

# STA Member Profile

Chris Mark • Director of Parks and Open Space • Town of Oakville

## What is your role with the Town of Oakville?

Director of Parks and Open Space

## What kind of team do you work with?

I am proud to work with a very dynamic, professional and dedicated group of people: 3 landscape architects, 3 managers and 1 administrative assistant.

## What are you and your team responsible for?

Park planning and development as well as operations, including parks and open space, forestry, cemeteries and harbours.

## What is your biggest challenge?

Ensuring operational requirements keep pace with development and managing continual growth.

## What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Diversity – moving projects from planning and development through to completion.

## What is the biggest misconception about your job?

There are two: 1) that municipal parks sections are soft services playing a secondary role within the municipal structure, and 2) that there is a slow (off) season and this is an 8:30 to 4:30 “government” job.

## What is your educational/employment background?

BA in History, Associate Diploma in Agriculture, ODH. City of Brampton, York University Grounds and Fleet, Town of Oakville

## Tell us about your family.

I have one amazing wife, Mary, and four



children ages 3 to 14 years old. We're very active in rep ball.

## What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

Four children ages 3 to 14 years old. Very active in rep ball... what else need I say?

## What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

Environmental stewardship should be high on everyone's priority list. Recognizing that making the “green” decision is the best choice.

## What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of

## the Sports Turf Association?

Networking! Having the expertise of many professionals at my fingertips and the opportunity to assist others in maintaining and developing their sports fields. ♦

## CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Contact Lee Huether at the STA office if you are interested in contributing to the *Sports Turf Manager*. We appreciate feature-length articles, column ideas and newsworthy items. Updates on innovative research or equipment are also welcomed. This is a great way to both support your professional association and enhance your resume!