

**Report of Aaron Becker
Superintendent, St. Germain Golf Club
2017 Year in Review**

Looking back on the 2017 season, the St. Germain Golf Club Maintenance Department is very pleased with continuing to maintain quality playing conditions and also improving aesthetics/infrastructure items. As the snow began to melt, we embarked on our normal spring clean-up. A very windy winter and early spring storms provided plenty of debris to attend to. Our crew focuses on getting the immediate playing areas free of all sticks, pine needles, leaf matter, and animal damage prior to opening the golf course.

The spring also brought an exciting time for upgrading our irrigation communication controls at our maintenance shop and out on the course. Following our budget workshop in the fall of 2016, we reviewed the age and condition of our original controls and decided that this upgrade was very necessary. Our install contractor was on site for three weeks and installed new a radio/wireless irrigation control system which included a brand new computerized central control at the maintenance shop and 17 new field satellites.

2017 also saw the addition of almost 300 feet of split rail fence throughout the golf course. These were areas where golf cart traffic was routinely encroaching near tee boxes and green complexes. A huge area of focus was our Pro Shop and Driving Range area as well. We repaired uprooted asphalt, installed drainage and reclaimed turf that was damage from roots and cart traffic. The first impression of this area is vital for all of our customers and we feel we have greatly improved upon that.

Another exciting addition to the golf course facility was the opening of the Mulligan's Short Game area in mid-June. This area was built in-house in the late summer and fall of 2016. The area was grown in from seed and provided various pitch and chip shots to a small target green with a mounded back stop. A small practice bunker was shaped into the area as well. We hope this area provides golfers with another option to practice in addition to the practice putting green and driving range, in a less congested area.

Closing out 2017, we built a new ladies tee on #12. This was an area that was previously cut down in the rough and provided an uneven hitting surface for golfers to start their hole. We brought in topsoil and 80/20 tee mix to construct a larger, more level surface. The tee was seeded to 007 variety creeping bentgrass. This was the same seed that we used last year to grow in the new ladies tee on #18 and the new short game area. We saw excellent germination with the mild and humid weather September/October provided us with in northern Wisconsin. We hope to open this tee for play in the early summer of 2018.

Looking ahead to 2018, we are currently maintaining our equipment fleet which includes over 50 pieces that require inspection, detailing and full service of the mechanical systems. In the next constant contact update, we will provide a look at our maintenance

program in the winter and what goes into keeping these machines operating 5-7 days a week for six months straight.

We will continue to replace and add new split rail fence near the pro shop and parking lot. In addition, we are also going to install a flagstone paver area in the island of the driving range/golf cart parking area. Our focus going forward will be continuing to keep this area clean and detail orientated. Another capital budget improvement for 2018 will be having a new irrigation pump station installed near the irrigation pond by #17 fairway. Our current station and pumps are 25 years old and have been rebuilt numerous times. This is the central point to pressurize all of our piping throughout the property. Our new central control that was installed in 2017 will work in conjuncture with the new pump station. Flow monitoring, system operation reports, and other important information will be provided in real time 24/7.

As the winter rolls on, each passing week brings us much closer to heading out on the course to get things started for 2018. Our staff, including our mechanic Bob Stippich, and myself look forward to another productive and successful season. See you all soon!

Aaron Becker
Superintendent