

# Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2014. VOL. 27. NO. 1.

## Introducing Sports Turf Canada

The new face of the Sports Turf Association

Guelph, ON – At the recent annual general meeting, members of Sports Turf Association Inc. (Sports Turf Association) voted to

continue the provincial not-for-profit corporation into the federal jurisdiction. The result? Updated letters patent, revised and updated governing by-laws, and the introduction of a now Canada-wide organization. As part of this renewal process the Sports Turf Association intends to become known as Sports Turf Canada, registering Sports Turf Canada as a trade style name.

The Sports Turf Association launched a branding and marketing review in 2013 examining its core values, positioning statements and brand through discovery meetings and phone and email interviews with members, stakeholders, the board of directors and staff. During this process the necessity for a more

**SPORTS**  **TURF**  
**CANADA**



Tennessee Propedo (L), newly elected president of Sports Turf Canada with first association president Michael Bladon (1987-1989).

fitting corporation status, together with a title more reflective of its membership was confirmed.

Paul Gillen, now association past president, explains, “The nucleus of members of the Sports Turf Association has, since its inception in 1987, been based in Ontario. However we have long-supported sports turf managers

from coast to coast. The transfer of our corporate identity into the federal domain recognizes more formally our dedication to the promotion of better, safer sports turf across the country.”

First identified as a goal at the inaugural meeting of the association, the emergence of a more national profile was strengthened in 2009 with the recognition of the Sports Turf Association as the Canadian International Affiliate Organization of the American Sports Turf Managers Association. It continued

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## Past President's Message

BY PAUL GILLEN

This will be my last message as your president; I want to take a moment to thank all of those people who have made this such a wonderful experience. To all of my predecessors, who I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 25 years, thank you for your inspiration and setting such a high standard in making this association so relevant and meaningful. To all the board members, past and present, who dedicated so much of their time and experience to making this association the authority for sports turf management, thank you. And to the incoming executive and board, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to help grow the association and keep it current. I step down from this role with the confidence that we have the foundation in place to sustain another 25 years of quality education and applicable information for our membership. •



STA past president, Paul Gillen

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to develop its Canadian presence with initiatives in Atlantic Canada beginning in 2011, and in 2012 with the formalization of a partnership agreement with the Western Canada Turfgrass Association (WCTA) which recognized the Sports Turf Association as the national body for the promotion of better, safer sports turf in Canada.

“The creation of a national association was the vision all those years ago. It is exciting and gratifying to watch this niche organization grow into one with a national presence and a national mandate,” enthused Michael Bladon, a founding father of the Sports Turf Association.

“While Sports Turf Canada as a brand identity may be new, the passion and hands-on approach of board members and staff and their dedication to the association is not,” added new president Tennessee Propedo. “We are the authority in our field and are committed to providing our members with current, credible and relevant information to help them to manage their field assets in the most safe and effective manner.”

### About Sports Turf Canada

Sports Turf Canada is the new operating name of Sports Turf Association Inc. Our roots go back to 1987 when after a brain storming session at the University of Guelph a broad segment of the turf industry endorsed its need. Of particular concern at that meeting was the need to minimize and avoid injury to participants using athletic fields where they relate to sports turf. More than twenty-five years later Sports Turf Canada will continue to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. •

# Event Calendar

**April 28 to May 1**

**Sports Turf Canada**

**Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course**

University of Guelph

Guelph, ON

[SportsTurfCanada.com/STMM](http://SportsTurfCanada.com/STMM) Course

**May 30**

**Sports Turf Canada**

**Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Deadline**

[SportsTurfCanada.com/Awards](http://SportsTurfCanada.com/Awards) & Scholarship

**August 17-24**

**International Symposium on Turfgrass Management and Science for Sports Fields**

Part of the International Horticultural Congress

Brisbane, Australia

[http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium\\_29.html](http://www.ihc2014.org/symposium_29.html)

**September**

**27th Annual Ontario Field Day**

Watch for details!

[SportsTurfCanada.com](http://SportsTurfCanada.com)