

## Lawn Tennis Court Maintenance

THOM CHARTERS

The origins of the game of tennis are uncertain, but it is at least as old as the 14th century. The grass courts at Wimbledon were in place in 1873. There are few private grass courts in Canada, Vancouver has two. It is there that the Davis Cup, an international competition which dates back to 1900, is played.

The tennis club I will describe today is the High Park Tennis Club located off the Lakeshore on Indian Road. Some time ago, a few younger players thought it might be fun to play tennis, so they acquired High Park, a former bowling green.

The green has a very high sand content and as the members knew little about maintenance, they called in myself. They had allowed the green to lie fallow for two years, so we determined that the first order of business was to take soil samples. This allowed us to set up a fertilizer program. We used copious amounts of a starter fertilizer at 15 pounds per thousand square feet.

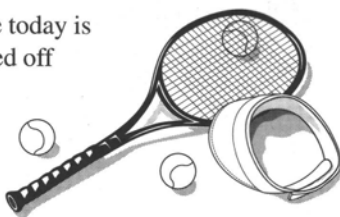
The green is syringed quite heavily with water which makes it much easier on the legs than if it were hard. We use an old spiker which is pulled around the court.

At first, the lines were painted by hand, now we use a Fox Valley paint striper and latex paint—we also use strings.

The turf is maintained using a Bannerman mower at a height of 5/16 of an inch. We do not use any fungicides as the area is enclosed and there is very little air movement; however, we do treat for snow mould. Potash and phosphorous are kept high. We use 2 lb. in the growing season and an additional 1.5 lb. of nitrogen. We also use a portable net system that enables us to change the direction of play and cut down on wear.

The club has 65 members and operates from May to the end of October. We spend about \$6500.00 a year on labour and materials. Canada professionals such as Helen Kelesi will use our court to get the feel of playing on grass prior to going to Wimbledon.

*Editor's Note: Wimbledon has gone to ryegrass to combat wear problems.*



## Students will Decide Fate of Sports Facilities at University of Guelph

STEVE TUCKWOOD

If the students say yes, the University of Guelph campus could see some much-needed sports facility upgrades before next fall.

A press release, issued by director of athletics Dave Copp, said a referendum will be held in conjunction with the student elections to determine if students support the construction of an artificial turf field on the site of the present soccer field; the addition of a sports dome for winter use; the remodeling of men's and women's change rooms; and drainage and irrigation upgrades to some of the fields.

The process is similar to that taken in 1985 and 1991 when referenda results approved construction of the twin arenas and swimming pool facility.

Half of the turfed field would be domed from November to March or April and would become a winter facility for indoor soccer, ultimate frisbee, field hockey, and touch football. It would more than double the indoor sports space available at the university.

Recreation programs director Doug Dodd said the move to an artificial field would mean weather and wear and tear would no longer be a factor. "The flexibility of the artificial surface and the increased space would really help the recreational sports offered by the university," said Dodds. "Some other universities are adding these type of fields, and I think they offer excellent options for the cost."

Cost is one of the reasons the university is considering the project at this time. Low interest rates will allow for the \$2 million upgrade without additions to the capital fee schedule. ♦

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*Editor's Note: This is the second Ontario university to fundraise for an artificial turf facility!*

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### Now You'll Know...

...why lawns are so soft, yet so tough.

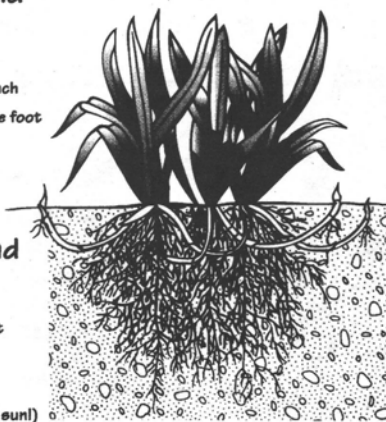
#### Above Ground

In a thick 10,000-square-foot lawn, there are:

6 plants per square inch  
850 plants per square foot  
8.5 million total grass plants!

#### Below Ground

387 miles of root per grass plant  
329,000 miles of root per square foot  
3 billion miles of total root!  
(15 round trips to the sun!)



Source: Turf Resource Center  
Rolling Meadows, IL