

# Coming Events

**March 24-25, 2004**

Ontario Parks Association 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Seminar & Explorations Trade Show  
Hamilton, ON, Info: (905) 524-3535,  
[www.opassoc.on.ca](http://www.opassoc.on.ca)

**April 25-30, 2004**

Ontario Recreation Facilities Association 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Professional Development Program  
Guelph, ON, Info: (416) 426-7062, [www.orfa.com](http://www.orfa.com)

**July 19-21**

Ontario Parks Association Annual General Meeting & Summer Educational Institute  
Oakville, ON, Info: (905) 524-3535,  
[www.opassoc.on.ca](http://www.opassoc.on.ca)

**Jan. 31 to Feb. 25, 2005**

Guelph Turfgrass Institute Turf Managers' Short Course  
Guelph, ON, Info: (519) 767-5000

**Get on the list! Call the STA office with your event information. Check the STA website at [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com) for updates.**



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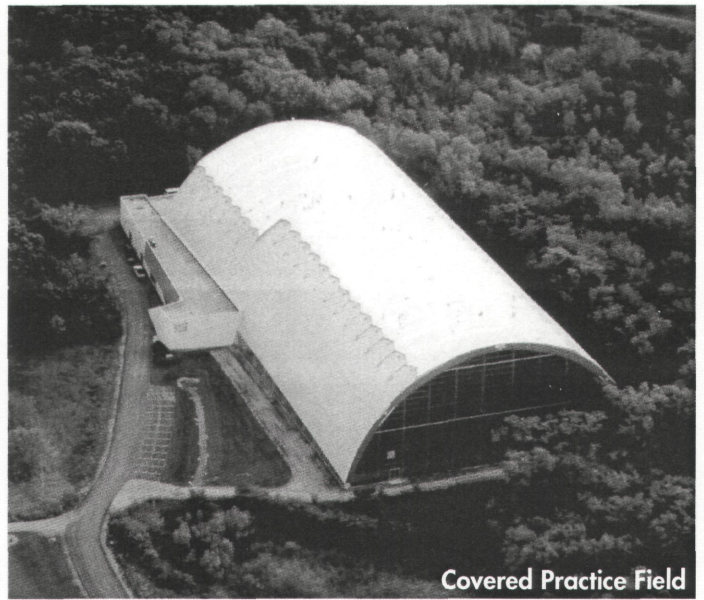
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Covered Practice Field

overall turf hardiness. It has helped prevent unstable playing conditions, wear spots and divoting.”

Soldier Field groundskeeper John Nolan will topdress the field as needed throughout the year with an 85% sand and 15% Profile mix. With the sod installed in June 2003, John and his staff were able to thoroughly prepare the field before the Monday Night Football season-opener by topdressing, aerifying and fertilizing it several times.

### Heating System

Plants depend on sun and heat for survival. Unfortunately, Soldier Field doesn't receive much exposure from the sun once the NFL season rolls along into December and January.

To counter Chicago's cold temperatures, a heating system was installed

underneath the field to provide a warm environment for the soil and turf.

“A heating system is going to help us out a lot,” Mrock said. “It will help us keep a healthy turf longer. We'll see growth of grass into the winter months because the system will keep the soil at optimum growing temperatures.”

By adding the heating system, Soldier Field is taking after several other NFL stadiums in cold-weather climates, including Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

The heating system was installed 9 inches deep underneath the root zone using more than 40 miles of 3/4-inch tubing. Radiant heat will warm a combination of water and glycol as it is pumped through the tubing.

“It does its job,” Mrock said. “It melts some snow and keeps the field from freezing. As a result, it will make it softer

and more forgiving for players, and will extend our growing season.”

Soldier Field's sod was custom grown. Mrock chose a Kentucky Bluegrass blend of turf that closely resembles the sod at Halas Hall.

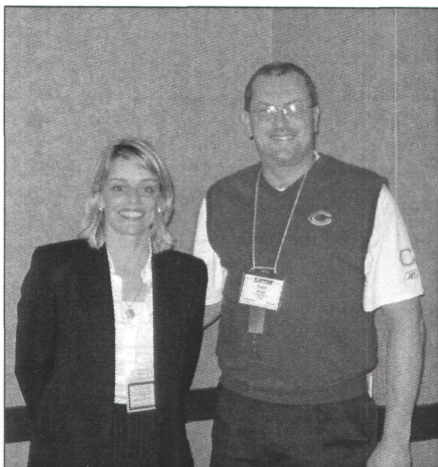
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The heating system was installed 9" deep under the root zone using more than 40 miles of 3/4" tubing.

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Soldier Field will serve as a multi-use facility. It will be the new home of the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer and will be a venue for concerts and high school and youth league events. ♦

Nathan Odgaard is a writer with Swanson Russell Associates, Lincoln, NE. He can be reached at [nathano@sramarketing.com](mailto:nathano@sramarketing.com). Article reprinted with permission from *SPORTSTURF* magazine, November, 2003.



## KEN MROCK: STMA'S GROUNDSKEEPER OF THE YEAR

After speaking at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium, Ken jetted off to the 15th Annual Conference & Exhibition of the Sports Turf Managers Association in San Diego, California where he was presented with the prestigious Harry C. Gill Memorial Award.

The Harry C. Gill Memorial Award is named for the STMA's second president who served in that capacity from 1982-1983. His commitment to the sports turf

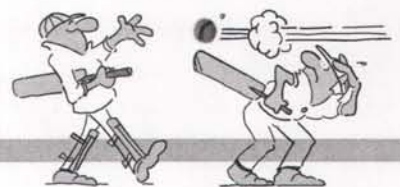
industry and his support of the goals and standards on which the STMA is based are legendary. The Gill Award denotes an individual's long-time service and commitment to STMA and those same goals and standards. *Congratulations Ken from the Sports Turf Association!*

**Photo:** STA Director Jane Arnett-Rivers with Ken Mrock at the 2004 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium in Niagara Falls.



# This is Cricket, By Jove!

MICHAEL BLADON



Cricket is the English national game. And to many Englishmen, it is both a game and a standard of behaviour. Cricket does not have rules, it has laws. It is also the "national" game in New Zealand, Australia, India, Africa, Pakistan, the West Indies and Bangladesh. When Canada became a Dominion in 1867, the Prime Minister declared cricket a national sport.

The first written reference to cricket is in an excerpt of an account of the 28th year of Edward the First (1239-1307) which listed expenses as part of the game. King Edward III banned cricket as it interfered with archery. Still later, one could be fined and imprisoned for three years if found playing the game on personal property. Opinions obviously changed as there are many records of cricket being played by the British Army and Royal Navy in the 1700s.

Moving overseas, the first game played in Canada by civilians was on Ile-Ste Hélène near Montreal in 1785. The Toronto Cricketing Club formed in 1827 and is now called the Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club. Toronto, Guelph, Kingston, Woodstock and Hamilton all had teams until the 1840s.

Cricket was played on the front campus of what is now the University of Guelph for over one hundred years. York University also has a cricket ground open to the public. A "crease" was laid at Rideau Hall, formerly the Vice-Regal Lodge, in Ottawa in 1865. This same land was set aside for cricket when Canada became a Dominion.

In British Columbia, the sport was played from 1849 when a British army officer brought cricket equipment with him. Also recorded from 1864 was a cricket ground on part of the Nanaimo Indian Reserve. A league still exists in BC today consisting of teams from Nanaimo,

Comox Valley, Arrowsmith and Campbell River.

Moving to Alberta, Edmonton was one of a few clubs to have its own private ground since 1882. Teams competed from Fort Saskatchewan and Strathcona and by 1912, there were sufficient adherents to the game that the Edmonton and District Cricket League was formed.

In 1892, the Canadian Cricket Association was founded and today, there are eight provincial associations.

A major influence on cricket in Canada is its geography. Since a large portion of the country is frozen

for 6-7 months of the year, this causes difficulties for grounds maintenance, practice, training and coaching. With the game played from coast to coast, the mere size of the country can also cause scheduling and transportation problems for those with a keen interest in the game.

Canada's cricket history has been impacted significantly by immigration, both from early armed force migrants to people from Britain, the Caribbean and Asia. And largely due to immigration, there are over 5,000 players on more than 100 teams in three official leagues in Toronto. This does not account for the many other players who do not belong to a league.

In August 2003, 16 non-affiliated teams played in a tapeball tournament on rented parking lots in Toronto. (A tapeball is a tennis ball wrapped with duct tape.) There

are currently 200 teams in Toronto playing tapeball. Many rent baseball diamonds and play under the lights.

In Mississauga, because of demand, cricket has become entrenched as a school sport. British Columbia boasts more than 60 teams plus a premier league in five divisions; high school cricket is played on the lower mainland. The Manitoba Cricket Association has successfully introduced the game to 14 junior high and senior high schools. There is a Saturday league run for the schools and week-long summer camps for juniors aged 7-19 years.

Canada has qualified a team for the Under 19 World Cup in Bangladesh in 2004. Canada's national team, which played in the World Cup last spring (and rekindled interest in the game), is comprised of nine members whose birthplace is from nine different countries



Since a large portion of the country is frozen for 6-7 months of the year, this causes difficulties for grounds maintenance, practice and training.

of the old British Empire. Once again, immigration is playing a part in those selected (note: there are only 11 members on a team).

To end, we've delved into Canada's cricket history and reported that the game is alive and well across this vast country. As sports turf managers, some day you may be asked to provide space for the game. All that is required is a level grassed area between 500-550 feet.

Finally, if you hear it said "that isn't cricket," you'll know it refers to unfair or unsportsmanlike behaviour – and it may be wise to watch your back! ♦

Research for this article was done on [www.canadacricket.com](http://www.canadacricket.com). James Christie of The Globe and Mail wrote an interesting article called *Cricket Rules* published on September, 13, 2003.







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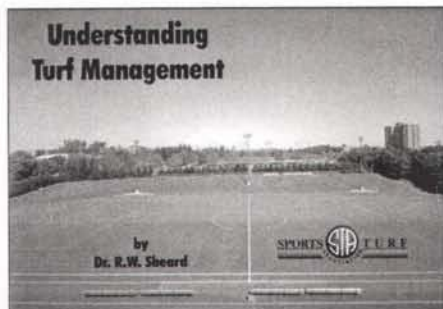
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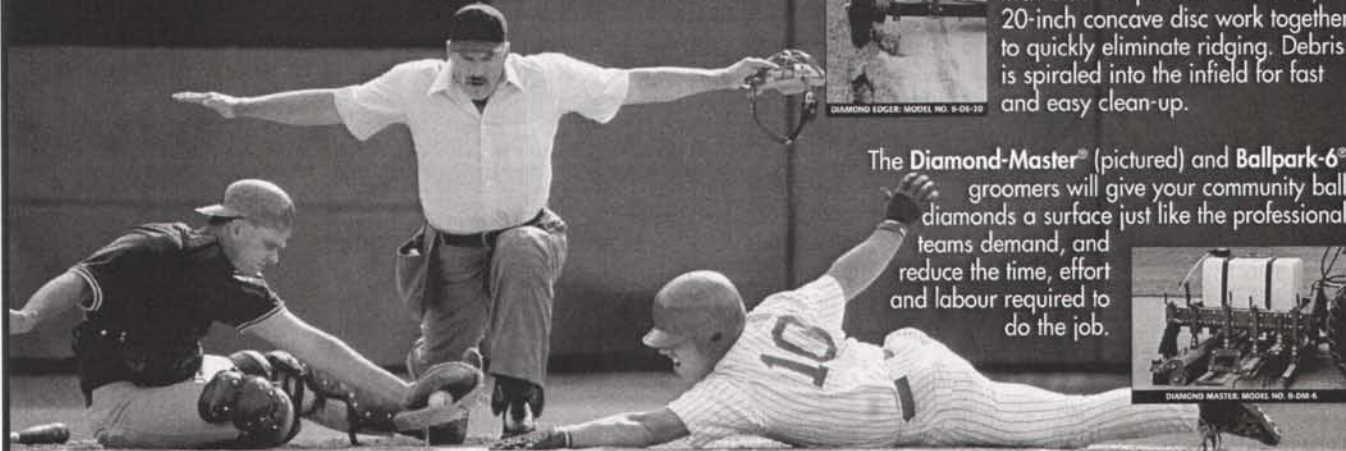
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Over the years, changes in harvesting equipment has led to different sized rolls, resulting in sod being sold by rolls (0.8 sq. m.), square yards, metres and a host of various dimension big rolls. Therefore, a uniform unit of measure, the square foot, will be easier to comprehend for both clients and end users. The square foot is the current standard adopted by the turfgrass sod industry across North America. It is also the standard unit of measure used throughout the building industry (tiles, concrete pavers, stonework, homes, industrial building spaces, etc.).

Implementing this change will make purchasing sod in Ontario an easier and more uniform process for all.

The Nursery Sod Growers Association of Ontario can be reached at 905-689-8845, [www.nurserysodgrowers.com](http://www.nurserysodgrowers.com).



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### Shaping the Future 1929-2004 STRI Celebrates 75 Years

Sports Turf Research Institute celebrates 75 years in the turfgrass industry this year. To mark this milestone, we are planning a program of events which will run throughout 2004.



All four issues of our *International Turfgrass Bulletin* magazine, along with the STRI's website [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk), will carry special features highlighting the key developments and major achievements in the industry from

1929 to present times, alongside regular editorial.

The October *Bulletin* will be increased in size to act as a commemorative record for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over the years, STRI's unique position has enabled close ties to be formed with many eminent individuals and organizations throughout the turfgrass world. We will be inviting editorial from some of these key players for inclusion in this issue.

*Congratulations from the Sports Turf Association!*

### Rittenhouse Introduces the New Lesco Ride-On Spreader Available with an Optional Sprayer

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### STA NEW MEMBERS

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## Agricultural Machinery Hazards – Be Aware of Inherent Risks

A THOROUGH SAFETY REPORT COURTESY OF TED WHITWORTH, FARM SAFETY ASSOCIATION

The very fact that agricultural machinery uses tremendous power to do work makes its operation a potential hazard for both the operator and bystanders. Even though manufacturers try to ensure that their machinery is as safe as possible, the nature of some work creates inherent hazards which cannot be removed. Most accidents involving agricultural machinery can be attributed to human error.

In many cases, the operator forgot something, took a shortcut or risk, ignored a warning, wasn't paying close attention or failed to follow safety rules. Accidents with agricultural machinery can be crippling or even fatal. It is important to recognize and be alert to possible hazards and to take precautions to avoid injury.

There are many different kinds of agricultural machinery – mowers, tractors, grinders, blowers, augers, etc. – but they all have similar characteristics and similar hazards. You can be cut, crushed, pulled in or struck by an object thrown by these machines.

They can have cutting edges, gears, chains, revolving shafts, rotating blades, levers and similar hazards. You can also be injured if you fall while working on or near any of these machines.

Some machine parts cannot be completely shielded in order to do their job. For instance, a cutting blade cannot be totally enclosed, or it could not cut. Operators remove guards for maintenance and often they don't get replaced. This creates a potentially dangerous situation.

Most agricultural machines have similar or common components to do their work. A basic understanding of these and the hazards which they pose will heighten your safety awareness and prevent injury.

### Shear Points

Shear points are created when the edges of two objects are moved closely enough together to cut a soft material, as in the case of a pair of shears or an auger.

Cutting points are created when a single object moves forcefully or rapidly enough to cut, as in the case of a sickle blade.

Both shear and cutting points are created on machinery designed to cut and on those that are not designed to cut, as in an auger. They are hazards because of their cutting force, and because they often move so rapidly that they may not be visible. It can be easy to forget that they are operating.

Because some cutting and shearing points cannot be guarded, it is important to be aware of the hazard and to be especially alert when they are operating.



It is also important to warn others and to look out for their safety because of the danger of thrown objects while using cutting-type equipment.

### Pinch Points

Pinch points are formed when two rotating objects move together and at least one of them moves in a circle. For example, the point at which a belt runs onto a pulley is a pinch point.

Belt drives, chain drives and gear drives are other sources of pinch points in power transmission devices.

Fingers, hands and feet can be caught directly in pinch points, or they may be



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drawn into the pinch points by loose clothing that becomes entangled. Contact may be made by just brushing against unshielded parts or by falling against them.

You can become entangled in pinch points if you take chances and reach over or work near rotating parts. Machines move too fast to get out of a pinch point once you become caught in it.

To avoid injury from pinch points, be aware of the areas where pinch points occur and avoid them. Wear clothing that fits well and is not loose or floppy. Never reach over or work near rotating parts. Turn off machinery to work on it. Always replace shields if you must remove them for maintenance.

### Wrap Points

Rotating shafts are the most common source of wrap point accidents, although any exposed machine part that rotates can be a wrap point. A cuff, sleeve, pant leg

or just a thread can catch on a rotating part and result in serious injury. Entanglement with a wrap point can pull you into the machine, or clothing may become so tightly wrapped that you are crushed or suffocated. In other cases, you could be thrown off balance and fall into other machine parts.

Even a perfectly round shaft can be a hazard if there is enough pressure to hold clothing against the shaft. Shafts that are not round increase the hazard significantly. Clothing is more likely to catch if there is a little mud or a nick on the shaft. Ends of shafts which protrude beyond bearings are also dangerous. Universal joints, keys and fastening devices can also snag clothing.

Check all equipment for potential wrap points, and shield those that can be shielded. Place warnings on those that cannot be covered, or paint them a bright color, perhaps with wide stripes. Be aware of wrap points and be alert to their danger.

### Crush Points

Crush points are created when two objects move toward each other or one object moves toward a stationary one. For example, hitching tractors to implements may create a potential crush point.

Failure to block up equipment safely can result in a fatal crushing injury. A jack may slip, a hose or overhead support may break, or the equipment may roll. Be sure to take extra precautions when working with machinery that is raised for any reason.

There are many different kinds of agricultural machinery, but they all have similar characteristics and similar hazards.

Crushing injuries most commonly occur to fingers that are crushed at the hitching point. Wait until the tractor has stopped before stepping into the hitching position.

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## Safety Snapshot

### SAFETY...

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### Tips for Spring

- Operators need to be thoroughly familiar with mowing equipment, its operating characteristics, capacity and safety features.
- Work sites need to be prepared in advance.
- Operators are responsible for their personal safety and that of others.

### Year Round Advice

- Know your machine.
- Don't operate a machine with missing or damaged protective devices.
- Prepare the work area.
- Protect yourself.
- Watch out for others.
- Use safe mowing practices.
- Ensure good and safe footing around machinery.
- Keep all work areas tidy.

If possible, arrange the hitch point so that the tractor can be backed into position without anyone between. Always know what the other person is doing.

The head or chest of an operator may be crushed between the equipment and a low beam or other part of a building. Usually, these accidents occur when operating the machine in reverse. Tree limbs are also potential hazards when working with tractors and other machinery.

To prevent being crushed or pinned, first, recognize the potentially dangerous situations, then, avoid them whenever possible.

Block all machinery securely if you must work under it. If an implement can roll freely, block its wheels so it cannot roll.

### Free-Wheeling Parts

Many machine parts continue to spin after the power is shut off. Examples of this are rotary mower blades, fans, flywheels, etc. Never touch these parts until they have stopped moving completely. This may take as long as several minutes.

### Springs

Springs are commonly used to help lift equipment such as shock absorbers and to keep belts tight. They can harbour potentially dangerous stored energy. Springs under compression will expand with great force when released, and springs that are stretched will contract rapidly when released. Know what direction a spring will move and how it might affect other machine parts when released, and stay out of its path.

### Hydraulic Systems

Hydraulic systems store considerable energy. They lift implements, change the position of implement components, such as a bulldozer blade, operate hydraulic motors and assist in steering and braking.

Careless servicing, adjustment or replacement of parts can result in serious injury. High-pressure blasts of hydraulic oil can injure eyes or other body parts by burning or penetrating the tissue due to the liquid being hot. Leaks are a serious hazard.

Never inspect hydraulic hoses with your hands because a fine jet of hydraulic fluid can pierce the skin. Jet streams from even pinhole leaks can penetrate flesh. Get medical attention quickly, or you could lose that part of the body that was injected.

Use a piece of cardboard to test the hose for leaks. Before attempting any service on hydraulic systems, shut off the engine which powers the hydraulic pump.

Lower the implement to the ground and relieve the pressure. Follow the instructions in your operator's manual, because the specific procedures for servicing the systems are very important to your safety.

### Pull-In Points

Pull-in points usually occur when someone tries to remove plant material or other obstacles that have become stuck in machinery parts. Always shut off the power before attempting to clear plugged equipment. ♦

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Employment Bulletin Board ads run for 60 days with an additional 30 days available at 1/2 the price. Cost is \$75 for STA members and \$100 for non-members for the initial 60 day period. Payment by cheque (Canada only), MasterCard or Visa must accompany the job description. Jobs will be posted in a standard page format. Forward your submission, with all necessary details, to New Paradigm Communications: [rob@npc-solutions.com](mailto:rob@npc-solutions.com), 519-371-6818, fax 519-371-5789.

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