Splendour in the Grass

Atlanta’s Garden House Dance Company is giving free performances of Mowing in the city’s parks, reports The Journal-Constitution. “Four dancers will partner with non-motorized push-mowers in a seductive paean to the summer ritual of lawn care. The dancers will waltz with their lightweight mowers, lift them, even play them as instruments, all the while carving continually changing patterns into a 38-by-38 foot expanse of grass. By the time it’s over, the grass is cut.”

— The Globe & Mail, September 13, 2000

Frankengrass

Recent notes about genetically altered grass include:

- Grasses that have different colours or contain a luminescent gene that would make them glow in the dark are being studied by Monsanto, Scotts Co. and the Biotechnology Centre of Rutgers University.
- In its Ohio research laboratories, Scotts, the world’s largest maker of lawn and turf products, is field-testing varieties of “low-mow” lawn grass that will grow more slowly. Other strains could be bred to have improved drought resistance or to flourish in the winter. Scotts is also working on a genetically modified grass that can withstand the most potent weed-killers to remain healthy and green.

— The Globe & Mail, Social Studies, Michael Kesterton, August 30, 2000

Editor’s Note: For more information on GMOs in turf, be sure to attend Dr. Steve Bowley’s seminar on January 4, 2001 at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

OPA/ORFA Update

Our congratulations to STA member John Howard on his appointment as Executive Director of the Ontario Parks Association. John adds another dimension to a very strong career with parks and horticultural services both in the public and private sector.

Congratulations are also in order for Terry Piche who steps down as President of the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association to assume the position of Technical Director. John Archibald will carry out the role of acting President. Best wishes to all!

DEADLINE: JANUARY 14
Content for March issue