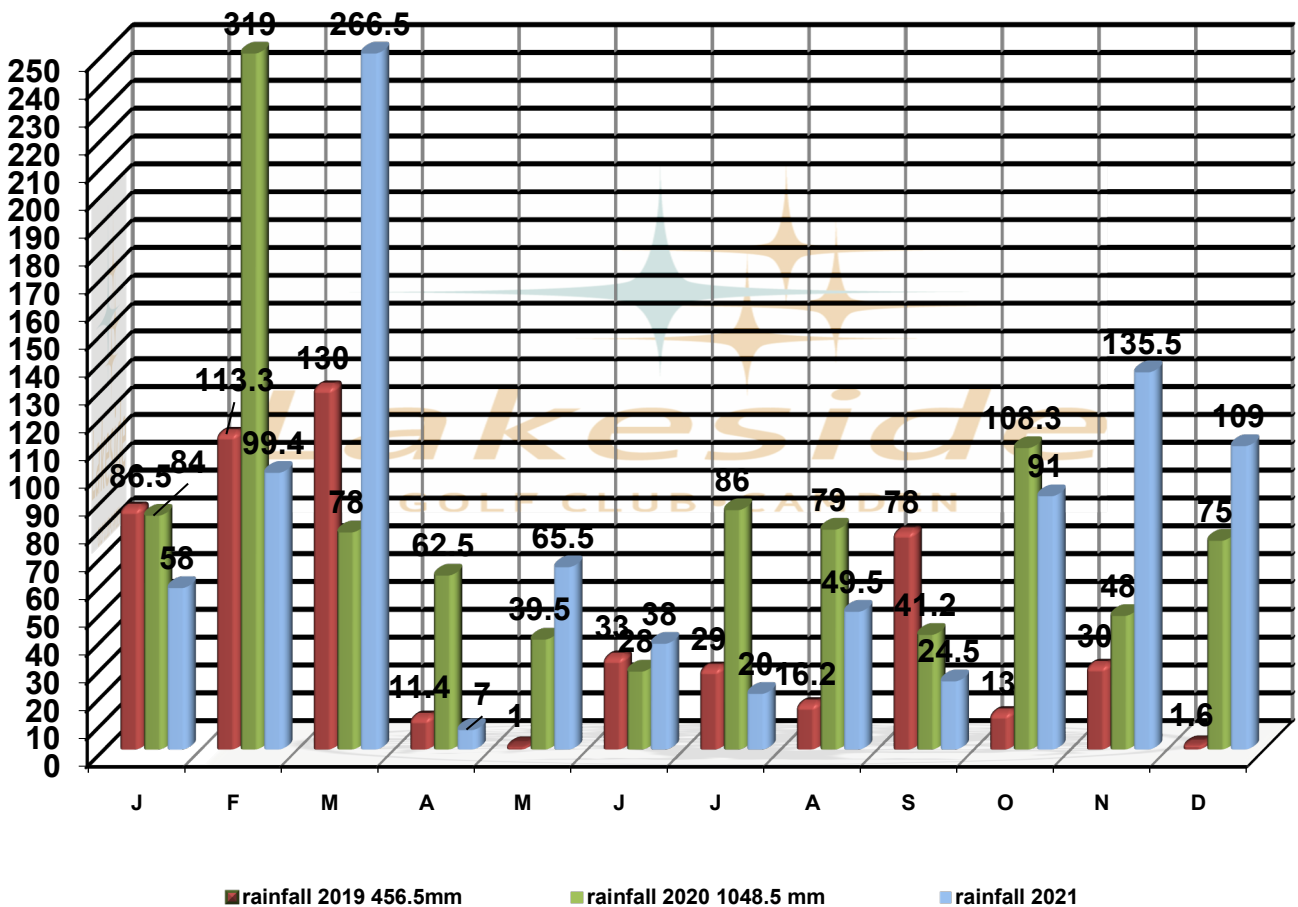


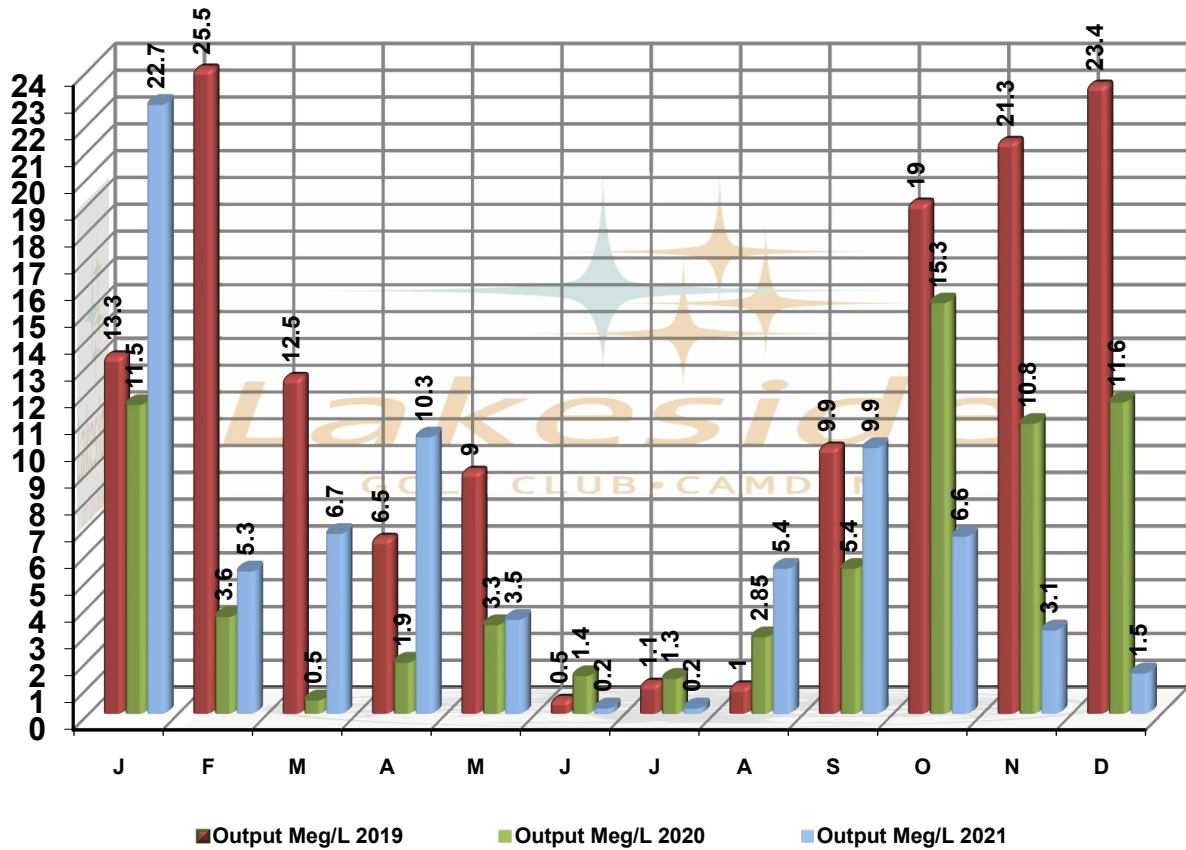
COURSE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



7th DECEMBER 2021 – 18th January 2022

DECEMBER 2021 RAINFALL	109mm
Number of rain days in DECEMBER	6
RAINFALL TOTAL 2021	965.5mm
DECEMBER 2021 IRRIGATION	1.5Meg
IRRIGATION TOTAL 2021	75.4Meg





SNAPSHOT RAINFALL AND IRRIGATION

	2018	2019	2020	2021
RAINFALL (MM)	480.2	457.2	1048.5	965.5
IRRIGATION (ML)	146.6	143	69.45	75.4(with construction grow in)

GREENS

Cutting height 3 mm

The last month was all about trying to cut whenever we could. Slow speeds were expected with rainfall periods. Solid tines went over greens to alleviate compaction and allow the greens to drain quicker. Unfortunately as we roll more to obtain speed, these holes quickly compact again and greens then take a little to drain after rainfall. We have moved to a growth regulator every week at reduced rates. This holds the leaf growth at a consistent level throughout the growing season.

Greens couldn't be dusted due to rainfall, but with more favourable conditions, this will once again commence.

Fungicide applications have been low but as humidity and long leaf wetness periods continue, a preventative will be sprayed.

New greens on 13 and 14 have grown in well although are immature and still need some time to develop and harden. Regular fertilisers are applied weekly to encourage strong leaf grow, root development and hard cell formation.

GREENS COLLARS

Collars 6mm

Collars are cut twice a week. Even with large rainfall amounts they are draining well and can be continued to be cut at this frequency.

GREEN SURROUNDS

Cutting height 12mm

Green surrounds on 13 and 14 were given a granular fertiliser. Foliar fertiliser and a miticide was applied to 13, 14, 16, 17th green surrounds. Paspalum has been hand weeded from surrounds. A light rate of growth regulator and some fertiliser will be sprayed.

TEES

Cutting height 8mm

Tees are cut twice weekly and showing good growth. Tees on 13/14/15/16/17 have been wet. It's not uncommon as these tees do not have drainage in them. Although the sub base is graded with a fall, the soil is saturated at this time and hence that it takes them a little longer to dry.



3rd back tee on a Saturday morning at 4am. Normally a good tee that drains well, but just couldn't handle any more rain. This tee was playable by the morning tee off.

FAIRWAYS

Cutting height 12mm

Fairways were sprayed with a growth regulator. Another application will be made in the coming week. The issue we are having is getting on them to cut. We are finding it hard to balance up presentation, cutting and damaging turf when wet. The longer that we leave them the more grass that we leave behind making them messy.

ROUGHS

Cutting height 40mm

Roughs aren't getting cut every week due to the rainfall. We currently are trying to get them done, but given it takes approximately 4 full days to cut all rough areas, rainfall is hindering our efforts. Some holes are cut as a priority due to growth over holes at the moment. MSMA spraying will commence targeting paspalum and summer grass in roughs.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Silt is now in all but 2 dams, that being the 11th and 18th dams. This will not be fixed until all infrastructure in development and retention basins are finished.

THE GREENS

Irrigation repairs have kept us busy over the last couple of weeks. We now are maintaining only 4 holes and Atlas Golf are under contract for the remaining holes.

CONSTRUCTION

See Update to membership

RAINFALL EVENTS

It must be said that the course is extremely wet more often now than ever before. It is the wettest I have seen it over the last 10 years. Due to the developments, we must understand that we now get water from surrounding areas quicker to our dams and water ways. This will cause flash flooding, however it will be for a shorter period of time. Once we watched the current 9th, old 5th, flow across the fairway for a day or two after a rain event. This now happens over half a day and the water is gone. Some would say that is better but others would say get the water out as fast as we can. We always flooded in these areas as golf courses are natural flood areas, and even more to the point when housing surrounds the course then you can bet the course will flood first.



This is a view of the 16th green which is dry but surrounded by water and fairway during a rain event of at least 3 inches of rain in a short period of time. Photo taken at 3pm, and water gone by 5am the next morning.



This is a view of the 9th green which has slightly gone under during a rain event of at least 3 inches of rain in a short period of time. Photo taken at 3pm, and water gone by 5am the next morning. This area will improve through the development stages.



This is the 1st fairway obviously not coping with the high rainfall event of 3 inches over a short period of time. Solutions to this will be worked through in the coming months.



Works in front of the 12th green were carried out to reduce water runoff. We eliminated a pit that continuously released water 20 mts out from the green.

Dean Hopper
Course Superintendent