9A 3M9

www.stgeorgesgolfandcountryclub.com

ABOUT THE COURSE

Stanley Thompson's masterfully designed course has truly stood the test of time. Ranked among the world's finest courses, St. George's offers a premier golf and country club escape from life's hustle and bustle, nestled among the tree-lined streets of Toronto's west-end.

Type of Club: Private

Architect: Stanley Thompson

Number of holes: 18

Number rounds annually: 26,000

Practice Facility: Yes

Number of staff year round and seasonal?
7 year-round, 36 seasonal

How many mechanics, assistants?

Ian McQueen, Golf Course Superintendent;
Dustin Prosser, Assistant Superintendent;
Caleb Evans, Second Assistant
Superintendent; Herman Ackermann,
Assistant Equipment Manager

Member since 2005

Pawel Torunski

Equipment Manager,
St. George's Golf &
Country Club.

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

Every superintendent will tell you the same thing: A great mechanic is the heartbeat of the operation—vital to its success.

There's something romantic about the quiet moments on the golf course while the rest of the world is still. For many, it's these gentle beginnings of the day that drew them in, shaping the passion they now have for the craft. Before the sun crests the trees at St. George's Golf and Country Club, Equipment



*Pawel Torunski, Equipment Manager, St. George's
Golf and Country Club.*

Manager Pawel Torunski is already immersed in his work, moving with purpose through the stillness of the morning. You won't find his name on a scorecard or his picture in the clubhouse gallery, but if you've ever had the privilege of being on the property at St. George's and thought, "Wow, these conditions are immaculate," then you've already witnessed Pawel's impact.

For the past 26 years, Pawel has been the man behind the machines, rising through the ranks to lead operations at one of Canada's premier golf clubs. "We run like a JDM laser—precise,

IN THE HOT SEAT

Q: Favourite Major?

A: The Masters

Q: Best piece of turf equipment?

A: A tie between the Eclipse 2 greens walker and Turfco CR 15 fairway topdresser.

Q: Favourite golf course?

A: St. George's G&CC

Q: Ultimate foursome: You and ?

A: Greg Norman, Adam Sandler, Moe Norman.

Q: Favourite meal?

A: Fried bone-in pork chop with mashed potatoes and shredded sweet beets.

Q: Lowest round ever and where?

A: 86 at Donalds Club

Q: Favourite course designer?

A: Dr. Alister MacKenzie

Q: Favourite Band?

A: Abba

high RPM, smooth as a freshly spun reel," he says of the operation at St. George's with pride. His workspace hums with order, grit, and a no-excuses mentality. This isn't just a job to him—it's a calling, one he discovered after years on the turf crew, when a mentor saw his potential and nudged him toward the 'Dark Side' of the industry.

His journey didn't begin with a toolbox and a title—it began in the early '90s on the turf crew at the Donalds Club, working under Paul Scenna and Colin White. What started as a summer job became a passion. Six years in, with a push from then-Assistant Equipment Manager Carlos Ponce, Pawel made the shift into equipment management. In 1997, he began apprenticing under Ray Joyce at St. George's and found what he now refers to as his "true calling."

"I realized after two years with Ray that this was it—this was where I belonged," he says. That clarity became a career built on relentless standards and a constant drive to raise the bar. "Superintendent Keith Bartlett gave me a shot to prove myself at the number one private club in Canada. Every season is a chance to improve, to elevate quality, and to deliver an



Family first.

exceptional golf experience for every member who steps onto the course."

In an era where instant gratification and comfort are prized, Pawel is a throwback—a believer in hard work, discipline, and the kind of leadership that builds strong teams and stronger equipment. "Kill or get killed," he jokes, but behind the tough edge is a team-first mentality: open doors, open ears, and trust. He's proud of his team, his turf, and the fact that he gets to push quality forward every

single day at one of the top private clubs in Canada.

In 2014, Pawel received the CGSA Equipment Technician of the Year award. He also served for five years as secretary of the Golf Equipment Technicians Association of Ontario (GETAO), further reflecting his leadership and dedication to the profession.

His impact doesn't go unnoticed. "Pawel is a leader, innovator, and an integral part of our team," says Superintendent Ian McQueen.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Predominate grass type: Bentgrass

Predominant soil type: Sandy Loam

Types of greens: USGA

Course Length: 7,014

Size of Greens: 3 acres

Size of Tees: 4 acres

Size of Fairways: 24 acres

"Pawel is a leader, innovator, and an integral part of our team. He takes great pride in the golf course and ownership of the entire fleet of equipment, allowing us to be at our best."

– Ian McQueen, Superintendent,
St. George's Golf and Country Club



The man behind the machines.

“He takes great pride in the golf course and ownership of the entire fleet of equipment, allowing us to be at our best.” That sense of ownership and pride runs through everything Pawel does.

There’s no fluff with him. He’s old-school in the best way—results over rhetoric, action over entitlement. For those starting out, ask him for advice and you’ll get a blunt but honest answer: “If you want to reach the top, exchange that silver spoon for a wooden one and push on. Don’t wait. The harder you push yourself, the quicker you’ll get to the finish line.”

He doesn’t care about excuses and certainly won’t throw you a pity party for staying 30 minutes late. What he will do is lead by

example—outworking most, out-thinking many, and building a workplace where people are respected and challenged in equal measure. His philosophy on managing staff is simple: be approachable, stay open, and make the job fun. It’s a high-performance culture, but it’s not without personality.

And make no mistake—there’s plenty of personality. His morning routine? “Annoy and harass McQueen for the first 10 minutes,” he laughs.

The bond is real. The respect is mutual.

Off the clock, Pawel’s intensity gives way to a quieter kind of fulfillment. He spends his time outdoors—fishing, hunting, and tending to the fruits and vegetables in his

garden. It’s the same hands-on, nurturing mindset, just applied to different pursuits. At home, he’s grounded by his wife of 25 years, Anna, and their two sons, Krzysztof, 22, and Mathew, 19. This fall, Krys will begin the Diploma in Turfgrass Management program at the University of Guelph, while Mathew is currently studying Electrical Technician – Industrial at Conestoga College. Add in a couple of cats and a deep family bond, and it’s clear that while Pawel might be tough, he’s built his life on loyalty, care, and connection.

He’s traveled plenty—he’s a fan of the islands but says Cuba still holds a special place—and when asked about the future, he doesn’t talk about retirement. Instead, he imagines grandchildren, more time on the water, and maybe, finally, a chance to enjoy the view.

Until then, the equipment will keep running smoothly. The greens will keep rolling true. And behind it all will be Pawel Torunski—cracking jokes, spinning reels, pushing standards, and proving, day in and day out, that the best work often happens where no one’s looking.

Because in a game built on details, it’s the ones behind the scenes—the ones like Pawel—who make perfection possible. ■

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