What is your role with the City?
As Manager of Parks Maintenance, I am responsible for the lifecycle and maintenance of Parks and Open Space, managing two cemeteries and the maintenance of athletic fields in the City of Regina.

What kind of team do you work with?
Our team consists of three Parks District Foremen, one Cemeteries Foreman and a Foreman of Parks Services, Al Sandalack. Al is responsible for athletic fields; playgrounds; herbicide application, ice rinks and city-owned vacant land maintenance. We have 21 permanent employees and approximately 120 employees who work seasonally.

What are you and your team responsible for?
We manage the lifecycle and maintenance of 285 parks covering about 3,000 acres of parks and open space. We have 43 athletic fields; a city pathway network; 68 outdoor skating rinks including two on residential lakes; 147 playgrounds; a herbicide application program; a spring boulevard cleaning program; and two active cemeteries with approximately 600 interments per year. We manage a diversity of open space from dry land turf to our Class-A parks with computer-controlled central irrigation. We manage native prairie grassland and wetland parks.

What is your biggest challenge?
This is a diverse job requiring expertise in everything from cemetery management to natural area care and the high-end maintenance of athletic fields. The trend in our seasonal work force is towards a higher turn-over rate. We deal with balancing public and user group expectations with available resources. Of course, pesticide use has been a sensitive issue.

Redexim Charterhouse

The Speedseed is ideal for sportsgrounds where economy and random seed disbursements are important. The Speedseed overseeding machines offer the same accurate means to produce thousands of holes, deliver the seed and brush in, all with a single machine.

However, there is no sand hopper with this model. The SS6000H is the same as the SS6000, but with its own fully floating, hydraulically operated rotary brush. Ideal when overseeding after you have top dressed the area first. The rotary brush will brush-in the sand and the seed, for the perfect finish.

After the seed is delivered, the built-in brush and roller finish the job.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast random disbursement of seed</td>
<td>No drill lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Saves time and money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear mounted roller and dry brush</td>
<td>Surface is left ready for play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large seed hopper</td>
<td>Less time filling</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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www.sportsturfassociation.com | SPRING 2005 11
issue here for the past few years. We are somewhat isolated from horticulture schools and suppliers of horticultural materials and equipment.

What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?
Regina is a great community. The public places a very high value on our park system and each year in our City Public Satisfaction Survey, Parks and Open Space has ranked number one in customer satisfaction of all City services. It is very evident here that Parks and Open Space contributes to the high quality of life we enjoy in Regina.

What is the biggest misconception about your job?
This job, and parks maintenance work in general, is sometimes seen as such a general job that no special skills or abilities are needed and that maintaining the landscape is no more difficult than what a homeowner does in the yard. However, the scale of the work and an understanding of use patterns, public safety, having technical expertise, and general management skills all combine to make this a unique and fulfilling career. I think some in our industry view parks management as a horticulture job. I tend to believe that we are in the recreation industry as opposed to the horticulture industry. We use horticulture knowledge, skills and resources to fulfill our role in the recreation industry.

What is your educational/employment background?
I have a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta where I specialized in horticulture and weed control. The courses I took in Range Management have proven beneficial in managing native parkland and natural areas. I have held a pesticide applicator license for more than 20 years. I have nearly completed a certificate program from the University of Calgary in Environmental Management and have completed several short courses over the years in areas such as IPM and arboriculture. I have worked in City Parks Management for 20 years, the past three have been in the City of Regina.

Tell us about your family.
This year, my wife Wendy and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. We have four children and one son-in-law. Our youngest son and daughter are in high school.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?
I have always enjoyed our native flora and enjoy hiking and camping and learning about native flowering plants. I have been active in the Boy Scout organization for many years in varying capacities. I am a certified SCUBA Instructor and was a very active SCUBA diver prior to moving to Regina. I haven’t done much diving in Regina, but my golf game is getting a little better!

What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?
I think our industry provides so much to society that is mostly unnoticed and we should be more active in promoting the benefits. Our industry contributes to enhancing property values; the cooling effects of landscape in urban environment; oxygen production; carbon dioxide absorption; traffic calming; space that encourages a more active lifestyle; and the general enhancement to quality of life provided by urban landscapes. This is something we should be proud of and promote.

What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?
It is important to keep up with trends, best practices, research, new ideas and products. I have found the most effective way to do this is through networking within the industry. Membership in the STA has provided an excellent forum for this kind of networking.

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Since 1956
Name, location of facility.
The City of Regina has 43 athletic fields city-wide including seven sport field complexes that are used for higher level competition. These include Mt. Pleasant Sport Park, Optimist Park and the Rugby Centre which are venues for the 2005 Jeux du Canada Games hosted by Regina this summer.

General facility information.
Mt. Pleasant (6 fields), Rugby (4), Lakeridge (4), Optimist (2), Realtors (2), Rambler (12), Douglas (7), are all sport complex sites. All others are situated as single fields within a park.

What types of sports fields are on site?
Soccer, fastball, baseball, football and rugby. Ultimate Frisbee, field hockey and lacrosse are also played on these sites.

How many employees are involved with turf care?
In addition to two fulltime employees, six seasonal staff maintain 43 fields. Their duties include mowing, aterating, fertilizing, topdressing, overseeding, turf repair and restoration, line painting, litter collection, bleacher and net moving, and field inspection.

How many acres of turf are maintained? How many acres of sports turf?
Our athletic field staff maintains 117 acres including 96 acres of actual play area. The other area is apron around some of the fields.

What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?
Ninety-nine percent of the 117 acres are irrigated. The irrigation is controlled by our computerized central control system.

What is the primary type of turfgrass?
Name of varieties.
Our specification for grass seed has varied over the past years and sod suppliers have changed, but the majority of our turf is Kentucky Blue. Our current seed specification includes 50% Crest Kentucky Blue; 20% Jasper Creeping Red Fescue; 15% Victory Chewing Fescue; 10% Sparton Hard Fescue; and 5% Fiesta III Perennial Ryegrass. We do allow alternatives on some of the varieties.

Is yearly overseeding part of your sports turf maintenance program?
We have two cycles of overseeding and topdressing per year. However, fall play schedules and early winter sometimes prevent the fall program.

How many times do you fertilize?
Our current fertilizer is a polymer-sulfur coated 40-0-0. We apply two pounds per 1000 square feet, three times per year. We usually apply at beginning of May, late June, and in mid August.

Do you aerate? Topdress?
Our heavy clay soils mean we must constantly work to prevent compaction, so our program is constant. We aerate all fields three to four times per year with two to three slicings to help thin out and generate new growth. We topdress up to two times per year.
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by Dr. R.H. Sheard

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THE HOME OF SPORTSTURF MAGIC

14 SPRING 2005 I Sports Turf Manager
Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides?
No, but reductions are being implemented. We have not needed to use herbicides on sports fields for several years with the exception of some glyphosate prior to reseeding or sodding an area.

Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of facilities? In what manner?
Community sport user groups have varied levels of involvement in the ongoing maintenance of some ball diamonds, but all athletic fields are maintained by City of Regina staff. A number of these groups have contributed to many of the facilities which allows them priority use in some cases. Annual meetings are conducted with the Athletic Field Advisory Committee which is comprised of sport-user groups to discuss any issues, special events and identify potential future capital projects as they relate to athletic facilities. Ongoing communication between City program and maintenance staff and user groups allows maintenance concerns to be addressed as required. Typically any improvements requested by the user group above the standards set for the level of the facility become the cost (both capital and operating) of the user group.

How many hr/yr are fields permitted? Who permits them? Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest? How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?
The City of Regina’s Central Scheduling Office is responsible for providing all permits for sport and recreation facilities. In 2004, athletic fields, parks and ball diamonds were permitted for 70,819 hours of use from May 1 to October 31. Better quality sport fields are permitted based on 18-20 hours/week usage per field. Fields are closed as required or as time permits for extra maintenance. Groups are contacted or are asked to call the athletic field supervisor to get current information on field status or “rain outs.”

THE GREAT CANADIAN WEATHER QUIZ...
What fell from the sky during the freakiest shower in Belleville, Ontario?
- toads picked up by a whirling funnel of vapour
- snow blizzard in July
- three days of unrelenting rain
- fist-sized hail

ANSWER: a

Calendar of Events

March 23 & 24
Ontario Parks Association
49th Annual Educational Seminar & Explorations Trade Show
Hamilton, ON
Information: (905) 864-6182
www.opassoc.on.ca

May 1-5
Ontario Recreation Facilities Association 50th Annual Professional Development Program
Guelph, ON
Information: (416) 426-7062
www.orfa.com

July 19-22
Ontario Parks Association Annual General Meeting
Brampton, ON
Information: Steve Preston, City of Brampton (905) 874-2918
www.city.brampton.on.ca

January 30 - February 24, 2006
Guelph Turfgrass Institute Turf Managers’ Short Course
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 767-5000

GET ON THE LIST!
Contact the STA if you have an event you’d like to advertise in the next issue of the Sports Turf Manager.
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Sentinel employs updated weather service reports and daily ET values so you can instantly respond to changing conditions—increasing or decreasing the moisture you apply as needed. Being able to adjust irrigation controllers so quickly and conveniently pays big dividends in water conservation and cost-savings.

- Computerized central control assembly programs your system and gathers data for reporting, but each site is managed by field satellites; the computer and software are not required for system operation

- True two-way communications between the controller and the central unit, as well as a hand-held radio, allows you to make programming changes or stop the program in the field

- Both field satellites and MapTo controllers have flow monitoring as a standard feature

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Grass Seeds
Available from Major Seed Companies in Ontario

The Sports Turf Association strongly recommends to athletic field managers that they use only improved cultivars that have been tested and found superior under local conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>EroGreen</th>
<th>Ontario</th>
<th>Pickseed</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Speiser</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky Blue</td>
<td>Award</td>
<td>NuGlade</td>
<td>Barrister</td>
<td>Award</td>
<td>Alpine</td>
<td>Abbey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baron</td>
<td>Everglade</td>
<td>Limousine</td>
<td>Beyond</td>
<td>America</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bluemoon</td>
<td>Goldrush</td>
<td>Marquis</td>
<td>Caliber</td>
<td>Blue Velvet</td>
<td>Apollo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rambo</td>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Quantum Leap</td>
<td>Chicago II</td>
<td>Crest</td>
<td>Arcadia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rugby II</td>
<td>NuBlue</td>
<td>Sharmrock</td>
<td>NuBlue</td>
<td>Moon Shadow</td>
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<td>Minntine</td>
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<td>Tsunami</td>
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<td>Blckblue</td>
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<td>Ryegrass</td>
<td>Accent</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td>Cutter</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Boreal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barclay (creeping)</td>
<td>Evolution</td>
<td>Fiesta III</td>
<td>Fievel</td>
<td>Futura 3000</td>
<td>Rose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elf</td>
<td>Extreme</td>
<td>Top Gun</td>
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<td>Goalkeeper</td>
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| Fescue: Blue | Accent | Aruba | Boreal | ASP | Boreal | Aegean | Aberdeen |
| Fescue: Creeping Red | Jasper | Aruba | Rose | Jasper II | Florentine | Franklin | |
| Fescue: Chewings | Bridgeport | Jamestown II | Victory | | | | |
| Fescue: Hard | Serra | Ecocost | Spartan | | | | |
| Fescue: Sheeps | Azure | MX96AE | MX96 | Azay | Bayer | | |
| Fescue: Tall | Arid III | Barlexas | Arid III | #1 Tall Fescue | | | |
| Bentgrass: Colonial | Highland | Highland | Highland | Exeter | | | |
| Bentgrass: Creeping | L-93 | Pennway | L-93 | Dominant Plus | Aggressor | Penn A-1 | 18th Green |
|           | Penn A-4 | Pennacross | Penn A-4 | L-93 | Cato | Penn A-2 | Pennacross |
|           | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Mariner | Penn A-2 | Benga |
|           | Penn G-6 | Pennacross | Penn G-6 | Pennacross | Penn A-4 | Penn A-4 | Pennacross |
|           | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Penn G-6 | Penn A-4 | Pennacross |
|           | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Penn G-1 | Penn A-4 | Pennacross |
|           | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Pennacross | Penn G-2 | Penn A-4 | Pennacross |
| Bentgrass: Velvet | Vesper | Vesper | Vesper | | | | |
| Poa trivialis | Winterstar | Cyprus | Laser | Sabre | Colt | Sabre II | Winterstar |
| Poa supina | Supranova | | | | | | |
| Poa compressa | Canada Blue | Canada Blue | Canada Blue | Canada Blue | Canada Blue | Canada Blue | Canada Blue |
| Weeping alkal | Fults | Fults | Fults | Fults | Fults | Fults | Fults |

Turf Seeding Rates
The following are seeding rates per 100 m² for specific species of grass seeds:
1) Creeping Bentgrass, 0.5-1.0 kg;
2) Kentucky Bluegrass, 1.0-2.0 kg;
3) Perennial Ryegrass, 2.0-4.0 kg;
4) Fine Fescue, 1.0-3.0 kg; and
5) Tall Fescue, 2.0-3.0 kg.
(Source: OMAFRA Turfgrass Management Recommendations, 2000)
Above: Damage caused by cutting too close to pond.

**Cutting Slopes and Around Waterways**

**WARNING!**

This Safetygram is designed as a tool to be used in conjunction with the operator’s manual in the safe operation of Cutting Slopes and Around Waterways. Further site training and experience are necessary for competent operation.

**SAFE PRACTICES**

- **DO NOT USE** equipment unless trained.
- If equipment is damaged or malfunctions, **DO NOT USE**. Report to your supervisor immediately.
- **DO NOT REMOVE** or circumvent any safety devices on the equipment.
- **ALWAYS WEAR** prescribed personal protective equipment.
- **FAMILIARIZE** yourself with the operating manual before use.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Safety CSA boots
- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Gloves
- Dusk mask if desired
- Seat belt

**SITE CHECK OF THE AREA TO BE CUT**

When entering a park that has pond, waterway, or steep slope, always get off the mower and check the area before cutting. If you have any questions, ask your crew leader or leadhand. Never take an unnecessary risk or make a wrong guess.

**OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**PONDS AND WATERWAYS**

- When cutting around a pond or waterway, keep the drive and steering wheels back three feet from the crest of the bank.
- Drive slowly and don’t make sudden changes in direction.
- Stay alert and watch for holes and debris.
- When cutting around deep water, take seat belt off.
- If you ever get stuck or in a dangerous position set the parking brake, turn off the machine and call a leadhand for assistance.

**DITCHES AND SLOPES**

- When mowing a steep slope, always mow up and down the slope – never across. A good rule of thumb is if you can’t back up the hill, don’t cut it. Do not spin the tires trying to get up a slope. This will only damage the turf.
- Drive slowly and don’t make sudden changes in direction.
- Stay alert and watch for holes and debris.
- Always wear a seatbelt.
- If you ever get stuck or in a dangerous position, set the parking brake, turn off the machine and call a leadhand for assistance.
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