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# Sports Turf Manager

FOR BETTER, SAFER SPORTS TURF. SPRING 2011.

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~Doug Larson



## Inside this issue...

### REGULAR COLUMNS, DEPARTMENTS & SMALL FEATURES

**4 The President's Desk & New Members.** Many thanks for contributing to the success of OTS 2011. We recorded the highest show attendance in years.

**7 Event Calendar.** Our Annual Field Day will be September 22 in Oakville.

**9 Member & Facility Profiles.** Meet Jay Todd, Director of Park Implementation, Downsview Park, Toronto (a national urban park).

**30 Industry News.** Partnerships, weeds & seeds, and new equipment.

Deadline for Summer 2011 Sports Turf Manager: May 27th.

### WHAT'S ONLINE

[www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

#### STA Membership Directory

Is your contact information current? Your email address must be registered to login to the "Members Only" section.

#### Members Only Section

- 1) STA Constitution & By-Laws
- 2) From Our AGM: Executive Manager's Report, Membership Analysis & Financial Statements

#### Shop for Resource Publications

The Athletic Field Construction Manual & Understanding Turf Management.

## Sports Turf Manager

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### SPORTS TURF MANAGER

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include the vital information of name,  
telephone number with area code, and  
time of calling. The office may be reached  
at any time by faxing (519) 766-1704  
or via e-mail.

# President's Desk

BY PAUL GILLEN

**A**s I put pen to paper for this edition, we've just been promised a colder, wetter spring season here in southern Ontario, contrary to the groundhog forecasts. Let's hope nature knows more than science in this case – I think that we've all seen enough cold and snow for this year.

Speaking of cold, we attended the STMA Conference in Austin, Texas in January during which it never got over 38 degrees F (3° C). However, attendance was back to pre-recession levels and they had an excellent array of speakers. Our own Dr. Eric Lyons was on the program and had a standing room only audience to listen to him talk about weed control without chemicals. Even other presenters were encouraging their audiences to attend Dr. Lyons' session. Well done, Eric.



**Supporting OTRF.** STA Director Ben Tymchyshyn (L) presents our annual donation to the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation's Dave Smith at the Ontario Turfgrass Symposium.

While we're on conferences, we've just completed the annual Ontario Turf Symposium at the University of Guelph. This year marks the highest attendance since our return to the university locale. Our sincere thanks to the commercial sponsors, the speakers and the OTS organizing committee for their support and hard work in making this the premier industry event every spring. We will feature highlights from various presentations in this as well as future issues.

As per usual, the STA Annual General Meeting was

held in conjunction with the conference. Welcome to both new and returning Directors (see adjacent page for more details). We said goodbye to Murray Cameron and Bruce Carmen as their time on the board had come to an end. Thank you both for your support over the years. Tennessee Propedo from the City of Hamilton has been elected to serve as vice-president of your association. Meeting attendees endorsed a name revision from the Sports Turf Association of Ontario to the Sports Turf Association in keeping with our incorporation documents. Our mission statement reads: "Dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs." The STA constitution and by-laws are available in the Members Only section of the website. Have a look.

Change is in the air and there are some exciting things developing on the association front. We hope to be able to firm them up and make them public later this summer so stay tuned! In closing, a reminder that 2011 membership invoices are in the mail. This is your association – please ensure that those dues are paid promptly! And, a warm welcome to our new Administrative Assistant Cheryl Machan. Please make Cheryl feel welcome as you visit or call into the office.



# Sports Turf Association Elects 2011-2012 Officers & Directors

**GUELPH, ON.** Members of the Sports Turf Association (STA) elected the 2011/2012 officers and directors at the annual meeting held during the recent Ontario Turfgrass Symposium. Newly elected vice president is Tennessee Propedo of the City of Hamilton. President Paul Gillen/AerWay, past president Gord Dol/Dol Turf Restoration, and secretary Andrew Gaydon/Vanden Bussche Irrigation continue in their roles. Returning to the board for a new term are treasurer Rick Lane/City of St. Catharines and directors Bill Clausen/University of Guelph and Jason Inwood/City of Vaughan. Joining the board are new directors John D'Ovidio and David Warden, both of the City of Mississauga.

Others currently serving the association are directors Dave Chapman/City of Toronto, Bob Kennedy/Sports Turf Management Solutions, Ken Pavely/Dufferin LawnLife, Paul Turner/G.C. Duke Equipment, Ben Tymchyshyn/MMM Group and Dennis Wale/City of Brantford. Murray Cameron/City of Guelph and Bruce Carman/The Country Day School did not stand for re-election.

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Jim Pitman, City of Brampton, ON

Richard Outred, Earthco Soil Mixtures Inc.  
Concord, ON

Tony Martel, Carpell Surfaces Inc., Granby, QC

Debby Westlake, Vissers Sod Farm, Hampton, ON

Pat Hester, Clintar, Barrie, ON

Pat Celebre, Gerry Costello

Morgan Crewson, Joseph D'Agata

Fayne Downie, Chris Edwards

Marcel Gravell, George Green

Gordon Hammer, David Jervis

Joseph MacDonald, Craig March

Stuart Miller, Mark Ongaro, Mark Orr

Ann Marie Plunkett, Bill Reddick

Terry Rinaldo, City of Hamilton, ON



*Another Successful Turf Symposium*  
OTS Speakers Kim Heck, Sports Turf Managers Association,  
and Gord Horsman, City of Moncton.

## OTS 2011 Attracts Record Number of Delegates

The 2011 Ontario Turfgrass Symposium (OTS) attracted the largest crowd in recent years this past February 23 and 24. Held at Rozanski Hall at the University of Guelph, nearly 500 delegates, speakers and sponsors gathered to participate in leading edge seminars and educational sessions. The Ontario Turfgrass Symposium is an annual event that attracts turf specialists from municipal, sports field, sod, lawn care and golf sectors. Over 30 sessions were offered, providing practical and applied training to turf managers and staff.

Both industry speakers and academics were part of the speaker roster allowing for a very broad range of topics. Delegates had a chance to discuss presentations during networking opportunities at the symposium and the Bullring Social.

Details for OTS 2012 will be available later this summer. Visit [www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca](http://www.ots.open.uoguelph.ca) or call 519.767.5000 for more information.

## Turf Trades

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## STA SCHOLARSHIP May 1 Application Deadline

The Sports Turf Association (STA) established a scholarship program in 1993. The STA Robert W. Sheard Scholarship (\$1,000) is funded through STA membership fees and is intended to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.



The STA is dedicated to the promotion of better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. If you or someone you know could benefit from the Robert W. Sheard Scholarship, please submit an application. Scholarship policies, criteria and an application form can be found online at [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com).

# Event Calendar

ASSOCIATION EVENTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

**May 1. Sports Turf Association Robert W. Sheard Scholarship Application Deadline.**  
519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**May 2-5. Sports Turf Association Sports Turf Management & Maintenance Course.**  
University of Guelph, Guelph, ON (during the ORFA Annual Professional Development Program). 519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

**June 22. Parks & Open Space Alliance 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Operational Forum.**  
The New Face of Parks & Open Spaces in 2011  
St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre, St. Catharines, ON  
519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com), [www.POSAlliance.ca](http://www.POSAlliance.ca)

**September 22. Sports Turf Association 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Day.**  
Glen Abbey Community Centre, Oakville, ON  
Info: 519-763-9431, [www.sportsturfassociation.com](http://www.sportsturfassociation.com)

If you have an industry-related event you'd like publicized, contact Lee at 519-763-9431, [info@sportsturfassociation.com](mailto:info@sportsturfassociation.com).

## QUOTABLE QUOTE....

The sport field is a neutral setting that makes everyone feel welcome and allows people of all ages a chance to play. (Excerpt from the City of Nanaimo 2009-2024 Sportsfield Strategy Document. The Turf Line News, Feb/March 2011, Western Canada Turfgrass Association.)



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# Member & Facility Profiles

JAY TODD, DIRECTOR, PARK IMPLEMENTATION, DOWNSVIEW PARK

## Interview with Director Jay Todd

**What is your role with Downsview Park?** Director, Park Implementation. Downsview Park is a self financing crown corporation of the federal government charged with the task of developing 572 acres of the former Canadian Forces Base Downsview into a self sustaining park and community. Unlike traditional national parks, Downsview is building a park while being a park – a true work in progress.



**Jay Todd.** Director, Park Implementation. Downsview Park, Toronto.

**What kind of team do you work with?**

**What are you and your team responsible for?** We have a compact, dedicated team that looks after all aspects of park operations. Being a fledgling enterprise, we have chosen highly specific people to assist in the maintenance and development of the park. Of our four full time staff, we have developed a team with specific talents in turf and turf maintenance, irrigation, native plants and horticulture, and equipment and construction. This crew of four (plus eight seasonal students) maintains the park landscape and is in charge of horticulture, sanitation and events. Also included in this portfolio are 4 indoor artificial soccer fields, indoor beach volleyball, 2 outdoor artificial soccer fields, 1 outdoor artificial football/soccer field, 1 natural

soccer/sports field and up until last

year, 3 ball diamonds, a second natural soccer field

and 1 cricket pitch (these five fields were decommissioned as part of the master plan in developing the park).

**What is the biggest challenge in your job?** Our biggest challenge is opening as much of the park as possible for public use (200 acres of our 572 is the goal by 2012). Over the past few years, we have been removing old military buildings, sculpting the land, creating a 9 acre lake and sports fields at our Sports Centre as well as hosting numerous events and concerts. We are doing all this while making the site safe for patrons.

If you are interested in being featured in this column, please contact Lee Huether at the STA office.

**What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?** At the end of the day, you are one step closer to building Canada's National Urban Park, and while doing this you have a great team with you to reach that goal. We are very team oriented and from the top down, bottom up, everyone is part of that team.

**What is the biggest misconception about your job?** People hear the word director and they think of a desk jockey or paper pusher. Although I have those responsibilities, I am also a hands-on guy. I am on site on a regular basis with the crew, designers and contractors getting the job done.

**What is your educational/employment background?** My love of the outdoors and the environment led me into the field of horticulture. I'm a graduate of the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, which was truly the best experience and education of my life. Over the years, I upgraded my education through various courses at the University of Guelph, Centennial College in Scarborough and the Ontario Municipal Institute. This led me to various positions within the City of Scarborough and the City of Toronto to Director of Parks and Recreation with the Township of Scugog to my present position as Director at Downsview Park. I'm also involved with the Ontario Parks Association as Director, and belong to numerous other associations like STA and ORFA.

**Tell us about your family.** I live in Port Perry, a great little community north east of Toronto, with my wife Catharine and my two children. Kaitlin attends Georgian College and James... >>





## MEMBER PROFILE CONTINUED

... works in Port Perry. I don't know how I got to this stage but I'm far too young to have children this old!

**What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favorite past times?** I know it may not sound healthy, but I find with the industry I'm in that my hobbies mostly revolve around my work. I belong to the North American Native Plant Society and the Toronto Field Naturalists. I speak to many different groups and although I don't have a lot of time for it, I do like to volunteer in the community and travel.

**How has the industry changed and in what direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?**

I have real concerns over the artificial turf industry and the speed at which these fields are being installed across Ontario. I know all the good reasons why we are installing synthetic turf fields but I also know that a well constructed, well maintained and well managed field can perform the same as artificial and in the long term, have better results for both the players and the environment.

**What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?** I find there is a great network of people in the association that you can call, get some advice, bounce around a few ideas and know that you have a solid group of professionals who can assist you in your decision making.

### STM EDITORIAL CONTENT

Opinions expressed in articles published in the "Sports Turf Manager" are those of the author and not necessarily those of the STA.

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