

contacts need to be established. Then issues such as assessing how to better utilize the fields and deal with vandalism are discussed. Other things done through partnering include widening and lengthening fields, installation of irrigation and lighting, and the creation of six new mini fields and expanded parking through the removal old ball diamonds which had become obsolete.

There have also been cases of bad partnerships. Dave mentioned spending two years working with a principal, the school board and the town to renovate a small field (one that 10-12 year olds play on). The Parent Association in this affluent area partnered with the Soccer Association and \$7,500 was kicked in for irrigation, The town participated and the field was rebuilt with an agreement to permit usage 4-5 nights a week. This never happened. The irrigation system was not used most of the time, the field fell into a state of disrepair, and the partnership was absolved with the school board.

On the flip side of the coin, here is a recent example of a very successful partnership. A major problem in building new fields is lighting. It is best to put it in before any homes or other buildings are constructed. There is a new complex to be built by 2012. The Association managed to raise funds and have the lights put in as of 2002, thus avoiding interference from the Residents' Association in the future. The Soccer Association lent the Town money to proceed and this money was to be repaid over the next two years by the Town recouping funds through development charges like

building permits, etc. The loan has been repaid. The project was done in 2002, not 2012, and illustrates a great example of partnership.

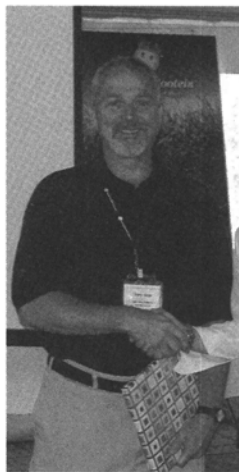
### Looking Ahead

Between now and 2005, there are five fields proposed. Keys to the future include open dialogue, mutual involvement and respect for each others requirements and the process. For example, if there is one hour of rain four hours before a game is to be played, then the game is off. This is the only way to preserve good fields. It certainly does not always get followed, but we all try.

We, as a club, only want to play. Municipalities only want to maintain what they have. We strive to work together – even if this means keeping off the fields on rainy days!

### Central Irrigation Control – the Future is Now!

Gary Supp, Irrigation Sales Manager,  
Turf Care Products Canada  
(Jane Arnett-Rivers)



Imagine starting your day by sitting at your desk, turning on your system and seeing that everything regarding your irrigation and lighting system is good.

Now imagine noticing a spike in water use at a field on the other end of town. Hey, at least you know about the situation before you hear about the washout from

a user group tonight! Get out there early, identify the problem, and repair it. With a Central Irrigation System, this situation will be detected, flagged, and you will be notified – long before there is expensive turf damage, or worse, an injury occurs.

Now put yourself in early August. It has been dry for weeks and you get a call hearing those nasty words, WATER BAN IN EFFECT, aaahhhh. This is tantamount to cancelling today's plans to visit each site and shut down systems. Until now, the time spent to shut down systems and start them up again was frustrating. But with a Central Irrigation System, all can be done in minutes from one location.

Whether time needs to be pumped up or ratcheted back, adjustments have never been so painless (from a time management standpoint).

Central irrigation will handle all of the above and help record and manage water use as well as flag hydro demands that occur beyond normal usage. Weather stations monitor environmental conditions and then convert them into daily evapotranspiration figures. Soil moisture sensors complete the data-monitoring package, so there is no need to guess if the east end of town got the same rain fall as the west end.

All together this spells effective watering for optimum plant health, responsible watering through environmental stewardship, and a control of the systems by the turf manager unprecedented until now. The jewel for most of us? Time, it frees up time.

For a thorough discussion of central irrigation systems, see Supp's article on page 17.



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