

# Sports Turf Manager

*for safe, natural sports turf*

## Summer 2008

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

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## Annual Field Day

Join us Sept. 11 at Chinguacousy Park, Brampton, Canada's 'Flower City.' Stay tuned to our website for further details throughout the summer.



## Making the Move to Grey Water at Woodbine

SEAN GAULT, MANAGER, RACING SURFACES, WOODBINE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

**An OTS Highlight Article.** Water is a precious resource. In the past, most sports installations received their water by simply connecting to the local water source. However, global environmental concerns are sure to lead to restrictions on water use. Yet all sports turf needs a consistent, economically viable water supply. As municipal water becomes more expensive and restricted, the use of grey water on sports turf becomes increasingly attractive.

**S**ports fields and turf racecourses naturally need water to sustain the turf. Water improves the playability of the surface. A growing medium with the right amount of moisture provides give to the surface and helps the turf recover from the stress of sports events. Horses racing on dry turf courses risk higher rates of concussion injuries to their knees and ankles.

When each hoof of a one-thousand pound horse travelling at 35 to 40 miles per hour hits the turf, the impact is in the thousands of pounds per square inch. As the hoof lands, it slides forward slightly, plants, and then attempts to rotate forward with the front cutting edge of the horseshoe knifing through

the turf as it pushes off. Some of this force will be absorbed into the ground, with the balance transferred back up the leg. A healthy turf with good roots and adequate moisture in the growing medium will give slightly, absorbing some of the impact and helping the roots withstand the crushing and tearing action of the hoof. Once turf is torn away, the uncovered growing medium will dry out rapidly.

Many turf courses use sand growing mediums. With inadequate water, the sand breaks away under foot causing the horse to lose his/her action, reducing their ability to compete and increasing the risk of soft tissue injury.

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CHINGUACOUSY PARK, BRAMPTON

## More Grey Water

The Burlington Golf & Country Club has also made the transition to a grey water system. See page 14 for coverage from this OTS session.