Are you advertising a position? Are you searching for a job? Target your audience or refine your search with Turf Trades, an online resource for all staffing levels and areas of the sports turf industry. 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.

For information on all STA advertising opportunities, contact Lee Huether at 519-763-9431, fax 519-766-1704, info@sportsturfassociation.com.
Will the Rain Ever End?

Winter is fast approaching. The time has come when we all can sit back (a little) and reflect on another busy season in sports turf. And certainly, the talk of the industry has been the extremely wet fall. The month of September saw 18 rain days. October had 21 days of rain, and November was not much better until the end of the month. Combining the rainy days with the subsequent ones needed to dry out did not leave much time to get work done. Furthermore, with all the wet conditions, any field that was used continually will likely be in the condition referred to as a MUD BOWL.

Gearing Up For Winter Activities

At this time of year, many families are constructing their backyard rinks in hopes of a cold winter. In addition to being a long-held Canadian tradition, backyard rinks also serve to keep kids occupied instead of spending hours in front of the TV (and what parent doesn’t relish that idea?). Arenas are also a buzz of activity with hockey, figure skating and endless hours of public skating scheduled. What is also good to see is that a number of municipalities are installing outdoor rinks complete with cover and boards. These facilities are being well used for ball hockey, etc. in the warm season and skating and hockey when ice conditions permit.
COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January 9-11
Landscape Ontario
Congress 2007, featuring Fencecraft
Toronto, ON
Info: www.locongress.com

January 17-19
Ontario Golf Superintendents’ Association
Ontario Golf Course Management Conference & Trade Show
Info: (905) 864-6182
www.opassoc.on

January 17-20
Sports Turf Managers Association (US)
18th Annual Conference & Exhibition
San Antonio, TX
Info: www.sportsturfmanager.org

January 29-February 23, 2007
University of Guelph
Turf Managers’ Short Course
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS

February 6-8
Ontario Parks Association
Annual Educational Seminar
& Explorations Trade Show
Hamilton, Ontario
Info: (905) 864-6182
www.opassoc.on

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February 19-20
Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
Keeping it Green
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 767-5000
www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS

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Keeping it Green
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www.open.uoguelph.ca/OTS

February 20
Sports Turf Association
Annual General Meeting
@ the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium
University of Guelph
Guelph, ON
Info: (519) 763-9431
www.sportsturfassociation.com

February 19-24
GCSAA Education Conference and Trade Show
Anaheim, CA
Info: www.gcsaa.org

February 23-28
Western Canada Turfgrass Association
44th Annual Conference & Show
Victoria, BC
Info: www.wctaturf.com

March 2-6
Canadian Golf Superintendents Association’s
58th Annual International Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show
in co-operation with the Quebec Golf Superintendents Association
Montreal, QC
Info: www.golfsupers.com

Spring 2007: Encore Presentation!
STA Proactive Water Use for Sports Turf Management: Implications of Municipal Water Restrictions
Watch for details!

GET ON THE LIST!
Contact the STA office if you have an event you’d like to advertise in the Sports Turf Manager.
The Sports Turf Association Celebrates 20 Years in 2007

The Sports Turf Association was conceived in 1987, when, at a ‘brainstorm’ session held 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 facilities where they relate to turf. Twenty years later the STA continues to promote safe, natural sports turf through education and professional development.

Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF) Fall Information Session

Despite a rainy day in October for an outside tour, the OTRF hosted an information session and visit of the turf plots at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Invited guests to the roundtable forum included representatives from turf related associations such as Landscape Ontario, National Golf Course Owners, Sports Turf, Ontario Golf Superintendents and the Golf Association of Ontario. Dr. Rene Van Acker, recently appointed Chair of Plant Agriculture at the University of Guelph, joined the discussions to learn of the history of OTRF and its mandate.

Ron Schiedel, President of OTRF, explained the OTRF mission statement which is to direct and promote turf research for the benefit of the turfgrass industry and the general public. University of Guelph turf researchers, Dr. Tom Hsiang, Dr. Eric Lyons and Dr. Katerina Jordan were on hand to showcase their research. These expert turf specialists provided a united voice that spoke volumes of enthusiasm to the future of not only turf research but research at Canada’s top turf research facility, the Guelph Turfgrass Institute.

Following the presentations during a roundtable dialogue, association leaders and the OTRF Board exchanged ideas on how to take the OTRF to the next level. With a long term goal in place, the OTRF can be instrumental in making the GTI a world class turf research facility in the next five years. Subsequently, with both industry and end user financial support, the OTRF would continue to fund cutting edge research at one of North America’s largest turf research institutes.

New Members
WELCOME TO THE STA!

Janis Bortolotti
EZflow Canada
McGregor, ON

John Gormley
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, NS

Gino Turchiaro
Earthco Soil Mixtures Inc.
Concord, ON

Nick Farrell
Tartan Turf Industries Inc.
Delson, QC

Ian Ferguson (student)
University of Guelph, ON

Katerina Serlemitsos Jordan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Turfgrass Science and Nematology
University of Guelph, ON

Rick Brouwer
York Region District School Board
Richmond Hill, ON

Randy Travaglini
Travis Reid
City of Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Stella Williams
Town of Kirkland Lake, ON

Steven Piche
Turf Care Products Canada
Newmarket, ON

John Howard
City of Owen Sound, ON

Steve Halbert
I C Improvements Inc.
Stoney Creek, ON

Kevan Moxam
Pamela Cranstion
City of Greater Sudbury, ON

Ontario Turf Industry News

STA CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY • OTRF STRIVING TO MAKE THE GTI A WORLD CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY IN 5 YEARS...

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The 16th annual Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) is scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2007 at the University of Guelph. This year’s theme, Keeping it Green, reflects the many critical cultural, environmental and maintenance issues influencing the turf industry. The conference will once again be held at Rozanski Hall at the centre of the beautiful University of Guelph campus. Delegates have the opportunity to participate in a learning environment that provides informative and engaging sessions on a variety of turf related topics. Speakers from both industry and research will offer insight relating to important and current topics in turf care, government legislation and environmental issues. Delegates at this year’s conference will learn how to use current management options for pests and diseases, techniques to meet the needs of staff, the implication of bylaws and legislation on turf care, plus many other industry related topics. This year, OTS also marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of both the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and the Sports Turf Association. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and network with colleagues and professionals in the turf industry. For symposium details, please visit www.open.uoguelph.ca/ots.

SPORTS TURF RELATED SESSIONS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

M5 1:30 – 2:00 Selling a Concept to Council
Chris Mark and Jane Arnett-Rivers, Town of Oakville
From the moment it sounds interesting to the time of installation, there is a process. Buy-in from top to bottom is required and there are many ways to insure your enthusiasm is contagious. Understand the steps required to get a central irrigation system approved, tenders issued, awarded and installed.

M6 2:00 – 2:30 Alcohol Consumption on Sports Fields: Responsibility and Liability
Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association
What can be done about drinking in the stands and sidelines? Is the answer policy or proactive policing? Learn how staff can be empowered to effectively deal with alcohol consumption breaches and how one engages local police.

M7 2:30 – 3:00 Overseeding for Weed Management
Evan Elford, University of Guelph
Over 115 municipalities in Canada have restricted or banned the use of herbicides leaving managers with few options for weed control. Detailed research results will be presented which span the 2005/2006 growing seasons. It will examine various rates and timings of perennial ryegrass overseeding into Kentucky bluegrass athletic turf for weed suppression. IPM 0.66

M8 3:00 – 3:30 Sports Field Assessment
Dr. Eric Lyons, University of Guelph
Many factors affect our ability to provide safe, playable athletic fields to the public. Athletic field assessment can identify the strengths and weaknesses of current management practices and identify potential causes of future problems. Discover ways in which fields can be assessed to maximize the benefit to the turfgrass manager. IPM 0.66
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**T1 9:00 – 9:30 Responsibility for Specification Compliance**

Ian Haras, City of Guelph, Chris Davies, Frederick McGuire Consultants, Steve Macartney, Raintree Irrigation

During a sports field construction or irrigation installation, exactly who is responsible for changes, installation quality and product standards? Who is responsible for producing accurate and professional as-builts? Hear three very different perspectives on contract work.

**T2 9:30 – 10:30 Full Contact Sports: When Urban Growth Catches Up To Existing Sport Fields**

Terry Piche, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association, Kelly Williams, Town of East Gwillimbury, Mike Burgess, Burgess and Associates

Dealing with foul balls in the neighbour’s backyard? Understanding how to negotiate peace when sports fields disrupt home-owners’ backyards, including proactive measures of what works and what doesn’t will be discussed. In addition, how to effectively and properly deal with trespassing on municipal sports fields as determined by the Trespass to Property Act will be presented.

**T3 11:00 – 12:00 Reciprocal Agreements Between Municipalities and School Boards**

Bob Kennedy, Sports Turf Management Solutions

Reciprocal agreements for use of sports fields between municipalities and school boards have been in place in Ontario for over 50 years. Both parties have benefited from these agreements. Budgetary constraints experienced by school boards are jeopardizing these agreements as school boards lack the funds to properly repair fields. Explore and identify opportunities that can create a win-win situation for both parties.

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**REGISTRATION**

**EARLY BIRD: DECEMBER 21, 2006**

Discounts. It is important be aware that as an STA member in good standing, you qualify for lower association rates. Secondly, others from your facility/organization who are not STA members qualify for the lower association rates when registered with a member. Send the registration in the same envelope, fax it at the same time, or make just one phone call to register.

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**THE SPORTS TURF ASSOCIATION HAS MANY PRIME ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. CALL US!**

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**FIELD MARKING PAINTS AND APPLICATORS**

R.R.#5 Stratford On Canada N5A 6S6
Tel. 519.348.0653 • Fax: 519.348.0654
www.simplisticlines.com
Parking
Many communities forget about parking for their patrons. If there isn’t enough parking, people will park on side streets and this will make local residents angry.

Rink Orientation
The rink should be set so that the long axis runs north-south. This will minimize the amount of melting that occurs when the sun reflects off the boards.

Surface Preparation
• If it’s grass, cut it as short as possible.
• If it’s a hard surface, clean off all gum, oil and dirt.
• Before applying water, fill cracks around the base of the boards with paper towels, strips of rags or other filler material.
• When the weather starts getting cold, start freezing the ground with a sprinkler. This will form a good frost to minimize melting during warmer weather.
• If there is snow on the ground, pack it down and use it for your base. The white snow will reduce the amount of heat the ground will absorb from the sun and it will give your ice a whiter appearance throughout the season. This will also cut down on painting costs.

Flooding
The correct way to flood is to apply water in small amounts through a hose or spray nozzle so the water freezes on the surface and ice is built up slowly. Several fine sprays should be applied before proceeding to a heavier spray. If the weather is cold enough, i.e., 0˚ F to 10˚ F, spraying can likely be continuous as the first coat will be frozen almost immediately. However, in warmer weather, additional sprays should not be applied until the previous one is thoroughly frozen.

Once the ground has been completely sealed, the water will not run off. Then leveling of the ice can begin using a heavier sprayer. Repeat the previous procedure, applying as many coats as necessary to build up a level ice surface. Care must be taken during this leveling process to ensure the low spots are filled in gradually, as shell (shale) ice may result if too much water is applied at once. If some spots are particularly low, it may be best to apply water only to those spots until they are built up close to level.

During the flooding process, a number of precautions must be taken with the hose:
• Keep the hose on dry ice; if the hose is dragged over wet ice it will push water with it and ridges will be formed.
• Keep the hose moving so the warmer water running through the hose does not melt the hose into the ice.
• Ensure connections are tight and the hose does not leak.
• Do not leave a running hose unattended on the ice surface.

It’s helpful to have a second person, who can manage the excess hose. If you are alone, the hose can be difficult to drag around. A way to minimize the workload is to wrap nylon rope around the hose and secure it with duct tape. This allows the hose to slide more easily; it also keeps the hose above the ice and eliminates melting. When most of the rink is level and covered with an adequate surface of ice, skating can be allowed. Skating will create a whitening effect on the ice surface, either in place of or in addition to actually painting the ice. It’s extremely important that there is adequate ice at this point to ensure safety of your patrons.

Ice Maintenance
The first step in preparing the ice for the re-flooding is to sweep the snow and chippings away from the boards as the scraper will not get all of the snow away from the boards. If this snow is left, it will build up and form a concave and rough edge. The rest of the ice surface should be scraped using a steel scraper. For flooding during the operational day, use a barrel flooder containing water heated to approximately 135˚ F. Cold water does not work as well in barrel flooders as they tend to freeze up. At the end of the operating day, the ice surface should be inspected. If necessary, a heavier flood should be completed with a hose. If the weather is very cold, care must be taken to not get...
too much water on at one time as it will run and freeze in a ripple. Also, in severely cold weather the ice will crack if flooded with too much water. A very light spraying should overcome this problem. A warm water application will prevent cracking, melt the remaining snow on the ice and spread over a greater distance. Some ice makers suggest that when the temperature is less than 0°F the ice should not be flooded as too much cracking will result. How often a rink should be flooded will depend on usage. Some rinks will need to be flooded at the end of every day, while others may require flooding only once per week.

— Edge, Volume 7, Number 3, November/December 2004, Ice Skating Institute

RFP conducts courses in natural ice making as well as many other recreation facility maintenance topics. For more information, go to www.aarfp.com.

### COMMON ICE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROBLEM</th>
<th>POSSIBLE CAUSE</th>
<th>POSSIBLE REPAIR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shell or shale ice</td>
<td>Heavy flooding; leaving ponds of water that freeze on top and run away underneath.</td>
<td>Scrape away and fill with wet snow, or gradually build up with warm water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost boils</td>
<td>Excessive water in the soil freezes and expands causing the ice to heave and crack. Excess water boils out through the cracks and freezes.</td>
<td>Cut out the boil, fill with wet snow and gradually build up with warm water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cracked ice</td>
<td>Cold temperatures.</td>
<td>Fill with slush and flood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice chipping</td>
<td>Brittle ice from severe cold weather.</td>
<td>Flood with warm water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pebble or rough ice</td>
<td>Too much snow on ice; flooding while snowing; scrapers are not flat or not sharp enough; using too little water; if it ripples, you are using too much water.</td>
<td>Make sure the ice is clear of all snow before flooding. Repair and sharpen scraper and blades or use warmer water. Make sure you apply the correct amounts of water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring deterioration</td>
<td>Warm weather or painted lines absorbing the sun’s rays either from direct exposure or from the reflection off the boards.</td>
<td>Do not allow skating. Place snow on melting areas, as a thicker layer of ice will help prevent melting in warm weather. Also try to bank snow up against the outside of the boards throughout the season; this will have an insulating effect in the warm weather.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low spots on ice</td>
<td>Excessive use in goal crease, behind net, at players’ boxes, etc.</td>
<td>Flood with a pail of water in the evening after the patrons have left.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each winter, the National Capital Commission (NCC) transforms the Rideau Canal, a historic waterway, into the world’s largest skating rink! Hundreds of thousands of skaters and outdoor enthusiasts from all over Canada and the world come to enjoy this unique 7.8-kilometre ice surface winding through the heart of Canada’s Capital. The 2005-2006 season marked the 36th season of skating. The season was officially launched on January 7, 2006, and closed on March 10, 2006.

**History of the Skateway**

The first skating season dates back to the winter of 1970–1971. The idea to clear the Skateway originated with Douglas Fullerton, Chairman of the NCC from 1969 to 1973. On January 18, 1971, he sent a crew to the frozen Rideau Canal with hand shovels to clear the five-km ice surface between the National Arts Centre (NAC) and the Bronson overpass. Witnessing the success of this initiative, the NCC committed to pursue this unique winter tradition and it has extended the ice surface of the Rideau Canal Skateway to 7.8 kilometres. The Skateway is now known as one of Canada’s world-class attractions. According to a 2003 survey, 98% of users are satisfied with the Skateway and 75% stated the Skateway was somewhat important in their decision to visit the Capital Region in winter.

The Rideau Canal stretches 202 kilometres from Ottawa to Kingston, and was constructed between 1826 and 1832 by thousands of Irish and French Canadian labourers under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel John By.

The Rideau Canal Skateway is a skating rink, and much more. During the month of February, the Skateway serves as centre stage for Winterlude, the Capital’s internationally renowned festival and North America’s unique winter celebration. The 29th edition of this winter festival will take place on the weekends of February 2nd to 18th, 2007.

**Guinness Recognition**

In July 2005, Guinness World Records™ of London, England confirmed that the Rideau Canal Skateway in Canada’s Capital Region is indeed the ‘Largest Naturally Frozen Ice Rink in the