

## 2016-2017 BLBC Greens Restoration Program

November 2016 update

The weather has again held up well to allow work to continue on the BLBC Greens Restoration program.

While much work has already occurred since the 2016 season ended at Thanksgiving, there is no let up on the activities that need to be done to ensure that the 2017 season will have better greens than we did in 2016.

After the regular aeration, and sanding that took place on Oct 11th, greens leveling efforts were quickly added to the schedule.

This involves a lot of manual labour to lay sand down on the greens and then using a steel leveling bar to drag over the sand and allow recessed areas/gaps/divots/etc., to be filled and levelled.



Work started on the south greens and when that was completed, work moved to the north greens.



A large amount of sand is used in this process, and the work is labour intensive



Once the sand had time to settle and be watered in, Charlie Roach spent time fertilizing the greens in readiness for the next phase which was to replace dead or worn grass areas with new sod.

The greens fringe areas will look totally different 6 months from now, once the sod has taken and with new growth in the spring. Look out for the Spring 2017 update that will capture these areas again, and you can see how the areas change in this period.

North green – along East end



South green – along North edge



As that activity completes and the new sod is watered in, time to move to the next step and look at the Deep Solid Tine Aeration process.



This involves equipment that pushes the solid tines deeply into the greens (approx 9 inch penetration) without removing any core plugs. That creates a fracture in the lower soil levels (relieves compaction) allowing air to get to the roots, but also creating space for sand to fall down into the root zone. Sand at that lower level also adds a capability to dilute organic matter that often accumulates in soil, and helps regrowth.



If the weather remains good, work will continue to occur on the greens in preparation for the winter months and looking forward to the Spring 2017 restoration activities.