

and penalty kick areas. In the case of football the area would be from the centre of the field extending across to where the yard marker numbers are placed on the field. Mark suggested that high wear areas on athletic fields should receive three times the maintenance of other areas on the field.

He feels that aeration is the most important maintenance practice and suggests it should be performed a minimum of five times per year. He stated aeration is the key to plant growth, wearability of your turf, and reduction of injuries to athletes.

Two further maintenance tips he suggested were 1) pre-germinating seed to speed up rehabilitation of worn areas if timing of the repairs is critical and 2) if hardball pitchers (particularly in senior league play) are forever digging holes in the mound, bury an old clay brick where they constantly drag their foot. This will at the very least assist in not having to rebuild and retamp the mound after

every game.

It was most enjoyable having Mr. Altman address our field day and his ability to communicate and capture an audience was best represented in holding the attention of numerous students who primarily came for a baseball game, as well as the full time athletic field managers and staff who attended for training and education. All seemed genuinely interested and entertained by Mark's enthusiasm, sense of humour, and philosophies on everything from athletic field maintenance to safety issues on sports fields, to just knowing and being able to relate to the routine problems sports turf managers face on an everyday basis.

All in all it was a most enjoyable day in Hamilton. Thanks again to the organizing committee and the host venue, the City of Hamilton, for putting on an educational and entertaining day. If you missed it this year, we hope to see you next year.

**1995 Guelph Turfgrass  
Institute/Ontario Turfgrass  
Research Foundation**

## Research Field Day

*Pam Charbonneau,  
OMAFRA Turfgrass Advisor*

As part from a sudden cloud burst during registration the Guelph Turfgrass Institute/Ontario Turfgrass Research Field Day held on Mon., Aug. 14, 1995 proceeded without a hitch. There were over 250 people in attendance. The day began with a welcome from Dr. Dennis Murr who introduced the new Guelph Turfgrass Institute Director, Rob Witherspoon. Thom Charters, President of Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation, promptly presented Rob with a cheque for \$30,500 for turfgrass research for the current research season. Randy Fielder, President of the Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association also gave Rob Witherspoon a cheque for \$1000 which is their final payment of their pledge of \$5000 for the G.M. Frost Research and Information Centre Building Fund.

For the first time ever the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association held a golf tournament for their members in conjunction with the research field day, a format which was well received by their membership.

The purpose of the turf research field day was to give all members of the turfgrass industry a chance to view first hand the turf research results. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet the GTI turf researchers and ask them any burning turf questions which have been on your mind lately. Twelve of the GTI faculty and graduate students were on hand to present their research results.

For any of you who did not attend this is a must for next years calendar.

**1996**

**Ontario**

*Turfgrass*  
**Symposium**

**Ontario's Premier Education and Trade Show**

Ontario's Premier Turfgrass Education and Trade Show will be better than ever in 1996. A new venue was sought due to space conflicts with classroom scheduling at the Univ. of Guelph. The Regal Constellation Hotel and Convention Centre near the Toronto International Airport has been selected by the OTS Executive Committee.

Thus all the program will be under one roof - check you coat and gloves and move from event to event in your shirt sleeves. Parking is unlimited and free if you register for a room in the Constellation. Room rates range from \$60.00 to \$80.00.

The time of the year remains the same - January 3 - 5, 1996.

The Educational Program will be kicked off by the Keynote Address by Dr. Tom Watson of Toro International. Dr. Watson is a library of knowledge of practical turfgrass management, gained through many years of trouble-shooting turfgrass problems in the U.S., Canada, and world-wide.

The Sports Turf Association has a full program of speakers which includes an afternoon panel on "Costing Sports Field Construction." Since all events are close together the opportunity to move to another speaker program such as that of the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association will be simpler than previous years.

The Annual Meeting of the Sports Turf Association will be held as a complimentary breakfast on Thursday morning, commencing at 7:00 a.m. Please endeavour to attend and participate in the business of operating your Association.

Last but not least please indicate your membership in the Sports Turf Association when you register. If you register early you may include other employees in your organization who are not members of the STA at the STA membership rate. Remember this event is the major source of revenue for the operation of your organization.