

NEWS RELEASE:

Gerry Hodges has joined Innovative Equipment Inc. as General/Marketing Manager. Presently, he is developing a marketing system and organization for the WINDFOIL Turfgrass Sprayers. The WINDFOIL's uniqueness is its patented design that controls drift, thereby enhancing the safer use of chemicals, creating a safer environment, and a positive public image for the user and the industry. Mr. Hodges' marketing will initially involve developing a dealer network in the South Eastern and Western United States, as well as Canada, where the need for an environmentally positive application system is greatly needed.

Baseball Fields in U.S., Canada cited by STMA

The Baseball Diamond of the Year awards were announced earlier this year with ballparks in Canada, Florida and Minnesota winning top honours.

The Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA's) professional baseball award was given to Mike Regen, head groundskeeper at Labatt Park, home of the London (Ontario, Canada) Tigers of the Class AA Eastern League.

The awards were presented at the annual meeting of the STMA in Houston. They are given each year on the basis of excellence in maintaining outstanding, safe, professional-quality baseball facilities. Co-sponsors are Beam Clay, the STMA and *Golf & Sports Turf* magazine.

GREEN CARE ONTARIO UPDATE

It has been thirteen months since the Ministry of the Environment declared its intention to implement amendments to Regulation 751 of the Pesticide Act. It has been twelve months since representatives of numerous associations first met to discuss the possibility of a combined response. That ad hoc group has since developed into a fourteen member (and still growing) "association of associations." The spirit of co-operation that has developed is most encouraging and bodes well for future success. Without a doubt, this type of organization has a significant role to play with its member associations, various government ministries public interest groups. Our industry has been collectively complacent about increasing public sympathy for the causes presented by groups such as "Friends of the Earth." We shouldn't be surprised by government action because the environmental activists have been working diligently for years to nurture a public opinion that demands it. Our silence on the issues has allowed this to occur, in fact, we've made their job rather easy.

Well GREEN CARE ONTARIO has, in its infancy, taken the first steps to bringing a voice of reason to the forefront. Our response to the proposed amendments was a responsible one. We endorsed the concept of the "public's right to know" through posting. Our formal submission made specific recommendations that enhanced the governments intentions while making it a workable piece of legislation for industry. We were disappointed, to say the least, that our significant effort was all but ignored. This rather dramatically confirms the fact that we have a long way to go. This is not to suggest, however, that our time and expenditures to date have been wasted. We can hold up the contents of our

formal submission as a shining example of industry's willingness to address the issues. The profile of our industry is being elevated, important contacts are being made and I am certain that time will prove that we addressed the posting issue more responsibly than government.

But where does that leave you come June 2 when you will be expected to post signs that advise your golfers to "KEEP OFF." GREEN CARE ONTARIO is producing two pamphlets to support you in your personal endeavours. The first is a handout that can be mailed to your golfers or distributed to players from the Pro Shop. It addresses the inevitable question, "What does this sign mean?"

It will be an envelope sized, one-page flyer printed on recycled paper, boasting the Green Care emblem. Under a sample of the actual sign will be the following copy:

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has amended Regulation 751 of the Pesticide Act. It now states that licensed pesticide applicators must post these signs for 48 hours following a pesticide application, and in the case of public areas, for 24 hours prior to an application. For an explanation about the "KEEP OFF" directive, please contact a Ministry of the Environment official at one of the regional offices listed on the reverse.

It must be our position, to comply with the Pesticide Act and to treat the posting matter with utmost seriousness. You should be most cautious when answering questions about the signs and the matter of safety/risk. We recommend that you do not attempt to interpret the meaning of the sign for anyone. You might simply say that the government has made it mandatory to post the sign, that you are taking the necessary precautions to protect

your staff, golfers and the environment from undo risk and that people with concerns about the implications of the sign should follow the recommendations of the GCO handout. It is likely a good idea to prepare your staff, the pro shop staff, and other club officials as to the best way to handle inquiries. Copies of this article may be helpful.

The second handout will present the benefits of a healthy landscape in a manner that will be embraceable by the general public. We must emphasize the positive impact that our efforts have on the environment while presenting the facts about the products we use and the responsible way we use them. We've got a good story to tell, so let's tell it. You will receive notice from your association about these materials and how to order them when they are available.

With the involvement of every member of each member association, GREEN CARE ONTARIO can effect some influence. We will strive to make in roads with the legislators, but individuals must make use of the information that will be provided to begin to change public perceptions and ultimately, public opinion.

by Thom Charters

Editorial

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sports turf sod using a mix of Rebel II Tall fescue and Elite Kentucky bluegrass.

Ken Turner, in Saskatchewan, indicates that there is sufficient interest and numbers to start a Western chapter of the Sports Turf Association. We look forward to hearing more from him.

I will be in England in June and will be visiting the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley, Yorkshire. I hope to share my impressions in a future newsletter.

Mike Bladon

GREEN CARE ONTARIO UPDATE

These signs are being produced by the Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, a member of Green Care Ontario, and are endorsed by the GCO for use by member associations. Proceeds from the sale of these signs will be funneled back into the efforts of GCO.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment Pesticide Application Sign

ORDER FORM

RESIDENTIAL (8" x 11") stakes included

#1.	Reusable plastic laminated	\$250.00	per 500
#2.	(less than 500)	\$.52	each
#3.	Non-laminated	\$78.00	per 500

PUBLIC AREAS (15" x 20") stakes included

#4.	Reusable plastic laminated	\$500.00	per 500
#5.	(less than 500)	\$1.20	each
#6.	Non-laminated	\$136.50	per 500

Quantity of #1 _____ x \$ 250.00 = _____

Quantity of #2 _____ x \$.52 = _____

Quantity of #3 _____ x \$ 78.00 = _____

Quantity of #4 _____ x \$ 500.00 = _____

Quantity of #5 _____ x \$ 1.20 = _____

Quantity of #6 _____ x \$ 136.50 = _____

SUB TOTAL \$ _____

Less 10% for members of
*GCO member associations (\$ _____) *Please Specify _____

SUB TOTAL after discount \$ _____

plus 8% PST \$ _____

*Shipping Extra TOTAL \$ _____ enclosed

SHIP SIGNS TO: Company _____
Address _____
City _____
Postal Code _____

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PLCAO / MAIL TO: PLCAO, 204 Bleams Road, Kitchener, Ontario N2C 2K6 - Phone (519) 748-5454, FAX (519) 748-6681

Beat heat, drought
and wear damage;
make your sports
field look great!

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granular, high potash,
with 50% Slow Release
Nitrogen, 1% Mg, 1% Fe,
0.2% Chelated Fe



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IS YOUR TURF TOUGH ENOUGH?