

STA Member Profile

DWAYNE MCALLISTER, SUPERVISOR, SPORTS FIELDS & IPM, OAKVILLE

What is your role with the Town of Oakville? Supervisor – Sports Fields and Integrated Pest Management.

What kind of team do you work with? I am fortunate to work with a highly dedicated parks team who do their best to ensure the internal and external client experience at our sports facilities is top notch.

What are you and your team responsible for? Our team covers the entire Town of Oakville and is specific to the maintenance of sports fields and the Town's IPM program. We maintain 56 irrigated fields, two artificial, one cricket pitch, and assist with the community run bowling green. We also maintain numerous class B&C fields on parkland and school board properties.

What is the biggest challenge in your job? One of our largest challenges is balancing permitting hours with down time for maintenance. Like so many municipalities, Oakville is growing in leaps and bounds. It is a long process to get new community parks in place to accommodate increased user enrolment. Each year, groups want a bigger slice of the available time. The end result is that there is more use on existing fields.

What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you? It is exceptionally nice to look at the address section of an e-mail and see that the Mayor, Commissioner, Director and Manager have all been notified that frontline staff did a great job. I know they did, but acknowledgment from the client and being the bearer of that message to the team who did the work is very fulfilling.

What is the biggest misconception about your job? That we take winter off. The general public has no idea how much work goes into scheduling, hiring and equipment maintenance to make the following season run smoothly. Throw in the natural ice rinks and snow removal and our winters can be as busy as the summer.

Tell us about your family. Born in Oakville, with my teen years spent in Ottawa, it is fitting that I landed back in Oakville to work. My fantastic wife Linda and I have an eight year-old son David. We recently moved to Oakville from the Puslinch/Guelph area. My wife and I are football fanatics – she's a Packers fan and I'm a Bears guy. Makes for some interesting discussions.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favorite past times? My current hobbies pretty much involve being the taxi driver for David's sporting events. I'm the coach of his hockey and lacrosse teams and have a blast doing so at the house league level. We use my brother's cottage up Minden way in the summer but for the most part enjoy down time working around the older home we bought.

How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards? We are all so much wiser on the benefits of IPM and reduced pesticide use, but I think water conservation and reuse needs



to be brought more to the forefront. We know in that in the near future it's going to be a huge issue. I would like to see a movement towards central irrigation systems as part of the blueprint for our new parks along with greywater recycling.

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

There are several. It's an easy avenue to keep abreast of all the advancements and technologies out there for us to use, and the networking, which occurs from being an active member, is also a great benefit.

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