

Through the Green

Executive Director's Report

Thank you Mark Seabrook, Past President

by Jeff Calderwood, Executive Director, NGCOA Canada

In any association, the role of the president has considerable impact on its success.

The NGCOA Canada has been fortunate to have had Mark Seabrook as the founding president and, now that he has retired from that position, I would like to make all members aware of his contribution.

For those who don't know, Mark served for the first five years, during which time the association achieved tremendous success. He was one of the first Canadian golf course owners to join the NGCOA USA, prior to the formation of the NGCOA Canada, and he soon recognized the need for a similar association to serve our country. The idea to form the NGCOA Canada was his and our subsequent success will always relate back to Mark's initial vision.

On a volunteer basis, he devoted many hours to the start up of Golfmax and the association. He is quick to give me credit. However I got paid and he did not. He probably should have been attending to the business of running his 27-hole golf course, however his commitment to the NGCOA Canada became a very high priority.

Once the NGCOA Canada became established, it was Mark who proposed that the first Chapter in Ottawa finance expansion across Canada. From that proposal, an interest-free \$26,000 line of credit, from that Chapter to the new national operating budget, was created. Mark persuaded nine of those original golf courses to donate an additional \$1,000 each as charter members. As you might expect, he was the first to put up his \$1,000.

As we started our membership drive, it became necessary to travel to various cities for group presentations of the NGCOA Canada mandate to potential golf course operators. Again, he volunteered his time and effort to join me for numerous trips through British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario as we spread the word. These meetings were not easy, in the beginning, because our member benefits were not yet well developed. However Mark persisted and the NGCOA Canada is now well established in each of these markets.

In addition, he virtually donated his golf course for the first Golfmax Golf Tournament in '94, hosted numerous NGCOA Canada business meetings over the years, represented Canada on the NGCOA USA board and taught me much of what I know about golf course operations.

In summary, many have contributed to the initial success of the NGCOA Canada, however Mark Seabrook's involvement was exceptional and, upon his retirement,

it is appropriate to reflect on his efforts.
Thank you, Mark.