January 7, 1987

Dear:

In discussion with a few colleagues, there seems to be sufficient interest to indicate the possibility of forming a 'Sports Turf Association for Ontario'.

We would like to have a brainstorming session to discuss this opportunity with various professionals and associations. With the increased use of existing facilities plus the high cost to insure against injury, we see a need for an organization that would cover field sports at all levels.

The session will be held at the University of Guelph Arboretum Centre Board Room on February 11, 1987, at 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to attend, please reply to Mike J. Bladon, Grounds Department, no later than January 31, or telephone 519-824-4120, Extension 9460.

Sincerely,

M. J. Bladon
Assistant Head
Grounds Department

Sports Turf Association Seeks Safer Playing Fields

The newly formed Sports Turf Association is dedicated to safer and better playing fields, says Mike Bladon, interim chairman of the fledgling association. The organization will collect and disseminate educational, practical and scientific insights related to safer and better turf, and sponsor and co-ordinate cooperative projects in education and research. It will also work closely with existing organizations that have an interest in better sports fields or public turf facilities, says Bladon.

After several months of informal discussion among turfgrass managers, a steering committee was formed at a recent meeting at the University of Guelph and is currently working on a constitution representing a broad spectrum of turfgrass interests in Ontario: golf course superintendents, sports facility managers, consultants, the international lawn institute, university researchers, parks experts, government officials, and producers and grounds maintenance personnel.

Of particular concern to many of those at the meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to those using athletic facilities, school yards and parks.


STA/CGSA Conference, 1989


RAIDERS ANNOUNCE MOVE FROM COLISEUM

All Davie, the owner of the Los Angeles Raiders. has never been afraid to fight the National Football League or local government when it comes to the success of his team. The owner of the NFL, he has let the city of Oakland and he is about to beat the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.

When he was commissioned to negotiate a new stadium for the Raiders in 1981, Davie is now leaving the Raiders to their own devices to be constructed in Inglewood, a city 25 miles southwest of Los Angeles. For more than a year, Davie has been battling with the Coliseum Commission over details that are important to the profitability of an NFL franchise. Agreement has been thought lost.

SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION LAUNCHED IN CANADA

After numerous organizational meetings at the University of Guelph, Ontario, the idea of a sports turf association for Canada became reality this summer. Michael Bladon of the University of Guelph was selected president. The organization is busy planning its first conference and publishing newsletter.

Concluded more than $16 million to renovate the stadium to keep the event in the city. Construction is scheduled to begin in November. The city wants to have most of the renovation completed by the 1989 season. CSI Sports will host the event for the first time next year at which time it will increase the media exposure of the event. City officials estimate the event contributed more than $18 million to the local economy each year. The Kansas City Royals AAA farm club also plays its home games at the stadium.

LANDMARK PURCHASES PALM BEACH POLO CLUB

Landmark Land Company, Inc., developer of PGA West and La Quinta Golf and Tennis Resort in La Quinta, CA, has purchased the Palm Beach Polo & Country Club in Wellington, FL. The polo-pitch club includes 11 polo fields, two indoor fields, 17 miles of trails and a championship croquet field.

In the past, Landmark has built its own golf course estate developments. The only other established property-Landmark has purchased is Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, CA. The company is already planning improvements to Palm Beach Polo & Country Club. The first thing they did when they purchased the property, says golf course superintendent James Brumpton, was increase my budget by 25 percent. Good luck, he, the previous owner, said: best. I had been putting off buying some equipment, adds Brumpton. Now we can get on with things.

Landmark's courses are famous for major U.S. events, both PGA and LPGA. The two courses at Palm Beach, one designated by golf course analyst George Rice, will probably follow the Landmark tradition.

ST. LOUIS SOCCER PARK HOSTS OLYMPIC MATCH

The United States National Soccer Team will play an Olympic Qualification Match against a South American national team.

We had our cake and ate it too at the 2012 Annual General Meeting, held within days of the actual 25th anniversary of that historic gathering at the University of Guelph when the roots of the Sports Turf Association were established.
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

The Agenda

Sports Turf Association of Ontario Discussion Meeting
February 11, 1987
Arboretum Centre
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario

• Welcome and Introductions
• ‘A Sports Turf Association of Ontario’ Opening Remarks:
  Pat Tucker and Mike Bladon, Grounds Department,
  University of Guelph
• Discussion
  - Do we see a need for a Sports Turf Association?
  - If so, what would be the objectives of such an association?
  - Who should be members?
  - Should there be an affiliation with another group?
  - Who would volunteer to form an interim executive?
• An Action for the Future
  - Interim executive
  - Meeting time and place
• Adjournment

It Was Resolved

• All those at the meeting following the opening remarks were in agreement that a Sports Turf Association is needed now, and that it not, be limited to Ontario.
• The objectives/goals of the association are to be similar to the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA)
  - Disseminate available information to Sports Managers
  - Research
  - Education: field days and seminars
  - Develop standards and guidelines for safety aspects
• There should be different membership categories and keep as broad as possible
• Suggestion of affiliation with STMA. Also an offer from CGCSA to dispense information through their magazine Greenmaster and to join them at their conference in Toronto in March 1988. Sod producers also very interested in working together.
• A volunteer Steering Committee was formed consisting of Mike Bladon, Annette Anderson, Uwe Sehmerau, Bruce Calhoun, and Bob Allen.
• Action for the future to use a Steering Committee to do ground work and present a report. The report to include all aspects of the formation of the association.

Conference

The first Sports Turf Association conference was presented in cooperation with the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, March 9, 1988 during the Canadian Turfgrass Conference. With 100 people in attendance, the event, which was to become an annual one, was firmly established. This conference has through the years, morphed into the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) that we know today, presented by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute, the Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, the Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, the Sports Turf Association, and the Centre for Open Learning and Educational Support, University of Guelph.

Our roots run deep and 2012 marks this quarter-century milestone. We salute all those who envisioned the Sports Turf Association 25 years ago, who through their dedication, determination and much hard work not only brought the association to fruition but established a foundation for sustainability. And the countless others who followed, with service on the board of directors, on committees, providing educational presentations, writing articles, sponsoring, exhibiting, advertising, and just spreading the word. And those who participated in the professional development and educational events and supported the association with their membership. We acknowledge you.

For twenty-five years the Sports Turf Association has been dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf.

That commitment continues.

OTS 2012 attracted nearly 500 delegates, speakers and sponsors to participate in more than 30 sessions of general and focused streams of education. Details for OTS 2013 will be available later this summer.