

# Ground Breaking at The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame



On August 24, 1997, in St. Mary's, Ontario, Pat Gillick, former General Manager of the Toronto Blue Jays, and John McHale, retired head of the Montreal Expos, turned the sod for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame—a museum and a stadium.

The project is being built on 13 hectares of land leased from the St. Mary's Cement Company for 30 years. Total cost for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame will be \$11 million dollars over three stages to keep pace with fundraising. The first phase involves developing a 7,500 seat ball field and an interim museum. The new ball diamond must be seeded in September to be ready for the official launch next June 4th. That is the date of the 160th anniversary of the first recorded baseball game in North America, which took place in Beachville near St. Mary's. Between 300,000 and 400,000 visitors are expected annually.



# 10th Anniversary Field Day at Woodbine Racetrack

If you didn't make it out to our 10th Anniversary Field Day, you missed a great event consisting of an exceptional tour of the turf and track facilities by Sean Gault, an imposing array of speakers, and an exciting evening at the races!

The speeches covered all facets of sports turf and were not confined to discussions of turf racetracks for thoroughbreds. Terry Quinn, President of the Canadian Soccer Association, commented on the tremendous growth of soccer in Canada—more than 600,000 young people are currently playing in leagues. He also talked about the Association's plans for the World Cup Games that will take place in Canada early in the 21st century. Dr. Jack Eggens, who always relates well to his audience, spoke on grass for turf tracks and indicated some of the problems that exist. Dr. Bob Sheard discussed construction of the track and water relations on sand based fields and greens. And, lastly, Andrew Gaydon spoke on the irrigation system at Woodbine and on the technology available to turf managers and to parks to control not only irrigation, but also locking of gates, switching off field lighting from an office, etc. Due to space restrictions, these talks will be seen in future issues of the *Sports Turf Manager*.

Many stayed for a buffet dinner served at trackside and a chance to watch the thoroughbreds race. The evening rain did not dampen peoples' enthusiasm for a most worthwhile experience. Hope to see you next time at the races!



**Paul Turner**

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