

STA Member Profile

Chris Mark • Director of Parks and Open Space • Town of Oakville

What is your role with the Town of Oakville?

Director of Parks and Open Space

What kind of team do you work with?

I am proud to work with a very dynamic, professional and dedicated group of people: 3 landscape architects, 3 managers and 1 administrative assistant.

What are you and your team responsible for?

Park planning and development as well as operations, including parks and open space, forestry, cemeteries and harbours.

What is your biggest challenge?

Ensuring operational requirements keep pace with development and managing continual growth.

What is the most satisfying part, what makes the job worthwhile for you?

Diversity – moving projects from planning and development through to completion.

What is the biggest misconception about your job?

There are two: 1) that municipal parks sections are soft services playing a secondary role within the municipal structure, and 2) that there is a slow (off) season and this is an 8:30 to 4:30 “government” job.

What is your educational/employment background?

BA in History, Associate Diploma in Agriculture, ODH. City of Brampton, York University Grounds and Fleet, Town of Oakville

Tell us about your family.

I have one amazing wife, Mary, and four



children ages 3 to 14 years old. We're very active in rep ball.

What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

Four children ages 3 to 14 years old. Very active in rep ball... what else need I say?

What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

Environmental stewardship should be high on everyone's priority list. Recognizing that making the “green” decision is the best choice.

What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of

the Sports Turf Association?

Networking! Having the expertise of many professionals at my fingertips and the opportunity to assist others in maintaining and developing their sports fields. ♦

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Contact Lee Huether at the STA office if you are interested in contributing to the *Sports Turf Manager*. We appreciate feature-length articles, column ideas and newsworthy items. Updates on innovative research or equipment are also welcomed. This is a great way to both support your professional association and enhance your resume!