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The President’s Desk – Gord Dol

Summer is here. I trust that all your fields are under control and you are now planning for some well deserved vacation time.

As I reported in my spring column, the Athletic Field Construction Manual is complete and the new STA electronic bookstore is now open. You can purchase your copy of this valuable manual online at www.sportsturfassociation.com. The response to the manual has been tremendous and all feedback to date has been quite positive. We anticipate the sale of many copyright licensing seals permitting the reproduction of the manual for tender specifications. This will bring into practice our intent to create uniformity in the design and construction of athletic fields. Great work everyone!

POSA Summer Operational Forum

I recently had the opportunity to speak at and attend the 2nd Annual Parks and Open Space Alliance (POSA) Summer Operational Forum that was held at the Glen Abbey Community Centre on June 25. The workshop was well attended with a good program of speakers. The Town of Oakville hosted the event and we would like to extend our thanks to Jane Arnett-Rivers, STA chairperson on the POSA Committee, Tom Mulvale, Supervisor of Sports Fields & IPM, who presented one of the STA sponsored sessions, and Scott Mairs, Glen Abbey Community Centre Manager. This collaborative effort between the Ontario Parks Association, Ontario Recreation Facilities Association and STA involved a number of individuals from all three organizations. Congratulations to all!!

Keeping You Up-to-Date

This issue of Sports Turf Manager contains a number of articles from the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium as well as an update from Ken Pavely on the proposed pesticide ban (Bill 64). Ken has attended a number of stakeholder meetings over the past several months on our behalf. We will do our best to keep you updated on this legislation.

See You at Our Annual Field Day!

Mark your calendars to be at Donald M. Gordon Chinguacousy Park in Brampton, Ontario on September 11. The planning for our Annual Field Day is well underway. As in the past, this promises to be another great event! There is no better way to meet and connect with other professional turf managers than at our Field Day. Watch your mailbox and inbox for all the details. I hope to see everyone there!

Membership invoices have been sent out and are now due. Your prompt attention to these would be greatly appreciated.

OTRF & GTI Summer Events

The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF), Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) and Guelph Soccer have teamed up for a pilot project. A number of mini soccer fields have been created and will be used for research purposes. With these in place, our researchers will be able to evaluate the impact of summer play and will lay the groundwork for more sports turf research in the very near future. Read the article on page 7 for more details.

This year’s OTRF Fundraising Golf Tournament will be held August 11 at Westmount Golf and Country Club in Kitchener, Ontario. Visit the OTRF website for all the details www.otrf.ca.

Lastly, the GTI will be holding its Summer Research Field Day on August 21 in Guelph. Presented in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and the OTRF, the event will feature a tour of current research projects underway at the GTI. Information and registration details are available on the GTI website www.guelphturfflaw.ca.

Have a great summer and don’t forget the sunscreen!
**STA Annual Field Day, September 11**  
**Chinguacousy Park, Brampton**

Chinguacousy means ‘Land of the Tall Pines.’ At Brampton’s Donald M. Gordon Chinguacousy Park you will also find sports fields, a curling rink, volleyball courts, tennis courts, a botanical garden and Mount Chinguacousy for skiing, snowboarding, snowblading, tubing and tobogganing. The park is home to many events, including the 21st Annual Sports Turf Association Field Day this fall.

Brampton, Canada’s ‘Flower City,’ is the third largest city in the Greater Toronto Area. Home to more than 430,000 residents representing 62 distinct cultures, Brampton has positioned itself as a global economic contender and combines big city conveniences with a traditional quality of life. It is conveniently located to welcome sports turf managers from across Ontario.

The Field Day Committee is in the midst of applying the finishing touches to the event program. Please visit the STA website www.sportsturfassociation.com for all details as they become available!

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**CHA Bowl and Bruce Hay, City of Brampton’s Manager of Parks Maintenance, are featured in this issue.** See page 25 for Hay’s member profile and page 26 for more information about the facility. Check it out for yourself this fall at our popular Annual Field Day!

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**ODDS & ENDS**

**STA Membership Plaques**
Display membership plaques are available in executive engraved walnut for $50 plus S&H and gst. To order, contact Lee at the STA office.

**Autumn 2008 Submissions**
If you have something you’d like to submit for the next issue, please forward it to the STA office by August 22, 2008.

**Editorial Content**
Opinions expressed in articles published in *Sports Turf Manager* are those of the author and not necessarily those of the STA, unless otherwise indicated.
Bill 64: The Proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act

The proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act is intended to ban both the sale and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes through amendments to the Pesticides Act. Originally announced by Premier Dalton McGuinty that it would not supersede municipal bylaws, that position was later reversed and the clear intent of the Bill is to supersede all existing municipal bylaws of a similar nature.

Specific exemptions to the use prohibition currently include uses related to golf courses, as long as prescribed conditions have been met; uses related to agriculture; uses related to forestry; uses related to the promotion of public health or safety; and other uses prescribed in regulation.

Included in the bill is the review of some 200 active ingredients now registered for use in Ontario for lawn, garden and tree use. In spite of Health Canada’s recent announcement to re-register 2,4-D, the product remains on the list for non-use. That may or may not change while the government reviews the contents of the bill.

After the announcement earlier this winter, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) received approximately 6,000 submissions through their EBR posting up until February 17. Since then, numerous stakeholders’ meetings were held with MOE staff, including with the STA. The position statement put forward by the STA reiterated the importance of maintaining quality turf for fields of all classifications, and the need for tools to battle infestations that affect safety and playability. It was also proposed that any pesticide applications made would be done via the use of IPM accredited agents under strict provincial control and regulation.

Just recently, the bill received 2nd reading and was sent to Committee for a one day hearing, held June 9. From there, further consideration will be given to the bill’s contents before 3rd and final reading.

Effectiveness of the bioherbicide Sarritor. Be sure to read Dr. Alan Watson’s article on pages 16-17.

Implementation and enforcement measures will focus on outreach and education efforts on the use of pesticide alternatives on lawns, gardens, parks and school yards. More than $10 million over the next four years has been allocated in support of the government’s plan to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides. Education and outreach programs will be developed with stakeholder groups to further enhance the government’s ability to reach all sectors of the Ontario public.

Enforcement will likely be a last resort but will remain with the MOE as is currently in effect.

The goal of the government is to have the Bill passed and implemented by the spring of 2009. Stay tuned for further updates as they become available.

— Ken Pavely, Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.

Industry News

New Verti-Art Professional Care for Artificial Turf
Redexim Charterhouse has developed a complete range of professional artificial turf maintenance machines. Known worldwide for their reliable and effective range of natural turf care equipment such as the Verti-Drain line of products, Redexim Charterhouse offers this array of specialized equipment to meet the demands of artificial turf. Just as natural turf needs regular care, artificial turf needs regular maintenance in order to maintain its realistic appearance and a safe, playable surface. Because natural decomposition of debris is difficult, unhealthy bacteria can grow and flourish, and hidden hazards such as glass and metal can be a problem. Proper cleaning, disinfecting, filling and grooming of artificial turf become quick and efficient tasks with the Verti-Art range of equipment. For more information on the various products available, contact Dick Raycroft, 905-637-5216 or 1-800-883-0761 (ext. 116) or e-mail draycroft@gcduke.com.

Effectiveness of the bioherbicide Sarritor. Be sure to read Dr. Alan Watson’s article on pages 16-17.

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— Ken Pavely, Dol Turf Restoration Ltd.
CLIMATE CHANGE MAY BE FUELING A NEW GENERATION OF AGGRESSIVE WEEDS

Is global warming fueling a new generation of more aggressive weeds? According to recent research, the answer may be yes. One of the major characteristics of a warming planet is an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Rising carbon dioxide has been shown to help vegetable and grain crops grow more quickly, become more drought-resistant and produce potentially higher yields. Unfortunately, though, the impact of rising carbon dioxide seems to be far more pronounced in the weeds that compete with crops than in the crops themselves.

“Weeds are survivors,” said Lee Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy for the Weed Science Society of America. “They can fill various niches and thrive under a wide range of conditions. While we have about 45 major crops in the U.S., there are more than 400 species of different weeds associated with them.

About WSSA
The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), a nonprofit professional society, was founded in 1956 to encourage and promote the development of knowledge concerning weeds and their impact on the environment. WSSA promotes research, education and extension outreach activities related to weeds, provides science-based information to the public and policy makers, and fosters awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystems. For more information, visit www.wssa.net.
Promoting Ontario Turf Research

Combining Soccer & Research

If you are driving by the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI), you will be surprised to see soccer nets and pitches on the research plots. The local soccer club and the GTI have teamed up to install mini soccer fields. University of Guelph turfgrass researchers will perform experimental trials on active playing fields and the soccer youth of Guelph will gain extra playing fields. A monitoring protocol to evaluate the impact of play on the field over the summer season will help lay the groundwork for the development of a more extensive sports field research complex at the GTI. Future research could involve how to minimize wear of natural playing surfaces and the effects of field conditions on sports injuries. As more money is invested in turfgrass research, more trials on sports turf management and the related health benefits can be conducted. These goals can be achieved with the research expertise and facilities that are available at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. In the current turmoil of new government regulations, the time is now to promote sports turf research for the improved health benefits of the next generation of sports participants.

New Logo & Website

Summer is definitely on its way and as the turfgrass research plots here at the GTI green up, the OTRF is taking on a new ‘green’ look. The Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation has launched a new logo and website (www.otrf.ca). Check out the website for information on the latest OTRF funded research, membership, golf tournament details and news events.

Planning for the Future

The GTI and the OTRF have launched Vision 2027, an in depth plan that outlines the targets for turfgrass and environmental research at the GTI for the next 20 years. Effective design, development and management of green spaces within urban areas will become increasingly critical in the near future. Vision 2027, available on the OTRF website, charts a plan for turfgrass research at the GTI that will take management of our green spaces to the next level.

To ensure that the GTI facility continues to be a global leader in the area of urban green space management, the OTRF continues in its quest to solicit donations. In the past few years donations have grown exponentially allowing unprecedented amounts to be disbursed for turfgrass research. This year, the OTRF has chosen a cross section of projects that focus on the areas of fungicides, fertilization methods, identification and management of turfgrass diseases and environmental concerns. The results from most of these projects are timely and applicable to sports field management.

Take the OTRF Challenge

Did you know that all donations are tax deductible? Consider an OTRF membership…. your turfgrass and sports fields will appreciate it!
Thoroughbred dirt and standardbred traprock/limestone tracks also require adequate levels of moisture mixed evenly through the racing cushion. This is not required just to keep the material from blowing away, but to give the material body. In turn, this helps cushion impact and holds the material together while the hoof plants and pushes off.

Conversely, when holding sporting events during inclement weather conditions, facilities require adequate drainage infrastructure to remove excess water – both before and during events. Turf stake races can be run on soft courses, but overnight races will usually be transferred to dirt or synthetic tracks to reduce the damage done to a soft turf. Owners, trainers, jockeys and drivers are all reluctant to race on sloppy and/or drying out dirt/traprock tracks, so every effort is made to enhance drainage from the racing surfaces.

Like all athletes, horses need good footing to perform to their potential. Safety is always an issue. The most satisfying events from a facility operator’s perspective are those where the focus is on the players and the game, not the quality of the playing surface.

Ontario’s Horseracing Home

Woodbine Entertainment Group, (WEG) owns and operates Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto and Mohawk Racetrack in Campbellville, Ontario. These are entertainment locations featuring dining, sports bars, gaming on horseracing and OLG slots. WEG also operates the Champions Off-Track Wagering Network, the Greenwood Teletheater in the Beaches area of Toronto, The Turf Lounge in the Bay Street business district of Toronto, WEGZ Stadium Bar in Concord and the HorsePlayer Interactive network.

While the entertainment side of WEG’s operations attract most of the attention, their core product has always been horseracing. In Ontario this industry supports over 50,000 people from the farming and breeding operations to the on-track racing personnel and associated support industries.

The Original Grey Water System

Built in 1955, Woodbine was home to thoroughbred racing and the flagship racetrack of the Ontario Jockey Club’s five racetracks. The original design of Woodbine made very good use of grey water. It recognized the need for an efficient collection system, a holding area for the water and a dependable method to supply that water back to the racing surfaces. The entire site, which now measures about 600 acres, was divided into three areas for collection of rainwater/snow melt. The parking lots on the north end of the property were one site, the dirt and turf racetracks in the centre of the property were the second, and the stable area in the south end was the third area for collection (photo below). Each area was drained using storm sewers flowing in an east-west configuration into a large storm sewer running north from the stable area in the south end of the property, under the racetracks in the middle, through the parking lots at the north end, and emptying into a retention pond north of Rexdale Boulevard. Overflow from the pond emptied into the Humber river system.

On demand, grey water would be pumped from the Rexdale Pond south
Historically, race meets had moved from one track to another throughout the course of the year, giving each track a great deal of downtime. With the new structure, Woodbine would operate continuously with thoroughbreds training and racing up to eleven months of the year and standardbreds racing over six months of the year. Consequently, the composition of the racing surfaces needed to change to meet the demands of racing in a wider range of weather conditions; from hot dry summers to cool, wet springs and autumns to the snowy, freezing temperatures of winter.

Jockeys and drivers do not want to race on deep sloppy tracks if possible. Therefore, it is imperative to get the water and snow away from the track. Sandy tracks allow you to run in weather conditions that are colder and wetter. In periods of warm/dry weather, these surfaces require large amounts of water to give them some life. The table entitled “Racing Surface Water Requirements” below details the composition of these tracks and estimates the summer water requirements.

**New Grey Water Requirements**

However, there are other issues influencing the use of grey water:

- **Location:** The track no longer resides on the outskirts of the city. Apartments border the Rexdale retention pond. Residents and patrons are very aware of water restrictions in their own neighbourhoods.
- **Patron comforts:** The new turf course is located directly in front of viewing and tent barbecue areas. While this brings the excitement of racing closer to patrons, lingering odour from irrigation water can dampen that enthusiasm.
- **Health concerns:** Standardbred tracks are watered while the horses are on the track warming up for their race, so health issues are a concern to the horsemen.
- **Environmental concerns:** Overflow from the collection system drains into the Humber river system.

### Racing Surface Water Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Water Requirement*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dirt</td>
<td>1 mile plus chutes</td>
<td>80-85% sand, 15-20% silt &amp; clay</td>
<td>420,580,000 gal/wk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoroughbred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf</td>
<td>1-1/2 mile, 22 acres</td>
<td>95% sand, 5% topsoil</td>
<td>660,140,000 gal/wk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoroughbred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardbred</td>
<td>7/8 mile</td>
<td>traprock</td>
<td>180,210,000 gal/wk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* summer